

Brief for Scrutiny

<p>Topic to be Scrutinised</p> <p>Third Sector Commissioning – future funding and contracting</p>
<p>Questions to be Addressed</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. How effective are Third Sector Commissioning commissioned contracts in relation to the Borough Council? 2. Can the existing systems be improved and, if so, how can they be improved? 3. Release of future monies and agreement on contract period? 4. Can work commence with internal stakeholders, the drafting of service outlines and commencement of the commissioning process? 5. What is the long-term vision of the Borough Council in terms of its relations with the voluntary and community sectors, especially in the light of developments such as localism?
<p>Outcome</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Examine the existing position with regard to funding provided by the Borough Council through the Third Sector Commissioning Framework 2. Review of current service delivery by existing providers from the Voluntary – Community Sector 3. Review how the systems currently work to ensure that value for money is being achieved and the Government’s Best Value guidance is being complied with, as well as ensuring that money and services are reaching those who most need it 4. To review the potential of collaboration with neighbouring authorities as part of direct commissioning or in partnership through the Third Sector Commissioning in Partnerships (TSCiP) to provide both a co-ordinated uniform approach to service delivery and examine possible opportunities for economies of scale.
<p>Background Materials</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Previous reports to NBC Cabinet (Grants Review) 2. Previous report to EMT – Third Sector Commissioning 3. Previous reports to the Active & Cohesive Communities Overview & Scrutiny Committee 4. NBC Grants Review Report (2011) – to be considered by Active & Cohesive Communities Overview & Scrutiny Committee on 22/8/11 and Cabinet on 7/9/11 5. <i>Best Value: New Draft Statutory Guidance</i> (DCLG, 2011)
<p>Evidence and Witnesses</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Results of the ongoing of grants, as commissioned by the Active & Cohesive Communities Overview & Scrutiny Committee (2011) 2. Elected Members/Grants Assessment Panel 3. Cabinet Members 4. Voluntary sector representatives, including CVS 5. Other major voluntary/third sector partners and commissioned

<p>organisations, e.g. CAB</p> <p>6. Community representatives/LAP chairs</p> <p>7. National representatives and organisations, e.g. NCVO</p> <p>8. Monitoring reports from existing service providers (Arch North Staffs/CAB/Brighter Futures/NCVS/Age UK)</p>
<p>Method of Scrutiny</p> <p>1. A review of the grants process has already been completed, so role of the Active & Cohesive Overview & Scrutiny Committee is so continue its existing role in terms of scrutiny, but progress the areas contained in this brief where required in terms of liaison with key witnesses and calls for evidence</p>
<p>Timetable</p> <p>Start date: Newcastle-under-Lyme BC being a signatory to the Staffordshire Compact would look to commission services within the timescales set. The Compact looks for a minimum of 12 week engagement with the Community and Voluntary Sector as part of any commissioning process.</p> <p>The existing 7 commissioned contracts agreed to run for 3 years will expire on the 31st March 2012.</p> <p>The possibilities to extend certain contracts are being considered to establish co-terminus contract end dates and start dates established by the TSCiP programme (these services being Debt, Benefits & Consumer Advice currently delivered by CAB and infrastructure and Support Services delivered by NCVS)</p>
<p>Constraints</p> <p>Monitoring of existing services is ongoing a review with stakeholders will be undertaken once funding allocation has been announced.</p> <p>A review of grants and commissioning has already started and a number of recommendations are currently being implemented.</p>
<p>Members to Undertake the Scrutiny</p> <p>Councillor Mrs Heames</p> <p>Members of Active & Cohesive Communities Overview & Scrutiny Committee</p>
<p>Support</p> <p>Head of Business Improvement & Partnerships</p> <p>Partnerships Manager</p> <p>Business Improvement Manager</p> <p>Partnerships Officer (Community Development)</p> <p>Business Improvement Officer (Performance & Procurement)</p> <p>Chief Executive</p>
<p>Newcastle Borough Council Corporate Plan Priority area(s)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 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