

**Briefing for Cleaner, Greener and Safer Communities**  
**Overview and Scrutiny Committee**  
**5 September 2012**

**Newcastle Partnership Structure**

Since 2010 nationally and locally, organisations have changed ways in which they work to respond to the coalition government's agenda and significant public sector spending cuts. Therefore the context and landscape for partnership working had undergone significant change. There has been a scaling back of the inspection framework with the abolition of the Comprehensive Area Assessment (CAA) and the end of Local Area Agreements, which are to be replaced by a 'single comprehensive list' of data required by central government.

The Coalition view was to reduce 'top-down' instruction with a clear focus on the 'localism' agenda which aims to give local authorities 'Freedom, Power and Responsibility'. These changes have influenced the re-direction of the work of the Newcastle Partnership.

In October 2011 the Partnership Delivery Group commenced review of Strategic Partnership Structure to reflect the national/local picture and a reduction in capacity.

The aim of the review was to explore opportunities to develop a shared vision and priorities; to refocus plans, policies and resources; to redefine the partnership and to create an environment capable of delivering statutory requirements and of providing the leadership and direction necessary to achieve local solutions to local issues.

In November 2011 proposals were submitted to the Partnership Delivery Group for consideration - One Strategic Partnership Board approach accepted.

A multi-agency group was set up in December 2011 to look at detail and proposed working documents for consultation and in January 2012 presentations were delivered to a number of Boards, Borough Council and Partnership meetings.

There is now in operation one Newcastle Partnership Strategic Board which sets the strategic direction of the borough partnership work and delivers task and finish, project management approaches to priorities identified – currently these are Social Enterprise, Troubled Families and Let's Work Together. There are two complimentary priorities = Vulnerability (Health, Wellbeing and Safety) and Growth (Economy and Enterprise) – Focus on causal factors not consequence being delivered through locality and empowerment. The Partnerships cross cutting theme is to 'Develop Strong Communities'.

The Newcastle Partnership Strategic Board has a Core Purpose, Objectives, Partnership Principles and Operating Principles and these were consulted on. There is now a Constitution, Strategic Board Terms of Reference, Partnership Structure 2012 and Roles and Responsibilities in place. The Board has met twice and is due to meet again on 11 September 2012. The Partnership Delivery Group made up of Newcastle Borough Council, Staffordshire County Council, Staffordshire Police, Staffordshire Fire and Rescue, Public Health, Aspire and Newcastle Community and Voluntary Support continues to meet on a monthly basis and acts as a program management group on behalf of the Strategic Board. The structure follows:

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