

**Issue number 1: May/June 2006**

## **London Thames Gateway *Building a World Class Third Sector – Project Update***

### **The project**

Can the Third Sector rise to the challenge of the opportunities presented by the massive investment in the Thames Gateway and the London 2012 Olympic Games and Paralympic Games?

The Thames Gateway London Steering Group<sup>1</sup> (which includes ELCVS) has commissioned Rocket Science to collaborate on the development of a Third Sector Strategy for the sub-region. This will identify how partners can enhance the sector's capacity to contribute to the economic development, social inclusion and long-term sustainability of the London Thames Gateway. This newsletter is the first of our monthly instalments updating the ELCVS network of our progress, and letting you know how you can get involved.

### **The policy context**

May 15 saw the launch of a cross-government policy review into the future role of the Third Sector in social and economic regeneration. It will be the largest and most ambitious cross cutting review of the Third sector ever undertaken by government, led by Ed Miliband MP, the newly appointed Minister for the Third Sector based in the Cabinet Office. See <http://www.ncvo-vol.org.uk/policy/index.asp?id=2775#1>

The anticipated growth of the London Thames Gateway (the biggest regeneration project of its kind in Europe), combined with the challenges presented by London's hosting the 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games provide a fascinating case study of the capacity of the Third Sector, which encompasses charities, voluntary and community sector organisations and social enterprises, to contribute to an area's long-term regeneration.

Following a phase of fieldwork in each of the 12 London Thames Gateway local authority areas, the project will bring together sector representatives, key partners and funders for a feedback and consultation event to consider different possible future for the Third Sector in terms of its contribution to delivering the vision for the Gateway. The initial one-day event will be held on Wednesday 5th July at the Rich Mix Centre in Bethnal Green, East London. See *below for details*. Further consultation sessions will look more in depth at the different roles and responsibilities of the sector:

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<sup>1</sup> The Partnership consists of: Thames Gateway London Partnership (Chair); Association of London Government; Learning and Skills Council – London East; Government Office for London; London Development Agency; City Parochial Foundation; East London Business Association (ELBA); BASSAC representing the Community Alliance/Community Sector Coalition; East London CVS Network – the sub-regional CVS network; Race on the Agenda; Southern Housing Foundation, representing RSLs in the Thames Gateway; The Housing Corporation

- As a key employer/sector in the sub-regional economy
- As a strategic advisor and participant in local and sub-regional decision making
- As a managing agent and coordinator of partnerships
- As an agent of service design, delivery and appraisal
- As a route for those who are most at risk of social/ economic exclusion
- As part of, and a significant contributor to, a vibrant civil society

**You can get involved** in one of the following ways:

1. **Contact John Griffiths at Rocket Science** for more information on any of the consultation sessions or to hear more about the project in general ([john.griffiths@rocketsciencelab.co.uk](mailto:john.griffiths@rocketsciencelab.co.uk); 020 7253 6289)
2. Contact one of the **Local Authority Leads** if you are from one of the 12 Thames Gateway local authorities and would like to find out more, or share your views:

Local Authority Leads	
Corporation of London Tower Hamlets Dartford	Contact Ruth Evans <a href="mailto:ruth.evans@rocketsciencelab.co.uk">ruth.evans@rocketsciencelab.co.uk</a>
Waltham Forest Hackney	Contact Annabel House <a href="mailto:annabel.house@rocketsciencelab.co.uk">annabel.house@rocketsciencelab.co.uk</a>
Greenwich Bexley Lewisham	Contact Janice Renowden <a href="mailto:janice.renowden@rocketsciencelab.co.uk">janice.renowden@rocketsciencelab.co.uk</a>
Barking and Dagenham Redbridge Havering	Contact Kamila Zahno <a href="mailto:kamila@zahnorao.demon.co.uk">kamila@zahnorao.demon.co.uk</a>
Newham	Contact John Griffiths <a href="mailto:john.griffiths@rocketsciencelab.co.uk">john.griffiths@rocketsciencelab.co.uk</a>

3. **Come to our major consultation event** on the possible futures for the Third Sector in London Thames Gateway will take place on **Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> July from 9.30 to 16.00.**

<b>Where?</b>	At the <b>Rich Mix Centre, Shoreditch, London E1</b> . The programme will feature presentations, interactive consultation exercises, as well as panel discussions with policy makers, practitioners and statutory sector partners.
<b>Who?</b>	The event is <b>open to Third Sector organisations from across the 12 Thames Gateway local authorities, as well as statutory agencies</b> with the remit to work in partnership with the sector. The event provides a chance to step back and consider where the Third Sector needs to be by 2016; how to get there, what support it needs and who should provide it. It is also an opportunity for learning and networking, with a focus on practical outcomes that will be of use to Third Sector participants as well as representatives from other key stakeholders.
<b>How?</b>	To apply to attend this event, which is <b>free of charge but limited to 100 places</b> , please contact <a href="mailto:annabel.house@rocketsciencelab.co.uk">annabel.house@rocketsciencelab.co.uk</a>
<b>By?</b>	Places will be allocated on a first-come-first-served basis, but you will need to <b>register an expression of interest by Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> June</b> . Applications are limited to one person per organisation. Further information and joining instructions will be sent out to delegates by Friday 23 <sup>rd</sup> June.