

## Brief for Scrutiny

## ACTIVE AND COHESIVE COMMUNITIES OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

<p><b>Topic to be Scrutinised</b></p> <p>Review of Grants and Third Sector Commissioning</p>
<p><b>Questions to be Addressed</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(1) How do the grants and Third Sector Commissioning systems currently work in relation to the Borough Council?</li> <li>(2) Can the existing systems be improved and, if so, how can they be improved?</li> <li>(3) 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?</li> </ol>
<p><b>Outcome</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(1) Examine the existing position with regard to grants provided by the Borough Council and also the Third Sector Commissioning Framework.</li> <li>(2) 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 is reaching those who most need it.</li> <li>(3) To provide a set of recommendations for implementation which seek to make the existing system less complicated, more accountable and better co-ordinated in order to ensure that these systems continue to operate at maximum levels of efficiency and effectiveness.</li> </ol>
<p><b>Background Materials</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(1) Previous reports to NBC Cabinet.</li> <li>(2) Previous reports to the Active &amp; Cohesive Communities Overview &amp; Scrutiny Committee.</li> <li>(3) NBC Grants Review Report (2011) – to be considered by Active &amp; Cohesive Communities Overview &amp; Scrutiny Committee on 22/8/11 and Cabinet on 7/9/11.</li> <li>(4) <i>Best Value: New Draft Statutory Guidance</i> (DCLG, 2011).</li> </ol>
<p><b>Evidence and Witnesses</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(1) Results of the ongoing of grants, as commissioned by the Active and Cohesive Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee (2011).</li> <li>(2) Elected Members/Grants Assessment Panel.</li> <li>(3) Cabinet Members.</li> <li>(4) Voluntary sector representatives, including CVS.</li> <li>(5) Other major voluntary/third sector partners and commissioned organisations, e.g. CAB.</li> <li>(6) Community representatives/LAP chairs.</li> <li>(7) National representatives and organisations, e.g. NCVO.</li> </ol>

<p><b>Method of Scrutiny</b></p> <p>(1) Review has already been completed, so role of the Active and Cohesive Overview and 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><b>Timetable</b></p> <p>Start Date: Already started – initially to March 2011 meeting of Active and Cohesive Communities, who commissioned the review.</p> <p>Dates of Meetings: March/June 2011 meetings of above.</p> <p>Draft Report: To August 22 2011 meeting of above, and 7 September meeting of Cabinet.</p> <p>Final Report: Further reports to Active &amp; Cohesive Communities 31 October 2011 and 5 March 2012.</p> <p>Report to Council: 28 March 2012.</p>	
<p><b>Constraints</b></p> <p>Review has already started, so recommendations and work already completed, although this will be re-visited by 22 August 2011 Active and Cohesive Communities and amendments/changes made where relevant.</p>	
<p><b>Members to Undertake the Scrutiny</b></p> <p>Councillor Mrs Heames Members of Active and Cohesive Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee</p>	
<p><b>Support</b></p> <p>Head of Business Improvement &amp; Partnerships Partnerships Manager Business Improvement Manager Partnerships Officer (Community Development) Business Improvement Officer (Performance &amp; Procurement) Chief Executive</p>	
<p><b>Newcastle Borough Council Corporate Plan Priority area (s)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Creating a cleaner, safer and sustainable Borough.</li> <li>• Creating a Borough of opportunity.</li> <li>• Creating a healthy and active community.</li> <li>• Transforming our Council to achieve excellence.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>CfPS Objectives:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provides and critical friend challenge to executive policy makers and decision makers.</li> <li>• Enables the voice and concerns of the public to be heard.</li> <li>• Is carried out by independent governors who lead and own the scrutiny role.</li> <li>• Drives improvement in public services.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Brief Approved by Overview and Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee</b></p> <p>Signed: Date:</p>	