

Report to:	Neighbourhood and Community Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee
Subject:	Recommendation 1 of Partnership, Contract Performance and Third Sector Scrutiny Committee's report on the Health of Birmingham's Third Sector
Date:	12.1.16

Action required:

Please review recommendation R01 of the Partnership, Contract Performance and Third Sector Scrutiny Committee's report on the Health of Birmingham's Third Sector. Can mapping activity be considered complete?

Background:

In April 2013 the Partnership, Contract Performance and Third Sector Scrutiny Committee produced a report on the Health of Birmingham's Third Sector. The report included a number of recommendations which fell to Corporate Strategy, one of which is still outstanding. This recommendation - R01 – stated that a thorough and detailed mapping exercise of all third sector provision is undertaken within Birmingham. The latest request by Scrutiny Committee was for a final report giving an overview of how the approach to this recommendation has been revised over the years as resources have fallen (an approach agreed by the PCP&TS Committee) together with the detail/analysis of the mapping.

This note provides details of the action that has been taken towards this recommendation.

Action taken:

Mapping of small, "under the radar" third sector organisations has been carried out over three years by groups of students on placement from University of Birmingham with Corporate Strategy Team. Mapping was prioritised according to areas of deprivation and therefore likely high demand, and those districts who expressed a particular interest.

The latest activity occurred in the Summer of 2015 when two groups of students carried out further mapping in Edgbaston, Harborne, Quinton, Bartley Green and Selly Oak.

The majority of the City has now been mapped; only parts of Hall Green district and all of Sutton Coldfield are outstanding. However given that some of this mapping was carried out a few years ago and that the position with regard to third sector organisations in operation constantly changes, some of this information may be a little out of date by now.

The use of university students in this mapping exercise was agreed by Scrutiny and was as a result of the lack of resource within Corporate Strategy Team to carry out this work. The mapping of third sector organisations is a resource-intensive exercise requiring dedicated resources over a number of weeks to carry out the necessary field work and recording of the information gathered.

For similar reasons Corporate Strategy has used a person on a voluntary placement to analyse some of the data gathered. This analysis focused only on Edgbaston and categorised the data to show local diversity by theme and geography giving an overview across the area. Issues with the quality of the data gathered were identified and presented several difficulties to the completion of this analysis.

Future action:

The information gathered has been shared with each local district for them to consider and decide how they want to use it. Edgbaston, for instance, are using it as input to their district plan.

The information has also been shared with the Future Council Team to assist with their intelligence led activity. It strongly connects to the Outward Looking Partnership sub-programme of the Future Council who are considering how they can use and develop the information to determine how the council works with and values the Third Sector across the city.

There are no plans in place for Corporate Strategy to conduct any further mapping or any additional analysis of existing data. Those districts not yet covered will need to consider the worth of this information to them and whether they can support it. Given that Sutton will have a new town council in the near future, this may not be a priority for them at this time.

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