

Ashy McKay
Head of Regeneration
Bristol City Council
Council House
BRISTOL
BS1

21st December 2005

Dear Ashy McKay,

**Re: BCC Regeneration Division Voluntary Sector Investment
2006 – 2010, Draft for Consultation.**

Voscur has already submitted some initial comments on this consultative draft as questions to the Select Committee on Sustaining Voluntary Sector Organisations. On behalf of Voscur, I am now able to submit a more detailed response, based on the first phase of Voscur's consultation with its member organisations. This includes 'focus group' feedback from a recent Voscur Assembly event, and on-going consultation with Voscur VCS partner organisations,

Voscur is continuing to provide its members with information and opportunities to comment on the Draft BCC Voluntary Sector Investment Strategy through its events, publications and website, and will collate and forward further comments as appropriate throughout the consultation process (which needs clarifying – see below).

This response contains comments, requests for clarification and calls for further detail on some draft recommendations; we need a full understanding of how the strategy will impact on our members, and the VCS as a whole, in order to be able to make a more comprehensive response.

In summary, I would welcome your response to the key issues outlined above, in particular requests for

- A written plan, using the Bristol Compact Guidelines, for the consultation process
- Clarification of the specific points raised under the section headings 3 to 12
- A rethink of the proposed funding system for infrastructure services, and the development of a real investment programme that enhances independence, representation and other sector wide strategic work.
- Further details on the proposed monitoring and evaluation processes – how will the traffic lights work in practice?
- The development of other consultative options - a genuine dialogue with the VCS would generate some collective responsibility for allocating limited funding as well as tap into the expertise and creativity within the VCS sector
- An impact assessment, and the use of this to inform implementation plans
- Clarification of how the draft investment strategy fits into and enhances other BCC strategies and activities that aim to develop a thriving, diverse and sustainable VCS.

I look forward to your prompt response.

Yours sincerely,

Clare Hall
Voscur Chair