



Report Highlights Commitment to Third Sector

The Office of the Third Sector (OTS) and HM Treasury have jointly completed a review on the future role of the third sector in social and economic regeneration. Their report, published last November, highlights the Government's continued commitment to the sector, the increasing funds that are being made available and the policy initiatives that are being proposed. It followed the Government's largest ever consultation with the third sector.

The report sets out plans to promote the partnership between the Government and the third sector. Most of the measures will be led by OTS, which will invest more than £515 million in third sector programmes to support thousands of community organisations across the country.

The report reiterates the importance of the sector in transforming public services and identifies the four key areas where the sector can add value. These are:

- providing an enabling voice and campaigning
- strengthening communities
- transforming public services and
- encouraging social enterprise.

The report signals the Government's intention to support and boost social investment, with their contribution to civil renewal and neighbourhood regeneration highlighted. This is alongside the acknowledgement of the importance of small grants, with confirmation that £80m of community organisation funds will be distributed by local partners. The importance of volunteers is identified with the Government investing £117m in a youth volunteering organisation with an additional £50m made available to local independent organisations to invest. The Government has also committed, between 2008 and 2011, an additional £65m to the Futurebuilders fund (which provides grants and loans to organisations wishing to deliver public services), bringing the fund to a total of £215m.

Finally, there is a commitment to developing the third sector's workforce, identifying the importance of building the evidence base about the sector and recognising the need for more effective partnership working with the Government through the Compact.

It is clear that third sector's role in service delivery is increasingly rising up the Government's agenda, with more assistance and funding available than ever before.

Read the full report at:

www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/third_sector/third_sector_review/Third_sector_review_final_report.aspx

The Projects Partnership Limited
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For further information, please contact Mark Johnson on **t** 020 7620 0888
e mark@tpplaw.co.uk.