



Wandsworth Voluntary Sector Development Agency

enabling voluntary action

WVSDA Briefing in preparation for the 20 Jan 2011 meeting of the

Wandsworth Local Strategic Partnership

Summary of issues of interest for the voluntary and community sector. Full agenda papers available at: www.wandsworth.gov.uk/moderngov/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=373&MId=3537&Ver=4

1. Minutes from the last LSP meeting are [available here](#).
2. JobCentre Plus will provide an update of its work.
3. There will be updates on key developments for the coming year, including:
 - The **Localism Bill** – describes how the government intends to decentralise powers to local councils and communities.
 - The Financial Strategy for 2013-14 and the **Council's budget** for 2011/12 – [report by the Director of Finance](#) . Summary:
 - The 2011/2012 grant settlement (money that the Council gets from Central Government) will be reduced by £19.5 million or 10.5%.
 - A further £11.9 million will be deducted in 2012/13.
 - General Fund Reserves are currently assumed at £10.0 million and will likely remain at or close to this level.
 - The Council's General Fund income from fees and charges is expected to increase by inflation or 1% higher.
 - Investment income is likely to decrease due to economic conditions and low interest rates.
 - Capital available for new investments likely to be restricted in the short term due to overall pressures on the council tax. The resultant General Fund Capital programme falls from £54.9 million in 2010/11 to just under £36 million in 2011/12.
 - Housing rents will increase by an average of £7.84 per week.
 - The Housing Capital programme will be worth over £26 million in 2011/12.
 - The ring fenced schools budgets (fully funded by Central government) will be reduced by 2%.
 - After March 2011 based on current grant and expenditure predictions, there will be a need for further significant expenditure reduction, assuming that there is no above inflation increase in Council Tax and increases in other charges or both due to the proposed reduction in government grant.

Wandsworth Voluntary Sector Development Agency is the Council for Voluntary Service in Wandsworth

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- **Public Health White Paper** – a briefing will be provided on the implications of the white paper on local public health services.
 - **Community Budgets**. An update will be provided on local progress on the use of Community Budgets (a pilot scheme that pools various strands of Whitehall funding into a single 'local bank account' for tackling social problems around families with complex needs).
4. The Leader of the Council, Councillor Lister, has written a report called the new **Wandsworth Challenge**. It sets out a proposed local agenda for public services, considers the financial context and the devolution of powers from Central Government. The paper lists key areas of work and proposes to subject each service to the following three tests:
- (a) Does it help achieve a distinctively high quality of life for our residents?
 - (b) Does it make the most of the resources available from all areas?
 - (c) Does it enable individuals to take more responsibility for their own lives?

The proposed priority areas are:

Health	Local housing priorities	Sustainability
Personalised social care	Transport investment	Action on environmental threats
Schools	Supporting local businesses	Regeneration priorities
Families with complex needs	Active communities	Self-service
Tackling worklessness	Children with special needs	Transparency and openness
Community safety	Safeguarding	

The Council will seek to engage people in shaping the content by launching an initial consultation via Brightside magazine. Council departments will be expected to build in challenges for neighbourhood and community groups in their own programmes.



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