

Brief for Scrutiny

Topic to be Scrutinised
Community Centres Review
Questions to be Addressed
<ol style="list-style-type: none">(1) Which services/ activities currently run from the centres and are believed to work well?(2) How many hours per week are these activities running?(3) Which groups do the centres and sessions target?(4) Are there other halls/ community facilities close by or due to be opened or closed which will have/ is having an impact on a particular community centre?(5) Is the centre as busy as it was 3 to 5 years ago?(6) What activities or services would people like to see offered by the community centres in the future?(7) What are the buildings related issues at each particular centre?(8) What steps can be taken to improve a particular centres' sustainability?(9) How should the success of our community centres be measured?(10) How do the services offered meet the needs of the communities and are there any gaps?(11) Is the community centre in the right place, providing the right services to the right people?
Outcome
<ol style="list-style-type: none">(1) Agree the Officer Review Group's Project Plan(2) Examine the existing funding position at each community centre.(3) Develop a detailed consultation plan(4) Review service delivery options for the future.
Background Materials
<ol style="list-style-type: none">(1) Existing Agreements(2) Management Committee Constitutions(3) Audited accounts(4) Best practice examples from else where
Evidence and Witnesses
<ol style="list-style-type: none">(1) Officer Review Group(2) Chairs of Management Committees(3) Stakeholders (including partner agencies, suppliers, volunteers)(4) Users and non users(5) Site visits(6) Other providers
Method of Scrutiny
The role of the Active and Cohesive Overview and Scrutiny Committee is to progress the areas contained in this brief in liaison with key witnesses and to

call for evidence.

Timetable

To consider the project plan and initial issues in time to be reported to Cabinet on 27 September 2012. .

Constraints

There is a considerable amount of information to be gathered and a broad range of opinion to be considered. Once the project plan has been pulled together and the review completed, there will be a number of recommendations put forward for further consideration.

Members to Undertake the Scrutiny

Members of the Active and Cohesive Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

Support

(1) Executive Director – Operational Services

(2) Head of Leisure and Cultural Services

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 ‘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: