

NEWS RELEASE
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For immediate release

Bubb outlines how the Big Society agenda must move from romanticism to realism

May 27, 2010- In a speech to third sector leaders and representatives this evening, Stephen Bubb CEO of ACEVO (the representative body for charity leaders) will outline what it will take for the Coalition Government to successfully implement their vision for Big Society in an environment of sizeable cuts to public spending.

Last week the new Government unveiled their plans for Big Society at a roundtable at No10. The third sector however still awaits the detail of how Government plans to turn their vision into reality. ACEVO are now calling on Government to truly engage and consult the third sector on how they can support a bigger role for civil society in the delivery of public services and build "Big Society" whilst implementing cuts.

Speaking ahead of the speech Bubb said,

"Whilst we welcome the coalition's agenda, it's essential that government doesn't attempt to go it alone. We must be made real partners in how they develop the agenda and we must have a voice for our beneficiaries in how cuts are implemented.

“As a sector we are going to need to be very clear that for it to work what we need is not just civic action, but organised civil action. This will require a business- like third sector which is recognised and treated as a genuine partner of government.”

ACEVO’s call on Government builds on meetings they held with George Osborne MP and other members of the shadow cabinet ahead on the election. The meetings explored how civic society could play a greater role in delivering public services whilst helping reduce the budget deficit.

Notes to editors

About ACEVO

ACEVO (Association of Chief Executives of Voluntary Organisations) is the professional body representing charity and not-for-profit sector chief executives in the UK, with over 2000 members. The broad not-for-profit sector now employs the full-time equivalent of 1.5m staff, with a collective annual turnover of £46bn. ACEVO is committed to improving third sector leadership skills worldwide.