# **Brief for Scrutiny Active and Cohesive**

# Topic to be scrutinised

Review of Locality Working (Locality Action Partnerships (LAPs) Review)

# Questions to be addressed

- 1. What do LAPs do and how are they organised currently?
- 2. What areas of working undertaken by the LAPs can be done better?
- 3. What needs to happen to improve the LAPs?
- 4. Can the LAPs deliver localism or does more need to be done in terms of locality working?

#### **Outcome**

- 1. The further development of the LAPs into bodies which can deliver actions which reflect the identified needs of each locality in the Borough
- 2. Improved and enhanced communications for LAPs
- 3. A system of locality working which is genuinely local and which reflects all the key elements of each locality to the benefit of that locality

# **Background materials**

- 1. Previous studies by the Active & Cohesive Communities Overview & Scrutiny Committee on locality working (2008)
- 2. Cabinet report on Locality Working February 2010
- 3. Localism & Decentralisation Bill 2011
- 4. Public Sector Reform White Paper (2010)
- 5. Open Public Services White Paper (2011)

#### **Evidence and witnesses**

- 1. LAPs Chairs and other local community representatives
- 2. Partner organisations, including Staffs CC, FARS, Police and Aspire
- 3. Third sector representatives
- 4. Elected Members

# **Method of scrutiny**

- 1. Updates to the Active & Cohesive Communities Overview & Scrutiny Committee review has taken place and the Committee is a key part of overseeing delivery of the recommendations coming out of the review, ensuring that stated deadlines are met and benefits realised
- 2. To consider representations from key stakeholders (as outlined above) where relevant and where value is added
- 3. Input from elected Members

#### **Timetable**

Start date 22<sup>nd</sup> August 2011

Dates of meetings Updates to meetings of Active & Cohesive Committee in October 2011 and March 2012

Draft report 22<sup>nd</sup> August 2011 (initial report, also going to Cabinet on 7<sup>th</sup> September – so considered by Scrutiny first)

Final report 5<sup>th</sup> March 2012 (final report on the process of change and updates on the development of locality working in light of ongoing legislative change)

Report to Council 28<sup>th</sup> March 2012

#### **Constraints**

- Review has taken place, including detailed activity from key stakeholders – role for scrutiny is not around the review process, rather the implementation of change and the benefits realised from changes to locality working
- 2. National legislative framework

# Members to undertake the scrutiny

Cllr Heames

Active & Cohesive Communities Overview & Scrutiny Committee

# Support

Head of Business Improvement & Partnerships Partnerships Manager Partnerships Team Chief Executive

# **Newcastle Borough Council Corporate Plan Priority area (s)**

- o Creating a cleaner, safer and sustainable Borough
- Creating a Borough of opportunity
- Creating a healthy and active community
- Transforming our Council to achieve excellence

# **CfPS Objectives:**

- Provides and critical friend challenge to executive policy makers and decision makers
- Enables the voice and concerns of the public to be heard
- Is carried out by independent governors who lead and own the scrutiny role
- Drives improvement in public services

# **Brief approved by Overview and Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee** Signed

Date