
RAISE



**SEEDA SLA
Proposal**

November 2009

Context

Following on from the meeting held in October 2009, when RAISE were informed that the funding for 2010/11 had been reduced from 200k to 100k, the budget and activities delivered directly by the funding have been reviewed.

Historically the SEEDA funding has funded specific core staff posts and functions within the organisation, these being Chief Executive Officer, Communications Manager, Head of Policy and Strategy and Finance Officer. With the tapering of funding over the past 2 years alternative funding was identified for the post of Communications Manager. With a reduction to funding of some 50% for FY 2010/11 the RAISE Board are now beginning the process of looking at restructuring the organisation, based on the functions of the remaining 3 core staff.

Taking this into account the core aims of the organisation, at this time, will not change. This is due to the fact that the delivery of activities within the organisation are project specific and are funded by the projects, levered in by the very existence of RAISE. These projects would not happen without the core functions of the organisation.

However there are some core activities that were funded by the SEEDA funding and were therefore in the SLA, that RAISE will now have to find alternative funding for. At present these are: the AGM and annual conference, Governance costs, networking events. This is in addition to staffing cuts that will be a direct result of the restructuring of the organisation.

It is with the above taken into account that the SLA proposal for 2010/11 has been drawn up.

SEEDA SERVICE LEVEL AGREEMENT WITH RAISE 2010 2011

Our purpose

RAISE exists to champion the third sector's unique contribution to making South East England socially, economically and environmentally sustainable.

Our role

1. We make regional policy makers aware of the scale, diversity and value of the third sector.
2. We make sure the voice of third sector organisations is heard and acted on by regional policy makers.
3. We enable third sector organisations to campaign effectively for change.
4. We build third sector organisations' capacity to contribute to a sustainable region.

Our accountability

We are primarily accountable to our core members. But we are also accountable in specific areas to our partners and funders without whom we wouldn't be able to fulfil our mission.

What is meant by the term 'Third Sector'?

'Third sector' is a term which the government has recently adopted to describe 'non-governmental organisations which are value-driven and which principally reinvest their surpluses to further social, environmental or cultural objectives'.

The Third Sector is extremely diverse and includes organisations which range from national charities with multi-million pound turnovers, to small community groups with tiny budgets, run entirely by volunteers.

There are three main segments (although there is considerable overlap between them as many voluntary and community organisations are developing as social enterprises to improve their financial sustainability). The three segments are:

- Voluntary and community organisations.
- Social enterprises.
- Cooperatives and mutuals.

Key Data: South East Voluntary and Community Sector	
	2009
Organisations	41,450
Employees	303,200
% of South East workforce	7%
Employees (full-time equivalent)	97,690
Economic Value	£2,397 million
Volunteers	657,780
Proportion of adult population	1 in 10
Volunteers (full-time equivalent)	246,200
Economic Value	£2,567 million
Total Economic Value	£4,964 million
% of South East GVA	3%

Hidden Asset 2009

The work plan for 2010/11 continues the work as delivered in the 2008/09/10 agreements and in the current economic climate contributes to economic development and community cohesion.

The contribution of RAISE and the third sector to the four priorities listed under the current RES Sustainable Communities target are:

1. Tackling Worklessness and Economic Exclusion

Core Activity - RAISE provides information, advice and policy development to front line VCS organisations, who provide services to individuals (both economically active and inactive) to progress towards and maintain employment and therefore their economic contribution. For example when individuals are clients of MIND (mental health) or Citizens' Advice Bureau (debt counselling amongst other services) the counterfactual of services not being available can result in economically active individuals dropping out of the labour market or incurring costs to other government departments (eg health or welfare).

Skills – RAISE contributes to sector skills development through capacity building work involving seminars/workshops, conferences and briefings to VCS bodies in support of Objective 6 of the Regional Economic Strategy (RES). More widely over

two thirds of VCS organisations have training budgets which contribute to sectoral and generic skills development. Contacts have been established with the new Third Sector Skills body which will work to identify and address skills gaps and shortages, pull together the work of the sector skills councils to open up learning opportunities for third sector paid and voluntary staff and ensure the sector's needs are properly considered in the design development of National Occupational Standards, the design Apprenticeship Frameworks and Sector Qualification Strategies.

2. Stimulating New Markets

Gross Value Added (GVA) growth/per capita growth: RAISE provides advice, information and policy development to support the ongoing health and viability of the sector. This has a direct impact on GVA within the region. In 2009 the sector was estimated to be worth around £4.9 billion, equating to around 3% of regional GDP and of similar proportion to public administration and defence (5% in the region) and health and social work (6%).

Enterprise – the two areas relating to enterprise, to which RAISE contributes, include: the development of social entrepreneurs within VCS organisations who may subsequently use these skills for community development or in the private sector; and, through the delivery of NVQ Level 3 in Business Start-up. This includes dialogue with SE².

Employment – the sector was estimated to involve 303,200 paid staff (7% of paid workforce) and 657,780 volunteers in 2003 (Hidden Asset, 2009). There is clear evidence of increased demand in the current economic climate (RAISE Survey 2009). When demand for services increases then the likelihood is that employees and volunteers will increase in the sector. In addition some parts of the sector provide services to support training and employability skills to support future employment for clients. Therefore, the sector makes a direct contribution to securing sustainable employment.

3. Creating Vibrant Places

Community Cohesion – the major VCS sectors in the South East in terms of their most important areas of work are welfare and social care, supporting community/voluntary groups and education/research/training/learning (Hidden Asset, 2005). All of these areas link closely to LAAs, specifically NI4, 6 and 7.

4. Cross Sector Collaborations

Regional Cross Sector Partnership – RAISE is the accountable body for the RSCP which champion and support the third sector to develop a strategic, influential role

with public sector partners which promotes the benefits, contribution and aspirations of the sector and their ability to deliver social, economic and environmental outcomes, and to support the role of the third sector in the South East.

We have reviewed our plans and set out below how they will link to the current economic situation.

1. How will RAISE respond to the economic climate and recession?

- a. Represent the third sector on the SE Economic Council. Playing a full role in the variety of strategic and operational groups across the South East by representing the third sector community and feeding in ideas. (*Attendance at the SEEDC.*)
- b. Provide support for all member organisations who provide services that contribute to society and the economy including events, information / network supporting third sector. (*Upto date website, weekly ebulletin*)
- c. Provide support for all member organisations who employ and provide volunteering opportunities for individuals in the South East. (*Hold 3 SE England Volunteer Council meetings*)
- d. Monitoring and updating SEEDA of the health of the third sector - undertaking quarterly survey and providing key anecdotal information to SEEDA more regularly when appropriate. (*provide quarterly statistics from membership survey*)

2. What actions will RAISE undertake to support the third sector safeguard jobs and productivity, support people in worklessness and work with SEEDA to create innovative solutions to job creation?

- a. Maintain support for all member organisations who provide services that contribute to society and the economy – these services help people out of worklessness through myriad ways of support. (*information and support provided via RAISE website, monthly newsletter and subject specific briefing sheets*)
- b. Maintain support for all member organisations who employ and provide volunteering opportunities for individuals in the South East. (*Hold 3 SE England Volunteer Council meetings*)
- c. Representing the sector and seeking / communicating / advising funding opportunities at national and regional level which can support sector development and safeguard sector jobs and volunteering opportunities. (*attend SE Funding Forum, ESF meetings*)
- d. Marketing and promotion of training opportunities to members. (*Develop specific skills section on the RAISE Website*)

3. What intelligence will RAISE provide to SEEDA relating to the health of the third sector in this economic climate?

- a. An assessment of the impact of the economic climate on the sector through a quarterly survey. (*quarterly membership survey analysis*)
- b. Anecdotal feedback on the impact through regular dialogue with member organisations and through participation in various partnerships and groups. (*quarterly membership survey analysis*)

RAISE will continue to represent the Sector on the SE Economic Delivery Council, sharing and cascading to this group and the wider RAISE membership a quarterly assessment of the impact of the economic climate on the sector.

4. What advisory role will raise provide to SEEDA on issues relating to Third Sector Policy including compliance with the Regional Compact?

- a. RAISE will make relevant officers available to meet with SEEDA to discuss approaches to Third Sector Policy and provide regular policy advice to SEEDA
- b. Help promote use of third sector as a service provider and benefits of compact internally and to RES partners
- c. RAISE will play a constructive role in supporting compliance with the Regional Compact including helping SEEDA to communicate with the third on issues/policy development likely to affect it through using RAISE's communication channels and database, and helping to advise when it is appropriate to consult with the third sector.

RAISE will continue to be an active member of the Regional Compact working group and will champion the SE Regional Compact. We will also during the year promote the refreshed Compact.

The diversity of the sector is a strength and not a weakness as it is only through this diversity that the third sector is better able to reach some of those hard to reach sections of the community. It is also through this diversity that the sector's capacity and potential to act as the glue holding communities together.

Monitoring of this Action Plan

RAISE will produce a quarterly monitoring report of progress against milestones in the delivery of this action plan, including spend against budget.

In order that SEEDA have a greater awareness of RAISE's activities and the contribution of the VCS to economic development, as part of this agreement RAISE will also:

- Provide the results of its quarterly surveys of the health of the sector for SEEDA to feed into its economic commentary to BERR
- Provide updates on key activities and results on a quarterly basis to feed into SEEDA Agency Report.
- Provide a final report at the end of the year, on achievements against milestones and outcomes **and** an assessment of how the milestones have contributed to the delivery of SEEDA's priorities
- Give an annual presentation on its work to a cross SEEDA Team if required,

Budget

Staffing Costs	93700
Oncosts	6300

TOTAL	100000
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