

HM Treasury Comes to Herefordshire

The HM treasury and the Cabinet Office have been carrying out a review of how they can support the role of third sector in the future. On the 27th September, about 30 people representing a wide cross section of voluntary & community groups met at the Left Bank to share their views on how the government could best support the sector in the future.

This was part of a national review, and it's the biggest consultation exercise the government has ever embarked on, (so say the National Council for Voluntary Organisations).

The government reviews its spending every 2 years (called the Comprehensive Spending Review – the CSR), but this CSR is the biggest for a decade, looking at spending in every government department. It is important for the future of all government departments, as it is taking what's known as a 'zero based approach' – each department will have to bid for funding on the basis of priorities and policies, rather than based on what it already receives. The CSR will report in 2007 and cover government fiscal plans for 2007 -2011.

Previous reviews have just looked at how the voluntary & community sector deliver public services, but this time the review is looking at the role it plays in social and economic regeneration and how the voluntary & community sector works with government.

Herefordshire was one of the last phases of the review; initial findings will be reported in time for the pre-budget report, later this year. The comments from the day are given below; several groups from Herefordshire have also made direct comments into the process.

Thanks to all those who took part in the event, we will report as soon as we hear about the initial findings.