

## Brief for Scrutiny

<b>Topic to be scrutinised</b>  The Refurbishment and re-use of the former St Giles & St Georges School Building
<b>Questions to be addressed</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• What is the current position regarding the former St Giles and St Georges building</li><li>• What was the purpose behind the acquisition of the building and why has this not been taken forward?</li><li>• Is the retention of the building still of importance to the Council?</li><li>• If so, how much might it cost to re-furbish it and to what purpose might the building be put?</li><li>• What resources, if any, could the Council offer toward this objective?</li><li>• What plans do the Council have to find a suitable user?</li><li>• How much is it costing the Council to maintain the building.</li><li>• Has a risk assessment been carried out regarding the cost to the Council both now and in the future of maintaining the building.</li><li>• Is there any strategic importance regarding the building.</li></ul>
<b>Outcome</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• To bring forward the refurbishment and re-use of the building</li><li>• To limit financial exposure to the Council</li></ul>
<b>Background materials</b>  A number of Cabinet reports over the past 2 – 3 years providing a progress update or seeking a policy steer from Members
<b>Evidence and witnesses</b>  Simon Smith, Regeneration Manager, will provide a verbal update on discussions taking place with a prospective user of the building.
<b>Method of scrutiny</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Review / re-assess project objectives</li><li>• Request regular project updates</li></ul>
<b>Timetable</b>  April to December 2012 (then take stock)
<b>Constraints</b>

- Limited appetite for Council capital expenditure
- Loss of government or RDA funding opportunities
- Urban design and planning considerations
- Restrictive covenant on use of the building
- Public / political impatience to see tangible progress given the high visibility of the building

**Members to undertake the scrutiny**

TBA (Julia to advise)

**Support**

Julia Cleary

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

‘Creating a Borough of Opportunity’

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**CfPS Objectives:**

- Provides ‘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: