

## Brief for Scrutiny – Co-location of Partners Organisations in Newcastle Borough Council Buildings

<p><b>Topic to be scrutinised</b></p> <p>The proposed co-location of partner organisations in the Civic Offices in Newcastle-under-Lyme and also Kidsgrove Town Hall in Kidsgrove.</p>
<p><b>Questions to be Addressed</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(1) What are the arrangements going to be for partner organisations moving into Newcastle Borough Council buildings across the Borough?</li> <li>(2) How have these arrangements been developed and what issues have been considered in this development?</li> <li>(3) What is the impact of these moves on Newcastle Borough Council?</li> <li>(4) What opportunities are there for partnership working as a result of this co-location and what benefits are there for citizens and other key stakeholders?</li> <li>(5) What benefits have resulted from co-location, both for Newcastle Borough Council and also for partner organisations?</li> </ol>
<p><b>Outcomes</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(1) An understanding of the backgrounds and ongoing issues relating to partner moves and co-location by the Scrutiny Committee and, therefore, an ability to challenge and question developments as and when they occur.</li> <li>(2) An opportunity to put forward possible suggestions for further co-location where possible and to examine existing arrangements in different service areas with regard to shared approaches.</li> <li>(3) An enhanced understanding and consideration of partnership working, including both partnership structures and also the delivery of areas of work in pursuit of positive outcomes.</li> <li>(4) Focus on the performance management and resource aspects of co-location, including the impact on service delivery of co-location and possibly enhanced partnership working, together with the impact on Newcastle Borough Council performance levels.</li> <li>(5) Consideration of examples of good practice elsewhere and lessons for this Council and partners in terms of sharing buildings and other resources.</li> <li>(6) Focus on the benefits for citizens and the impact on levels of citizen satisfaction with services and facilities, together with consideration of impact on other key stakeholders of changes including local interest groups and other organisations in different sectors.</li> </ol>
<p><b>Background Materials</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(1) Information from previous Cabinet and Scrutiny Committee reports on updates to the NBC Transformation Programme and also updates on the The Way We Work (TWWW) Programme.</li> <li>(2) Various review documents on use of public buildings, including the Westminster Sustainable Business Forum report <i>Leaner and Greener: Delivering Effective Estate Management</i> (February 2011).</li> </ol>

<p>(3) Key examples from other local authorities, e.g. Three Rivers Council (Hertfordshire); Surrey Heath (where police stations have re-located into council buildings).</p> <p>(4) Newcastle Borough Council Asset Management Strategy 2011-12.</p>
<p><b>Evidence and Witnesses</b></p> <p>(1) Representatives from partner organisations – Staffordshire CC, Staffordshire Police, NHS North Staffordshire.</p> <p>(2) Portfolio Holder for Customer Services and Transformation.</p> <p>(3) Portfolio holder for Resources and Efficiency.</p> <p>(4) Cabinet Members.</p> <p>(5) Heads Of Services and Business Managers.</p> <p>(6) Senior Officers.</p> <p>(7) Analysis of space utilisation in council buildings.</p> <p>(8) TWWW Programme Manager.</p>
<p><b>Method of Scrutiny</b></p> <p>(1) It is suggested that the role of the Transformation &amp; Resources Overview and Scrutiny Committee is to continue its existing role in terms of scrutiny, but receive updates on progress of the co-location work, together with summaries of how co-location is proceeding.</p> <p>(2) The Scrutiny Committee may wish to examine this Brief and suggest particular areas of focus, which can be progressed through a Task and Finish Group, if the Committee so wishes</p>
<p><b>Timetable</b></p> <p>Start date - Work has already commenced – the TWWW Programme was started in January 2011, and built on previous work done through the Transformation Programme (from February 2010 onwards).</p> <p>Updates on TWWW received by the Transformation &amp; Resources Scrutiny Committee – quarterly.</p> <p>Initial consideration of this Brief and further areas of work identified – 2 November 2011 meeting of the Transformation &amp; Resources Scrutiny Committee.</p> <p>Dates of meetings - 18 January and 28 February 2012 progress reports if required.</p>
<p><b>Constraints</b></p> <p>Work has commenced on co-location and partners will be moving into the building over the next 9 months, up to July 2012.</p>
<p><b>Members to Undertake the Scrutiny</b></p> <p>Members of Transformation and Resources Overview &amp; Scrutiny Committee.</p>
<p><b>Support</b></p> <p>Chief Executive          EMT          Head of Business Improvement &amp; Partnerships (also TWWW Programme Manager)          Heads of Service and Business Managers</p>

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

- 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: