

Urban Forum Work Activities April 2007 and June 2008

This is a summary of what Urban Forum has been up to in the past 15 months

Policy Briefings and Responses

Apr 2007	Lyon's Inquiry into Local Government
May 2007	Office of the Third Sector - Grass Roots Grants
May 2007	Sustaining Grants (information pamphlet)
May 2007	Participatory Budgeting, (Policy report)
Jun 2007	Communities and Local Government Third Sector Strategy
Jul 2007	Planning White Paper (briefing and consultation)
Jul 2007	Review of the Third Sector (key points)
Aug 2007	Unclaimed Assets (response)
Aug 2007	Planning White Paper (response)
Sep 2007	Third Sector Strategy (discussion paper response)
Oct 2007	Comprehensive Spending Review - (key points)
Nov 2007	Action Plan for community empowerment
Jan 2008	Local Area Agreement guidance
Feb 2008	Local Petitions and Call for Action
Feb 2008	Principles of Third Sector Representation
Mar 2008	Streamlining Local Development Frameworks (response)
Mar 2008	Unlocking the Talents of our Communities
May 2008	Unlocking the Talents of our Communities (response)

Research Reports

Sep 2007	Where are the women in LSPs?
Apr 2008	CEN research

Info-mails

12 monthly emails were sent out informing members what Urban Forum is doing

Policy Round-ups

10 emails were sent out up-dating members on the latest policy developments

Clearway (Urban Forum's bi-monthly magazine for members)

7 editions were produced in this period

May 2007	Including Cohesion Policy Forum, NDC conference report, Participatory Budgeting
Jul 2007	Including Every Action Counts, CLG Third Sector Strategy, champions of participation report
Sep 2007	Empowerment special
Nov 2007	Policy Special
Jan 2008	Annual conference 'Empowerment Game' report
Mar 2008	Including Annual lecture report, Councillors Commission; empowerment features; National Indicators update
May 2008	Including NDC conference and Policy Forum reports, CEN research

Urban Forum Online (our website)

There was an average of 82,000 hits per month (visitor impressions)

Research and Consultations undertaken

Jun 2007	DCLG Third Sector Strategy Survey
Jun 2007	Members Survey
Jul 2007	Planning White Paper Consultation
Sep 2007	Local Leadership research – 1 st stage
Feb 2008	CEN research
Mar 2008	Local Leadership research – 2 nd stage
Mar 2008	Places and the Built Environment research

Events held

Feb – May 2007	Policy Forum on Community Cohesion
Dec 2007	Annual Conference
Jun 2007	LSP Futures Conference
Jan 2008	Annual Lecture
Jan-Mar 2008	Policy Forum on Planning and the Built Environment
Jan – Jun 2008	EAC energy awareness training with Centre for Sustainable Energy (five held)
Apr 2008	NDC Conferences
May – Jun 2008	'Strictly Come Thinking' Members' events (three held)

Involvement in Policy Bodies

Urban Forum has been involved in the following policy bodies:

LAA Governance and Partnership Board

To advise Communities and Local Government (CLG) on the drafting of the new statutory "Strong, Safe & prosperous Communities" on LSPs, LAAs and the new provisions in the Local Government White paper.

Standards of Third Sector representation on LSPs

Established to develop the Local Government White Paper's commitment to principles of third sector representation

Office of the Third Sector (OTS) Strategic Partners

Forum for recipients of the OTS Strategic Grants Programme.

Quirk Review Implementation Plan

Urban Forum was a delivery partner in the implementation plan to enact the recommendations from the Quirk Review,

National Empowerment Partnership (NEP)

Cross-sector consortium led by CLG to advise government and strengthen opportunities for empowerment. The NEP is complemented by consortia working at a regional level.

Treasury Ministerial Meetings on Local Government and Third Sector collaboration

An annual meeting with the Treasury Minister responsible for the Third Sector. Current there are representatives from CLG, Improvement and Development Agency (IDeA), Local Government Association (LGA), the Audit Commission, Navca and other national VCS organisations

Flanagan Review of Policing – Local Accountability working group

An independent review of policing with a working group on community engagement and local accountability

NI4 Delivery Group

Convened by CLGs Empowerment Division to oversee progress against achieving National Indicator 4 (the percentage of people who feel that they can influence decisions in their local area) and also help CLG coordinate the empowerment programmes they are supporting including NEP, Asset Transfer, Participatory Budgeting and the Network of Empowering Authorities.

Third Sector Survey group

Convened by the OTS to explore how National Indicator 7 (a thriving third sector) can be measured and ways to improve it (including developing a methodology that includes the community sector).