

VOLUNTARY AND COMMUNITY SECTOR (VCS) WORKSHOP NOTES ENVIRONMENT AND ECONOMY

- Sharing knowledge, expertise with the VCS through volunteering.
- Corporate policy on volunteering in the community (probably informal at moment) including at a senior management level. This would assist in understanding of sector.
- Investigate the potential for mixed working teams between the VCS and public sector.
- Consortium to allow smaller groups to access funding.
- Less of management fees to local authority.
- Incentives and share any dividends for operating local authority projects such as recycling.
- Promoting opportunities e.g. recycling, parks (link to neighbourhood governance).
- Given potential risks around big capital projects – should they be put on hold?
- Examples of good practice: “Green” team – 3 month programme funded through Housing Association to do environmental works and for young people to get training.
- FJF – capacity/trial in VCS. This had been a successful programme to use funding to increase capacity in the VCS.

Priorities

- Skills.
- Health.
- Retention of spend in Luton – procurement.
- Evidence for intervention.
- Getting more than one outcome, e.g. skills.
- Looking outside for models.
- Promotion of VCS as career/employment opportunities.
- Raising aspirations to deliver knowledge and skills.
- Sharing of knowledge and understanding of impacts from other changes e.g. housing benefit.
- Young people (My Place?)
- Do the things that we need to do.
- Shared understanding of priorities.

Action Plan

1	Identify opportunities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote them • Develop business cases and shared delivery (link to priorities). 	January Multi-agency meeting asap
2	Shared leadership/ either volunteering multi-sector teams	Council policy April?
3	Agreeing priorities and then communicating shared understanding	January