



Gateshead Strategic Partnership Steering Group

Tuesday 19 June 2012

To be held in the Whickham Room, Civic Centre

-
- 2.30pm 1. **Apologies**
2. **Minutes**
The minutes of the meeting of the Steering Group held on 22 May 2012
3. **Matters Arising**
- 2.35pm 4. **Partnership Boards – updates**
Partner Updates – Current Issues

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

- 2.45pm 5. **Localism – Overview and Scrutiny Committee Review**
(Pages 7 – 30) Lindsay Murray
Gateshead Council
- 3.05pm 6. **The Gateshead Fund - impact in 2011/2012 and future approach**
(Pages 31 – 34) Lindsay Murray
Gateshead Council
- 3.25pm 7. **Police and Crime Commissioners – changes affecting Gateshead**
(Pages 35 – 38) Ruth Scott
Northumbria Police Authority

Date and Time of the Next Meeting: Tuesday 17 July 2012, 2.30pm,
Whickham Room



Gateshead Strategic Partnership Steering Group

22 May 2012

Minutes

Present:

Cllr Mick Henry	Gateshead Council
Gev Pringle	GVOC
Ian Young	Business Sector
Cllr Martin Gannon	Gateshead Council
Joan Moon	Gateshead Community Network
Martyn Strike	Northumbria Probation Trust
Sandra Brydon	Jobcentre Plus
Mark Warcup	Northumbria Police
Steve Stokoe	Tyne & Wear Fire & Rescue Service
John Holt	Gateshead College
Bahal Sigh Dhindsa	Diversity Forum
Ian Atkinson	Involvement Forum
Carole Wood	Gateshead PCT
Margaret Whellans	Children's Trust Board

In Attendance:

Lindsay Murray	Gateshead Council
Geraldine Smith	Gateshead Council
Susan Hall	Student – Gateshead Access Panel
Caroline Gill	Student – Gateshead Access Panel
Rosalyn White	Gateshead Council

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Jane Robinson, Bernard Garner, Ian Renwick, Mark Dornan, David Gallagher, Neil Adamson, Hugh Kelly and Esther Ward.

2. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 17 April 2012 were agreed as a correct record.

3. MATTERS ARISING

There were no matters arising from the minutes.

4. PARTNER UPDATES

- **Northumbria Police**

Police attended an incident at Marian Court last night where there was a gas explosion which severely injured three police officers, a paramedic and a gas worker. The Health and Safety Executive is to carry out an investigation and the site is no longer classed as a crime scene. It was noted that there was an excellent response from the Council. The Steering Group wished the injured officers well.

- **Children's Trust Board**

The Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB) is currently looking at its priorities for next year and will focus on sexual exploitation and safeguarding children with disabilities. Troubled Families work and the Family Intervention Team continue to be the key focus of the Children and Young People agenda.

5. OFFENDER MANAGEMENT INSPECTION – A REPORT ON OFFENDER MANAGEMENT IN NORTHUMBRIA

The Group received a report following the recent successful Offender Management Inspection (OMI). The inspection occurs every three years and it was judged that Northumbria Probation Trust is the best performing in the country. It was noted that this inspection is not about performance but rather looks at the quality of the work of the trust and is based on a number of elements including; control, help/change and punishment.

The inspection also looks at offender satisfaction and in terms of Gateshead there is a 91% satisfaction rate. In addition, Northumbria came top in Ofsted results. An area of further work is around safeguarding children.

The Group gave its congratulations to all those involved.

RESOLVED - That the Steering Group noted and considered the report.

6. VOLUNTARY AND COMMUNITY SECTOR INFRASTRUCTURE

A report was provided on the current infrastructure of the Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS) following recent service changes.

The Chief Executive Officers Group currently has 51 charities involved. Under this CEO group is the Voluntary Sector Health and Social Care Forum, which elects representatives onto the Health and Social Care Partnership. In addition there is the Voluntary Sector Mental Health Group which is made up of providers within Gateshead and also elects representatives onto the New Horizons Partnership. The Patient, User, Carer, Public Involvement Forum (PUCPI) is chaired by the PCT and focuses on health and delivery of health services within Gateshead.

It was acknowledged that due to recent changes, for example changing role of the Health and Social Care Partnership and the establishment of the Health and Wellbeing Board, there is the potential for the VCS to lose its democratic involvement. Similarly, when the PCT ceases to exist.

It was confirmed that the Health and Wellbeing Board agreed its Terms of Reference and will be further reviewed in March 2013 and there is no defined mechanisms around the Board yet. It was noted that in relation to the review of partnership working, arrangements will be streamlined and engagement mechanisms will not be lost. It was noted that this would be resolved during this transition year. It was recognised that involvement of the VCS is vital to the Health and Wellbeing Board agenda. The point was also made that this is similar across all Boards. It was also raised that there are groups which are led by the Council but made up of volunteers who can often struggle to be recognised on all bodies.

RESOLVED - That the Group considered the report and agreed to receive updates in the future regarding VCS representative structures.

7. SHADOW HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD – UPDATE

The Group received an update report on the Health and Wellbeing Board. The Board is currently in its shadow form and will become statutory on 1 April 2013. The Board will oversee commissioning arrangements and the Strategic Needs Assessment and will respond to needs and develop a plan for Gateshead.

At its last meeting the Board agreed its Terms of Reference on an interim basis and agreed to review these in March 2013. It also agreed an indicative work programme which included;

- Social care strategic issues arising from the Social Care White Paper
- Integration of health and social care – key strategic issues
- Children’s Issues – impact on health and wellbeing
- Place shaping for health, action for health, integrated commissioning

RESOLVED - That the Steering Group noted the information.

8. GATESHEAD COMMUNITIES TOGETHER STRATEGY

A report was presented to the Steering Group on the Gateshead Communities Together Strategy. It was noted that in 2007 the GSP agreed to a community development framework which meant a common understanding between all. In 2008 two separate strategies were developed, the Community Cohesion Strategy and Community Development Strategy. As there was an overlap of priorities and objectives the Safer Stronger Communities and Culture Partnership agreed to combine both priorities into an overarching strategy.

The core outcomes of the strategy were highlighted;

- Citizenship
- Equality of influence and involvement
- Self determination
- Sustainable and healthy communities
- Working and learning together

Five priorities and objectives have been agreed as follows;

- Community engagement and participation

- Community capacity building
- Information and communication
- Involving children, young people and schools
- Supporting positive community relationships

A key consideration once the strategy has been agreed is how its impact will be monitored. It was noted that this will be done through the GSP's Performance Management Framework.

A copy of the Action Plan and areas of alignment to Overview and Scrutiny Committees' (OSC) Action Plans were circulated. The Action Plan identifies priority actions and is being led by the Neighbourhood Management Team and the GCN, it was emphasised that this is a live document.

Implementation will be through a Multi Agency Working Group and progress will be reported back to GSP and also to area portfolio's on a six monthly basis.

- RESOLVED -
- (i) That the Steering Group approved the draft Gateshead Communities Together Strategy.
 - (ii) That the Steering Group agreed that progress be reported to Cabinet and GSP Steering Group in accordance with the revised Performance Management Framework.
 - (iii) That the Steering Group agreed that the Strategy be taken to the next round of Partnership Board meetings to discuss approaches to implementation.

9. DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will take place at 2.30pm on Tuesday 19 June 2012, in the Whickham Room, Gateshead Civic Centre.



Gateshead Strategic Partnership Steering Group

Tuesday 19 June 2012

Gateshead Council Overview and Scrutiny Committee Review of Localism, 2011/2012

Purpose of the Report

1. This report outlines findings from Gateshead Council's Corporate Vitality Overview and Scrutiny Committee (OSC) review of Localism which was carried out in 2011/2012. Members of the GSP Steering Group are asked to note the findings and discuss approaches to implementing the Action Plan.

Background

2. Gateshead Council's Corporate Vitality OSC agreed that the focus of its review in 2011/2012 would be 'localism' giving particular consideration to what localism means for Gateshead.
3. The focus of the review included a recognised need to:
 - Respond to national policy changes – Localism Act 2011 is structured around four key priorities. These are:
 - Powers and Governance
 - Social Housing
 - Reforming the planning process
 - Powers to communities

The Committee's review has focused specifically on the 'communities' element of the Localism Act.

 - Build upon Gateshead's established approach to engage and empower communities, including devolving resources and responsibility to communities and neighbourhoods
 - Further develop the Council's strategic leadership role, ensuring a partnership approach to working with areas and neighbourhoods, particularly with the Voluntary and Community Sector.

Scope of review

4. To ensure a focused approach to the review, the Committee agreed to concentrate on:
 - Defining localism in Gateshead
 - Practical examples of intervention and support – how the Council and its partners have engaged and empowered communities
 - Principles and approaches for developing area and neighbourhood working
 - Approaches to building capacity and capability using a mix of themed and area based case study examples.

Findings – criteria for success

5. The review identified criteria for success to meet the needs of communities affected by economic and policy change to ensure that the Council continues to achieve its aims for working in areas and neighbourhoods to:
 - provide **strong, visible and accountable leadership** at all levels from neighbourhoods to the whole Borough
 - **engage communities** and empower people
 - deliver **efficient, joined up, high quality services** which meet the specific needs of each neighbourhood.
6. Criteria for success were developed based around the following priorities that emerged from the review:
 - Building capacity in the voluntary and community sector (enabling role of the council)
 - Engagement and reach (through area and neighbourhood working)
 - Communications (to share best practice and learning; engage and empower; and promote resilience by celebrating success in communities)
 - Proactive approach to maximise the opportunities from The Localism Act.
7. A copy of the final report and action plan (criteria for success) are attached at appendix 1.
8. Actions have been aligned to the development and approaches to implementing the Gateshead Communities Together Strategy, agreed by the Steering Group in May 2012.

Recommendations:

9. It is recommended that members of the GSP Steering Group:
 - (i) note the findings of Corporate Vitality OSC's review of Localism
 - (ii) discuss approaches to implementing the Action Plan (criteria for success).

CONTACT: Lindsay Murray

Telephone: 433 2794

TITLE OF REPORT: Review of localism – Final Report

REPORT OF: Roger Kelly, Chief Executive

Executive Summary

1. This is the final report of Corporate Vitality Overview and Scrutiny Committee's Review of localism.
2. This report sets out the findings from the review based upon the Committee's analysis of the evidence that has been presented.
3. The following priorities have emerged from the review:
 - Building capacity in the voluntary and community sector (VCS) (enabling role of the council)
 - Engagement and reach (through area and neighbourhood working)
 - Communications (to share best practice and learning; engage and empower; and promote resilience by celebrating success in communities)
 - Proactive approach to maximise the opportunities from The Localism Act.

An action plan to achieve the identified priorities has been developed. This is attached at appendix 1.

4. The report includes details of:
 - The aims of the review
 - How the review was carried out
 - Analysis and conclusions
 - Priorities for action
 - Recommendations.
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Introduction

5. The Corporate Vitality OSC Review for 2011/2012 investigated what localism means for Gateshead, specifically in relation to communities and empowering communities. Evidence was presented to the Committee highlighting experiences and approaches to engage and empower communities, to identify those elements that can be built upon across the borough to ensure the continuing success of the Council's approach.
6. This report sets out the findings from the review based upon the Committee's analysis of the evidence that has been presented. It identifies recommendations

that respond to the needs of communities affected by economic and policy change to ensure that the Council continues to achieve its aims for working in areas and neighbourhoods to:

- provide **strong, visible and accountable leadership** at all levels from neighbourhoods to the whole Borough
- **engage communities** and empower people
- deliver **efficient, joined up, high quality services** which meet the specific needs of each neighbourhood.

7. Criteria for success have been developed based around the following priorities that have emerged from the review:

- Building capacity in the voluntary and community sector (enabling role of the council)
- Engagement and reach (through area and neighbourhood working)
- Communications (to share best practice and learning; engage and empower; and promote resilience by celebrating success in communities)
- Proactive approach to maximise the opportunities from The Localism Act.

An action plan is attached at appendix 1.

Aims of the review

8. Corporate Vitality Overview and Scrutiny Committee agreed that the focus of its review in 2011/2012 would be 'localism' giving particular consideration to what localism means for Gateshead.

9. The focus of the review included a recognised need to:

- Respond to national policy changes – Localism Act 2011 is structured around four key priorities. These are:
 - Powers and Governance
 - Social Housing
 - Reforming the planning process
 - Powers to communities

The Committee's review has focused specifically on the 'communities' element of the Localism Act.

- Build upon Gateshead's established approach to engage and empower communities, including devolving resources and responsibility to communities and neighbourhoods
- Further develop the Council's strategic leadership role, ensuring a partnership approach to working with areas and neighbourhoods, particularly with the Voluntary and Community Sector.

10. To ensure a focused approach to the review, the Committee agreed to concentrate on:

- Defining localism in Gateshead
- Practical examples of intervention and support – how the Council and its partners have engaged and empowered communities
- Principles and approaches for developing area and neighbourhood working
- Approaches to building capacity and capability using a mix of themed and area based case study examples

- Developing a menu of ‘criteria for success’ to achieve localism (these are developed as priorities emerging from the review)
- Identifying approaches to enable the Council and its partners to engage, empower and build resourceful, cohesive communities – ensuring an effective response to current and future challenges
- Prioritising communities and approaches for building capacity in the future.

How the review was carried out

11. Evidence presented to the Committee focused on:
 - National policy affecting local approach (Localism Act 2011)
 - The Council’s role in supporting and enabling localism in Gateshead
 - Role and capacity of the Voluntary and Community Sector (including commissioning and management)
 - The needs of Voluntary and Community Sector organisations at different stages of development
 - Engaging and involving communities (particularly those under represented in community activity such as young people)
 - Community Assets
 - Community Development
 - Capacity Building.
12. The Committee received evidence from:
 - Council Officers
 - Voluntary Organisations’ Network North East (feedback from ‘Localism and the Voluntary Sector in Gateshead’ event)
 - Change 4 U Group (Youth Involvement)
 - Gateshead Voluntary Organisations Council (Gev Pringle)
 - Locality (Debbie Lamb)
 - Groundwork North East (Sam Palombella)
 - Wrekenton Lantern Parade (Ann Purvis).
13. The evidence gathering sessions were divided into presentations to the Committee, as well as site visits to St Chad’s (Bensham and Saltwell Alive) and Edbert’s House. Further information about evidence gathered from the site visits is attached at appendix 2.

Context

14. Policy Change – The Localism Act
The Localism Act received Royal Assent on 15 November 2011. The legislation sets out a package of reforms aimed at passing power from Central Government to local communities.
15. The principles of the Localism Act reinforce the approach that Gateshead has and will continue to take through its approach to Area and Neighbourhood working (set out in paragraph 3 of this report).
16. The Localism Act places changing expectations on the Council, partner organisations and the VCS that will impact on the way they work. This in turn will

have a significant effect on communities. The legislation is particularly significant in relation to:

- Legislative change affecting Council policy and constitution
- Centralist proposals balanced with the opportunities for localism
- Community involvement opportunities
- Reduced budgets – affecting service design and delivery.

17. Key measures within The Localism Act relating to the engagement and empowerment of communities are:

- Powers and Governance (General power of competence)
- Reforming the Planning Process (Neighbourhood plans)
- Powers to Communities (Right to Bid, Right to Challenge, Community Right to Build).

18. Localism is central to the Government's agenda, and the Local Government Finance Bill proposes a package of reforms to complement the Localism Act. These are designed to enable a radical devolution of local government finance so that areas can raise revenue rather than rely on government grants and have greater control of local spending.

19. The policy shift places changing expectations on the VCS, particularly the way it works with and is funded by the public sector. This includes:

- Reduced availability of funding to engage and empower communities
- Influencing the commissioning agenda
- Bidding for contracts and delivering public services.

Analysis and Conclusions

20. This section provides an analysis of the evidence presented to Corporate Vitality OSC to inform its review of localism.

21. Policy change and opportunity

Looking ahead, the OSC review highlighted the need to implement and influence National policy as it relates to localism to deliver Gateshead Council priorities, particularly to:

- Ensure strong local leadership
- Enhance and increase capacity within communities.

22. Evidence presented to the committee from the VCS highlighted the importance of the council's role in supporting the sector and communities to respond to change.

23. Feedback from the VONNE event and the site visit to Bensham and Saltwell Alive highlighted the changing emphasis of national policy, and the pressure this was placing on the VCS to have an effective understanding about their role going forward. This was noted as particularly challenging for smaller organisations which often lacked the capacity and capability to up-skill and change direction at the required pace. Similarly, the implications of budget reductions and funding changes place a pressure on community organisations, prompting the need for alternative approaches to service delivery and responses to community need.

24. The VONNE event particularly recognised the number of new opportunities to arise from the Localism Act, however highlighted concerns about the power of individuals and communities to influence and respond to complex processes.
25. Engagement and reach
The role of the VCS was recognised for its ability to strengthen community relations by harnessing the time, knowledge and skills of people from within the community to meet local needs. Informal settings were found to be more accessible and local people are more willing to engage. This results in broader involvement and reach. This was evident from both of the site visits, which highlighted the development of local relationships and trust to facilitate joint working and service development with the Council and other public sector partners.
26. In addition to responding to the service needs of communities, community led activity supported by the council can enable a broad reach for empowerment and development opportunities within neighbourhoods. Development of skills and confidence can help to create sustainable local approaches. This was particularly evident from the Lantern Parade.
27. Consultation
Local people are best placed to identify the issues affecting their lives, and the benefits of harnessing community intelligence was recognised throughout the review. Successful approaches were noted as those which are recognised by local people and respond in a meaningful way to the issues and challenges they face. Specific examples were provided by Groundwork Trust.
28. Communications
Evidence presented to the Committee highlighted the importance of communications to raise awareness of community activities. This can support community organisations to attract service users and develop sustainable business approaches. This can be achieved in a variety of ways, including word of mouth, developing community networks, websites, emails, and distributing leaflets. This ensures that communities are informed and have opportunities to be involved and influence. The approach to communications was found to be particularly significant in relation engaging vulnerable groups. The role of the VCS was noted for its ability to convey difficult messages regarding council decisions affecting services in more challenging economic times.
29. At the Bensham and Saltwell Alive project, the Committee noted the negative impact that national and local media could have. It was highlighted as even more important at the current time to ensure a supply of good news stories from neighbourhoods to help reassure residents and retain their resilience.
30. Role of the Council
Community and Voluntary Sector organisations noted the importance of Council support to enable localism. This reinforces the Council's place shaping role.
31. There was a recognition that financial support was not available to previous levels, however other forms of support contributing to capacity and capability could be equally beneficial. Examples of previous council support included:
- Support with local vision and priority setting
 - Advice and guidance (including legal and financial expertise)

- Business Planning
- Critical friend
- Use of buildings and facilities.

32. Assets

Assets are often thought of in physical and financial terms. However the review highlighted the importance of:

- Individuals
- Groups
- Volunteers
- Institutions and services
- Built and physical environment
- Local economy.

33. Again the role of the council in harnessing and enabling the opportunities of these assets to be realised was highlighted in the review. The need to discover, connect and develop creative approaches to utilise assets to maximum effect was noted, enabling communities and the council to be more productive together. This will include the use and development of skills, interests and abilities.

34. Locality and Groundwork Trust particularly highlighted the opportunities for asset transfer, and recognised the benefits of council support to maximise opportunities for voluntary and community groups. There are positive examples of asset transfer having taken place in Gateshead, with Birtley Community Hub being the first such initiative in the country. It is recognised that there are risks and responsibilities for community groups associated with asset transfer.

35. Business Financial Stability

Financial stability was found to be an increasing issue for VCS organisations. A conflicting challenge is presented by less resource, reduced ability of local people to pay for services, alongside the increased demand for services.

36. Alternative business models such as Social Enterprise, Community Interest Companies, mutuals and joint ventures present opportunities, however support will be required in relation to legal issues and business planning.

37. Similarly, attracting funding and contracting opportunities will require a strategic and supported approach to ensure opportunities are maximised.

38. Capacity and resilience

Substantial resources are available within communities, however the review highlighted that existing capacity cannot be assumed. The Lantern Parade particularly demonstrated the potential for communities to benefit from innovative approaches and creativity with the right support.

39. Similarly, the capacity of VCS organisations cannot be assumed. New challenges are facing the sector in terms of demand, access to finances, responding to a changing agenda with revised roles and expectations.

40. There is an increasing expectation of professionalisation within the sector, with detailed knowledge and responsibilities to run management committees and run social enterprises. This is a particular challenge for communities, and groups such

as young people can be un-eligible to take on formal roles within community organisations. Others may lack the time and / or capacity to take on a formal role. However it is recognised that communities have a lot to offer and opportunities to engage in a meaningful way that meets the needs and interests of individuals should be sought.

41. Increased skills and capacity were identified as needed in the areas of:
 - Training – co-ordination and delivery
 - Sharing best practice.
42. Community Development
A community development approach underpinned a number of the examples to engage and empower communities that were provided as part of the evidence gathering.
43. The benefits of a partnership approach between Councillors, communities and partners (supported by officers), which responds to the overall needs of communities was noted. This allows for a more streamlined approach, and harnesses the skills and expertise of all the professionals that engage with communities within an area. Edbert's House highlighted a successful mechanism to enable this.

Building on previous success

46. Gateshead Council has a solid foundation upon which to build to achieve our priorities. This includes:
47. The Gateshead Fund supports and builds capacity in the Voluntary and Community Sector, as well as grass routes community groups. It is comprised of two elements:
 - The Local Community Fund is accessed through ward councillors for local issues, with the aim of proactively promoting community engagement and development
 - The Gateshead Capacity Building Fund is available for organisations to expand their activities and build their capacity so they can diversify their income and become more sustainable.
48. In 2011/2012, 400 organisations were supported by the fund. A capacity building team is in place to support voluntary and community sector organisations.
49. Area and neighbourhood working: A review of Area and Neighbourhood working in 2011 further developed the council's approach to continuously improve the responsiveness of its services and its approaches to community engagement. The main objectives of work at Area and Neighbourhood level are:
 - Strong visible and accountable leadership (centred around the community champion role of local Councillors)
 - Community engagement and empowerment
 - Efficient, joined up approaches tailored to neighbourhoods .
50. In October 2011, it was agreed to improve Area and Neighbourhood working by focusing on:
 - Priority setting and delivering outcomes
 - Effective engagement and involvement of ward councillors

- Effective engagement and involvement of Partners
- Effective engagement and involvement of communities
- Delivering efficiencies by streamlining activities.

51. The Gateshead Compact received Government's Local Compact Award in recognition of the long-standing commitment to partnership working across the Council and VCS to promote volunteering and voluntary action, with a demonstrable impact on local communities.
52. Gateshead Compact has supported work which saw the number of people applying for volunteering increase from 1,070 in 2009 to 1,596 in 2010.
53. Edberts House – case study
 History: In 2003, Aquila Way (Registered Social Landlord) and the council opened a previously vacant property for community activity. Following substantial growth, in 2009 Edberts House was established as a Registered Charity and a Company Limited by Guarantee, governed by a shadow board, with daily management provided by a steering group comprising of community members to develop the project.
54. Outcomes: Projects include economic development, adult social care, education, training and qualifications, social activity and intergenerational projects. Edberts supports people with the most basic of training needs and supports them into further training as their needs and aspirations grow. The size and flexibility of the project means it can be quickly reactive and proactive, developing new services according to local need. High Lanes residents are fully involved in the development of activities and services that are locally delivered. This year, the organisation has developed after school and play related projects, including Beavers and Cubs, that the community have not only requested but volunteering to deliver.
55. Funding has been secured from a number of grants, charitable trusts and organisations, including the European Social Fund and Awards for All. Core funding from the Gateshead Fund has been utilised to bring in over £125,000 in external funding, to deliver community services on their estate.
56. Impact and reasons for success: Residents on the estate identify the improvement of the estate with the work undertaken by those involved in Edberts House. Footfall in Edberts second year was 1373, this figure will be approximately doubled for the financial year 2011/12 and, with planned expansion, will be further exceeded in the year 2012/13. A number of residents have gained employment due to the qualifications gained at Edberts House and others have gone onto further training. Levels of anti-social behaviour have fallen, and intergenerational relationships have been strengthened. Edberts are looking to deliver NVQ training based at the house, allowing local people to access nationally recognised qualifications on their doorstep.
57. Residents have been empowered to take control, which has altered their view of their community. Those involved in Edberts look to solve problems regarding service provision themselves as opposed to the expectation of the council and partners being the direct provider. The next development steps for the organisation are to diversify income streams, making substantial requests to funders for long term funding, and researching the development of a social enterprise to enable

Edberts to become fully self sufficient in the future. Additionally this will involve developing the organisation to be ready to maximise opportunities within commissioning, and the devolving of service delivery to neighbourhoods.

58. Role of the council: The role of the council has been to support the development of the project from concept through to the present day. Initially the role was intensive and focussed on supporting the project inception process and delivery model. Now the role is more critical friend and advisory. As the project looks to develop, the role for the council is now more strategic and arms length whilst using a community development ethos to guide and advise regarding the building and the organisations aspirations.
59. The Gateshead Communities Together Strategy merges Gateshead's Community Development Strategy and Community Cohesion Strategy into one over-arching strategy. It brings together the cross cutting themes and sets out a new approach to managing these agendas more efficiently and effectively.
60. The strategy has been developed by the GSP and sets out how partners will work together in a co-ordinated and effective way to ensure that:
 - communities of Gateshead are living cohesively alongside each other
 - everyone feels valued
 - difference is appreciated and understood
 - people share a sense of belonging
 - communities are engaged and empowered to be involved in decisions that affect their lives.
61. The strategy addresses the issues that are important to local people, identified through consultations and ongoing engagement work with communities.

Priorities for action (criteria for success)

62. The following themes and priorities for action have been identified from the review:
 - Building capacity in the voluntary and community sector (enabling role of the council)
 - Engagement and reach (through area and neighbourhood working)
 - Communications (to share best practice and learning; engage and empower; and promote resilience by celebrating success in communities)
 - Proactive approach to maximise the opportunities from The Localism Act.
63. An action plan is attached at appendix 1, setting out criteria for success and approaches to achieve our priorities. It is proposed that actions be progressed within existing council resources.

Measuring success

64. Indicators to measure achievement of the Council's priorities for localism will be included in the Corporate Plan, and will form the basis of questions to measure residents' perceptions in the Residents' Survey. These will include a focus on:
 - Community cohesion
 - Ability to influence decisions
 - Satisfaction levels

- Levels of volunteering
- The number of VCS organisations that feel the Council supports them
- Areas and neighbourhoods.

65. Final indicators and targets will be brought to Corporate Vitality OSC for final approval in June.

Recommendation

66. It is recommended that Corporate Vitality OSC:

- (i) Agree the priority themes for action or 'criteria for success' set out in paragraph 62 to shape the Council's future approach to achieve localism in Gateshead, particularly:
 - to provide **strong, visible and accountable leadership** at all levels from neighbourhoods to the whole Borough
 - **engage communities** and empower people
 - deliver **efficient, joined up, high quality services** which meet the specific needs of each neighbourhood.
- (ii) Agree the action plan set out at appendix 1, and that actions be progressed within existing council resources
- (iii) Agree to receive a report setting out specific indicators and targets to measure progress and performance, to be included in the Corporate Plan
- (iv) Agree to receive regular progress reports on implementation of the findings from the review.

Contact: Lindsay Murray

Ext: 2794

Appendix 2

Bensham and Saltwell Alive – Corporate Vitality OSC Site Visit 17 October 2011 Overview of key points

St. Chad's Community Project: the involvement of local people

Christine McDarmot, St. Chad's Community Project Manager, informed the group of the range of projects that residents can participate in, these included:

- Bensham and Saltwell Community Festival
- Neighbourhood Showcase Event
- New Groups at Central Library
- Healthy Cooking sessions
- Neighbourhood Green Guide
- Sandown Community Allotment
- Kelvin Grove Ecotherapy Garden
- K'Alive'oscope

It was requested that more detail on the Healthy Cooking sessions be circulated to Councillors for information. It was queried what the sessions cover and whether children attend.

The group was advised that a chef attends the sessions which act as an introductory level course to cooking. Participants, of which there are about 25, go back to basics and learn to make a range of British, Polish and Russian meals. While children do not attend these sessions, cooking activities are delivered within the children's crèche.

It was queried how St Chad's attract service users. Methods included; leaflets, speaking with contacts at the Sheltered Housing Schemes, word of mouth and through close working with Kelvin Grove School. It was noted that a Facebook page has recently been created, with a view to raising awareness of St Chad's Community Project.

St Chad's consider their charitable status and close ties in the community to be positive as the complex needs of some service users would likely deter them from engaging in more formal settings.

It was queried how many people within the community are reached through the project. It was said that this is likely to be around 4,000 people, with 1800-2000 footfall within the Centre itself.

K'Alive'Oscope – Pete Ross

The group were informed of how the K'Alive'Oscope project was established and were shown the highlights. It was noted that the K'Alive'oscope project was funded using the Council's Local Community Fund.

The positive impact that the project had on those involved was highlighted. Pete Ross reported that he is currently trying to establish a Community Interest Company following the success of the K'Alive'Oscope project.

Adults with Learning Disabilities Citizenship Pilot

Wendy Scope, Centre Manager introduced the Adults with Learning Disabilities Citizenship Pilot and outlined its purpose. The group was informed of the pilot's positive impact, which focussed on the progress made by individual users and the opportunities they had experienced as a result of the project.

The increased impact on the Community as a result of strong links between Care Homes, Sheltered Schemes and the Church was recognised.

Next steps

Councillors said that, as part of the review, they would like to explore how the current economic climate has impacted on such projects and whether the Government's localism agenda offers anything to established groups.

Changes in the role of voluntary organisations

- The current change in emphasis on the role of the VCS is putting a lot of pressure on community groups and organisations to have an effective understanding, capacity and the willingness to be part of discussions about the transfer of services and responsibilities.
- As regards Council and public sector savings and efficiencies, residents (St Chad's service users) do not fully understand the implications. They have not felt the impact so far, and cannot see what the implications of public service budget reductions might be.
- St. Chad's Community Project has found it harder to find funding to continue their services. There is a large increase in organisations applying to the same trusts and foundations - more applicants chasing scarcer funding. It is also hard for very small organisations, against this backdrop, to gear up for possible commissioning opportunities or seek more joint working with the Council on service delivery. Whilst the picture on these opportunities is still far from clear, their immediate priority is securing their survival beyond March 31st.
- St. Chad's are seeing a decline in service users accessing their fee paying activities, reflecting a combination of a trend towards flexible working practices in the North East, leading to a change in childcare and after school patronage.
- Small organisations are finding it difficult to cope with the scale and pace of changes to the voluntary sector, which is quicker than their ability to up-skill and change direction - but they have no choice in the matter.

Increasing call on voluntary sector services

- Changes in expectations on the voluntary sector, and cut backs in their previous funding sources are coming at a time when the call upon their services has never been greater. This is especially relevant to issues such as family stress, mental health and household budgeting/debt worries. One key issue coming forward is the increase in the number of people recently made redundant who had "good jobs" - they are finding it very difficult to cope with the change of circumstances and in some instances are not prepared/equipped to deal with this change.

Impact of negative media

- The national and local media's focus on the negative news agenda is having an increasingly negative impact upon the well being of neighbourhoods. It is even more important than normal that during the recession greater effort is made to provide a continuous supply of good news stories from neighbourhoods to help reassure residents and help maintain their resilience. Developing and working with social networks to create more interaction amongst local people is key.

Site visit to Edbert's House, 9th January 2012 (excerpt taken from minutes of the Corporate Vitality OSC meeting)

The focus of the visit to Edberts House in Heworth was to demonstrate the work of an established voluntary sector organisation with a focus on community involvement in both the development and management of local facilities.

The Committee was welcomed to Edberts House and introduced to Nancy Doyle, Chief Executive of Aquila Way and Sarah Gorman, Community Development Worker at Edberts House. A number of local residents were also present to discuss their involvement and personal development with Edberts House.

It was commented that crime rates have reduced and that anti social behaviour in the area is virtually non existent. It was suggested that the range of activities hosted by Edberts House had contributed to this.

It was queried who is entitled to the meals at the Older People's Luncheon (OPL) and whether Edberts House has a food sourcing policy. It was noted that everyone is welcome to the OPL and whilst Edberts does not have a specific food sourcing policy some produce is provided by the probation service who operate some allotments and a limited amount of produce is grown at Edberts. It was noted that Edberts would like to further develop this so that more local ingredients can be used for the OPL. It was suggested that links be established between Edberts House and Bill Quay farm.

It was queried how Edberts House publicises itself. It was said that this is primarily achieved through leaflet and newsletter distribution and by word of mouth. Also, staff at Edberts actively seek out and build relationships with local residents.

It was commented that Edberts House is well placed to encourage enrolment on courses as it is perceived differently to School. Edberts House consider this to be an advantage as some learners would be deterred from the formal school setting. Kathryn, a resident and volunteer, advised the Committee that she completed various courses at Edberts House such as First aid and Computing and considers the certificates and references she obtained through Edberts House to have played a significant part in her receiving five job offers and securing employment.

It was queried what the uptake is on the estate and whether there are concerns that the building is not big enough. It was reported that between the period April 2011 and December 2011 the footfall was 1,650 and that this is expected to double in 2012. Expansion would be welcomed.

It was also asked how many children live on the High Lanes Estate and whether involvement in activities is proportionate.

Some Members of the Committee highlighted the difficulty in assessing the impact of and return on funding to Edberts House and similar projects when making decisions regarding the Council's budget. It was noted that Edberts House could assist by conducting a return on investment analysis.

The Committee commented on the success of Edberts House and it was queried whether the Localism Act offers anything new to Edberts House and other established groups. It was said that Gateshead Council had been forward thinking in supporting Edberts House and that only by investing in Communities will localism be successful. A greater focus on assets of community value is considered to be a positive outcome of the Act, however, there were concerns that the Community Right to Challenge provision could mean less costly but inferior services.

Appendix 1			
Localism review – action plan			
Priority - Building capacity in the VCS (enabling role of the council)			
Action	Impact	Timescale	Responsible officer
<p>Maintain a priority focus on the Gateshead Fund and the Capacity Building Team to form a package of council support for VCS organisations of all sizes and at different stages of development. Focus on:</p> <p>Develop the role of relationship managers</p> <p>Business support (for existing operations and alternative business models including Social Enterprise, Community Interest Companies, Mutuels and Joint Ventures)</p> <p>Ensuring effective implementation of the Asset Transfer Policy (where the right conditions are in place to do so)</p> <p>Explore opportunities for alternative ways of working (eg Commissioning Exchange, Social Impact Bonds)</p>	<p>Promote independence</p> <p>Support the ability to influence and maximise resources (financial, assets, staff support)</p> <p>Manage risk and develop sustainable approaches (Health Checks)</p> <p>Support VCS engagement with communities</p> <p>Prepare VCS organisations to be commissioning ready</p>	<p>Capacity Building Fund: July 2012</p> <p>Assess impact of</p>	<p>Rachel Mason / Linda Whitfield (Capacity Building Team)</p> <p>Ian Stevenson (Local community Fund, Community Development)</p> <p>Heather Lee (business support)</p>

<p>Target the private sector and other funding sources to support localism.</p> <p>Develop Community Development Learning programme for residents wishing to progress into paid employment</p> <p>Support community organisations to develop funding bids for community development resources</p>	<p>Employment opportunities for local people</p> <p>Progress routes for local people</p> <p>Mentoring opportunities for current staff</p>	<p>Commissioning Exchange: March 2013</p> <p>2014</p>	<p>Kevin Pearson (community learning)</p>
<p>Develop partnership approaches to implement priorities, set out in the Gateshead Communities Together Strategy:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ All partners to work in a collaborative and supportive way with local people and groups to develop ideas and solutions to identified issues ➤ Ensure engagement methods promote fairness and equality and do not disadvantage any groups within Gateshead ➤ Ensure that the Gateshead Compact is adhered to by all partners 	<p>Communities of Gateshead are living cohesively alongside each other</p> <p>Everyone feels valued</p> <p>Difference is appreciated and understood</p> <p>People share a sense of belonging</p>	<p>2012/2013</p>	<p>Ian Stevenson (Neighbourhood Management Team)</p> <p>Gateshead Volunteers Steering Group</p> <p>Gateshead Council</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Ensure that commissioning of services is open and accessible to community and voluntary groups ➤ Identify development opportunities for local groups, volunteers and staff ➤ Ensure that local people have the necessary IT skills to access online information ➤ Develop opportunities to use IT to promote community based activity, connect community organisations, share learning ➤ Continue to encourage the development of youth forums that provide a platform for all young people in Gateshead ➤ Develop & promote initiatives and projects which encourage people living in Gateshead Communities to live, work & learn together ➤ Increase resident understanding and knowledge of equality and diversity ➤ Ensure effective use of tension monitoring and cohesion management data. 	<p>Communities are engaged and empowered to be involved in decisions that affect their lives</p> <p>Communities and voluntary organisations are more aware of locally based activity. Sharing skills and learning is achieved by connecting existing groups, knowledge and expertise.</p>		<p>Strategic Commissioning Group</p> <p>Gateshead Community Network</p>
<p>Priority - Engagement and reach (through area and neighbourhood working)</p>			
<p>Action</p>	<p>Impact</p>	<p>Timescale</p>	<p>Responsible officer</p>

<p>Maximise the role of ward councillors by building upon existing approaches to maximise impact at area and neighbourhood level. Embed the Council's approach to partnerships and area based structures, including: Area Conferences Area Portfolio Meetings Senior Officer Teams</p> <p>Develop the Council's leadership role to co-ordinate community development approaches in areas and neighbourhoods</p> <p>Develop approaches to engage communities in a ways that are meaningful to them, with a particular focus on hard to reach groups.</p> <p>Develop current ward issues to include priorities from Area Conferences and make available to public sector partners.</p> <p>Ensure that priorities of areas and neighbourhoods are incorporated in the revised Performance Management Framework for the council and GSP. Progress and performance to be reported to relevant Overview and Scrutiny Committees and Partnership Boards to ensure approaches are embedded.</p>	<p>Provide strong, visible and accountable leadership at all levels from neighbourhoods to the whole Borough</p> <p>Engage communities and empower people</p> <p>Deliver efficient, joined up, high quality services which meet the specific needs of each neighbourhood.</p> <p>Area Conference priorities will be measured corporately</p>	<p>On-going approach to embed approach to area and neighbourhood working</p> <p>June 2012</p>	<p>Ian Stevenson</p> <p>Area Co-ordinators: East – Stephen Ward Inner West – Paul Cairns Central – David Andrew Outer West – Gary Carr South – Craig Malcolm</p> <p>Ian Stevenson / Marissa Jobling</p>
<p>Implement the revised and updated Community</p>	<p>Communities of</p>	<p>Agree</p>	<p>Ian Stevenson</p>

<p>Cohesion Strategy in the context of the council's commissioning relationship with the VCS and Gateshead Community Network (GCN). Ensure implementation of the priorities in the Strategy:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Promote and support effective and positive relationships between communities and statutory agencies ➤ Continue to identify the issues that concern local communities and ensure that all partners listen to communities and respond appropriately and in a timely fashion 	<p>Gateshead are living cohesively alongside each other</p> <p>Everyone feels valued</p> <p>Difference is appreciated and understood</p> <p>People share a sense of belonging</p> <p>Communities are engaged and empowered to be involved in decisions that affect their lives.</p>	<p>Gateshead Communities Together Strategy: April 2012</p> <p>Six monthly review of progress</p>	
Priority - Communications			
Action	Impact	Timescale	Responsible Officer
<p>Develop a campaign for localism in Gateshead, based around the Gateshead Volunteers brand.</p> <p>Maximise opportunities from major events such as the Olympics and Diamond Jubilee.</p> <p>Ensure effective communication with the VCS</p>	<p>Capacity building through sharing of information and learning</p> <p>Resilient communities that celebrate success</p>	<p>2012/2013</p>	<p>Robert Schopen</p> <p>Ian Stevenson</p>

<p>to promote the council's approach. Utilise the 'Our Gateshead' website, and other tools as appropriate to ensure awareness raising and engagement across the VCS in Gateshead.</p> <p>Support forums and networking opportunities to share experiences and best practice among VCS groups, to help build capacity and develop successful future approaches.</p> <p>Develop a programme of communication to celebrate success, strengthening resilience and mitigating negative media. Highlight actions, activities and the impact for local communities, referencing specific projects in areas and neighbourhoods (eg Local Community Fund). Use a range of communications tools, as appropriate, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Annual newsletters focused on areas (published in September) ➤ Council News (2 examples per publication) ➤ Local and national press opportunities. 	<p>Communities are engaged and empowered to be involved in decisions that affect their lives.</p>		
<p>Build upon approaches to working in areas and neighbourhoods to implement communications priorities in the Gateshead Communities Together Strategy:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Regularly inform communities about resource allocations and any planned 	<p>Communities are engaged and empowered to be involved in decisions that affect their lives.</p>	<p>On-going – built into the programme of area and</p>	<p>Ian Stevenson Area Co-ordinators: East – Stephen Ward</p>

<p>developments in their communities.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Ensure that people receive accurate, timely and accessible information in a range of formats. ➤ Ensure effective communication mechanisms are in place for tension monitoring to reduce the risk of tension outbreaks. ➤ Support the delivery of 'Children Gateshead' – the plan for Children, Young People & Families in Gateshead ➤ Develop work to promote community cohesion, equality and diversity and citizenship in schools and out of school activities ➤ Continue to promote and develop opportunities for volunteering in local communities. 		neighbourhood working for 2012/2013.	Inner West – Paul Cairns Central – David Andrew Outer West – Gary Carr South – Craig Malcolm
Priority - Proactive approach to maximise the opportunities from The Localism Act			
Action	Impact	Timescale	Responsible Officer
Develop policy responses to key measures within the Localism Act through a series of Members Seminars and in consultation with communities and key stakeholders, with a focus on supporting communities to maximise the opportunities of:	Maximising opportunities to engage and empower communities in the current policy and financial climate	2012/2013	Lindsay Murray / Martin Harrison /Anneleise Hutchinson

<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Community Right to Bid➤ Community Right to Challenge➤ Asset transfer (recognising risks and opportunities to community groups, and providing council support where the right conditions are in place to progress)➤ Neighbourhood Planning (Team Valley and Brandling). <p>Work with groups through the Commissioning Exchange to develop approaches for the delivery of future services.</p>			
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Gateshead Strategic Partnership Steering Group

Tuesday 19 June 2012

The Gateshead Fund - impact in 2011/2012 and future approach

Purpose of the Report

1. This report sets out the impact of the Gateshead Fund, and seeks comments on future partnership approaches to working with the Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS) across Gateshead.

Background

2. In March 2011, Gateshead Council agreed the Gateshead Fund to support the VCS, develop and build capacity in the sector and to help strengthen communities. Integral to the Gateshead Fund is a capacity building team comprising officers from both the Council and GVOC to support the VCS, particularly in relation to business planning, fundraising, governance skills, quality standards and policies and procedures.
3. The Gateshead Fund agreed in 2011 comprised two elements:
 - **Local Community Fund (£660,000 a year)** - £30,000 per ward for councillors to allocate for local issues with the aim of actively promoting community engagement and development.
 - **Gateshead Capacity Building Fund (£400,000 a year – formerly Community Grants)** – to fund voluntary and community organisations (infrastructure and delivery) to build capacity and sustainability. It was agreed that funding to organisations would be reduced year on year to take account of their development, reduced reliance on Council grant funding and / or ability to bid for Council commissioned services. The main difference from what was Community Grants would be that organisations would be funded for their delivery support as well as for the purpose of capacity building and becoming more sustainable. This would also enable the sector to become more competitive in its bidding for contracts to deliver public and private sector services. In addition to the funding criteria and process changing, a key difference would be the support groups would receive from a dedicated capacity building team. An organisational health check would be carried out which would identify the needs and support required, for example business planning, commissioning skills, governance development.
4. The agreed outcomes of the Gateshead Fund are:
 - Increased capacity building and sustainability within the voluntary and community sector
 - Increased provision of services by the voluntary and community sector
 - Improved clarity and equity in commissioning processes
 - Simplified and proportionate application and assessment processes
 - Retention and expansion of councillor community champion role.

Impact of the Gateshead Fund in 2011/12

5. Local Community Fund

Since the Local Community Fund was introduced, 300 voluntary and community groups and organisations have been funded. 105 of the organisations were funded in 2011/12. The organisations have received a total of £ 576,423 funding from the Local Community Fund.

6. Following a review in January 2011, it was agreed that the Local Community Fund continue subject to some improvements to processes.

7. In November 2011 Cabinet agreed a refreshed protocol for The Local Community Fund. This ensured on-going support for a wide variety of local priorities, groups and organisations, to support the delivery of Vision 2030 and maximise opportunities to lever external resource where appropriate.

8. From the analysis it is considered that funding awarded from the Local Community Fund has achieved the following:

- Increased councillor community champion role
- Stronger communities
- Increased community cohesion.

9. Capacity Building Fund

There were two funding rounds of the Gateshead Fund (Capacity Building Fund) where voluntary and community sector organisations benefitting Gateshead residents were eligible to apply for a contribution towards organisational running costs and / or a project which enabled the organisation to consider different ways of working.

10. Overall 87 organisations received funding totalling £393,415. In addition £6,000 was ring fenced for Sporting Grants to Individuals. To date 55 individuals have received sporting grants of between £50 and £100.

Capacity Building Team and Health Checks

11. Alongside the Capacity Building Fund a dedicated capacity building team supported organisations to help them grow and improve. This team includes council officers from across service areas and staff from Gateshead Voluntary Organisations Council. All funded organisations were provided with the opportunity to work with the capacity building team via an organisation health check to identify future support needs. The health check covers capacity building needs in relation to business planning; fund raising; legal, health and safety training and advice; governance skills; quality standards and process and procedures and what support can provided through the Gateshead Offer.

12. The majority of the 87 organisations have completed their health checks. Key issues arising include:

- Diversifying income support – 98%
- Managing finances support– 87%
- Staff and volunteer management development– 78%
- Commissioning Skills development – 63%
- Managing your organisation support – 35%

13. Key Challenges / Future Priorities have been identified as:

- Public sector resources to the voluntary and community sector are reducing and are limited. Often the medium and small organisations are the most vulnerable

and need capacity building support to refocus their income expectations and activity.

- There are reduced resources within the Council and GVOC to meet demand and the availability of expertise to provide support. To mitigate this, specific criteria and assessment processes which are clear and transparent, setting out the aims of the Gateshead Fund (Capacity Building Fund) have been developed. The Council will need to prioritise which groups to support to make effective use of resources.

Capacity Building Fund 2012-2013

14. £620,000 Capacity Building Fund over two funding rounds is available to address the key challenges and future priorities above.
15. Future approach will seek to build upon the success of building the capacity of the voluntary and community sector and create a thriving sector which is sustainable. This will include applying a mixture of a targeted approach and an open call for applications. The targeted approach will be based on organisational health checks and the Council's Comprehensive Impact Assessment undertaken through the 2012-2014 Budget setting process. Smaller grassroots organisations will continue to be supported and the funding will complement as well as mitigate the reduction in the Local Community Fund.
16. Targeted organisations will be considered under one of four categories:
 - Commission Ready – organisations which no longer require a contribution to running costs but require an element of capacity building funding to move on or require other non financial support. This support will be assessed through health checks.
 - Small and medium sized health checked organisations such as BME groups which still require a percentage of running costs as well as capacity building funding to help them develop and become more sustainable. The funding will be outcomes based in order to measure development as well as ensure they become sustainable.
 - Area based youth and community organisations and centres which will be strategically supported through the Council but to mitigate the impact of the budget decisions they may require support as well as capacity building funding to help them develop and become more sustainable. The funding and support will be based on the Council's commissioning intentions and service plans for youth and community services.
 - Smaller grassroots groups which will always require contributions towards running costs, are too small to deliver contracts and which the Council wishes to continue to support as they deliver Vision 2030 priorities. The aim is to complement as well as mitigate the reduction to the Local Community Fund.
17. New organisations applying in an open call round will also be considered under one of the above categories. Open calls will support a combination of running costs and a capacity building element. The health check process will be followed to develop a package of support to assist with development and sustainability.
18. The Capacity Building Fund also includes ringfenced funding of £12,000 for Sporting grants to individuals. These grants are a combination of retrospective awards for individuals who compete on an individual basis or selected for a team and support to elite individuals to help them prepare and compete in events such as the Olympics and Commonwealth Games.

19. Round 1 applications opened on 2nd April and closed on 20th April. Applications were received from 59 of the 88 organisations invited to apply. A total of £306,720 of funding allocated.
20. Round 2 opened for applications opened on the 14th May 2012 and closed on the 8th June 2012. This was an open round where new and existing organisations were eligible to apply. 45 applications have been received.

Recommendation

21. It is recommended that members of the GSP Steering Group:
 - Comment on the impact of The Gateshead Fund 2011/2012
 - Comments upon joint future approaches to working with the VCS, particularly in relation to Commissioning Plans and Capacity Building.

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GSP Steering Group

19 June 2012

Police and Crime Commissioners

Purpose

1. To inform the partnership about the implementation of the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011, including national developments and local transition arrangements.

Background

2. The Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011, replaces police authorities in England and Wales with a directly elected Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) for each police force area. Elections for these posts will be held on 15 November 2012, with the winning candidates, elected via the Supplementary Vote system, taking office on the 22 November 2012. Police Authorities will oversee effective transition to the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner and local authorities will develop Police and Crime Panels (PCPs) for their force areas.

Police Accountability and Governance

3. Current police authorities will oversee effective transition to the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner and creation of PCPs. They will need to:
 - a. plan and deliver an effective transition programme whilst recognising that the effective delivery of police authority and force business continues to remain paramount.
 - b. be mindful of the continuing ongoing challenges facing police authorities and the police service in terms of addressing the difficult financial context to continue secure value for money and financial efficiencies.

Police and Crime Commissioners

4. The Act sets out the roles, responsibilities and guidance around elections for the police and crime commissioner. Key roles and responsibilities:
 - a. holding the Chief Constable to account and securing an efficient and effective police service for their area;
 - b. setting the police budget, precept and crime objectives;
 - c. appointing the chief constable; and
 - d. appointing a Chief Executive, a Chief Finance Officer, and if they wish, a deputy PCC.

Police and Crime Panels

- 5 The Act also sets out the membership and roles and responsibilities of the Police and Crime Panels. These are:
- a. scrutiny of the PCC, not the force.
 - b. the requirement to support PCCs in the effective exercise of their functions, with a duty to work co-operatively with the PCC
 - c. the power to demand more information, hold confirmation hearings for chief constable appointments and have chief constables attend the PCP
 - d. to be established and maintained by local authorities within a police force area
 - e. to have a two-thirds required majority when voting, for example on the precept or to veto the appointment of the chief constable.
 - f. to have a membership that represent all parts of the force area and the political make up, with the skills, knowledge and experience necessary to discharge its functions effectively
 - g. PCPs will consist of at least ten local councillors with representation required from all local authorities (including elected mayors where appropriate) and two co-opted members
 - h. PCPs may resolve with the agreement of the Home Secretary to have additional co-opted members to better reflect the population. Total membership must not exceed twenty.
- 6 Arrangements for the panel are being developed and a shadow panel with representatives from all the six local authorities will meet in July and make arrangements to appoint the two co-opted members.

Local Strategic Partnerships.

- 7 The impact for Community Safety Partnerships will be mainly around the relationship of the PCCs with the Community Safety Partnership. After November the PCC will not be a responsible authorities on community safety partnerships (CSPs), as the Police Authority are now. The PCC will however, have a key role in community safety across each force area with the following powers and duties relating to community safety:
- a. mutual duty to co-operate between PCC and CSPs for the purposes of reducing crime and disorder
 - b. power to bring a representative of any or all CSPs in their area together to discuss priority issues
 - c. power to require reports from their CSPs about issues of concern
 - d. power to make community safety grants
 - e. power to approve mergers of CSPs on application of the CSPs concerned.

Community Safety Funding and Commissioning

- 8 The Home Office have confirmed existing arrangements for community safety and partnership funding will continue for 2012/13. From 2013/14, however,

the PCC will be given community safety funding to enable them to commission services from a range of partners to support local priorities such as drugs and crime, reducing reoffending and improving community safety. These partners include public, private and voluntary sector providers.

Transition Arrangements and Planning

- 9 Nationally as part of the process to transfer to Police and Crime Commissioners, a Transition Sponsorship Board, chaired by the Minister, Nick Herbert, has met regularly to oversee the strategic oversight of a number of work streams.
- 10 Locally, Northumbria Police Authority (NPA) has a transition planning process and delivery programmes. There is a Transition Steering Group, chaired by Councillor Mick Henry, Chair of the Authority and including both independent and local authority NPA members and senior representatives of Northumbria Police. This Steering Group is supported by an Officer Working Group. Reports are regularly submitted to Northumbria Police Authority providing an overview of local and national developments on the transition to police and crime commissioners.
- 11 The action plan includes ensuring effective engagement with local stakeholders and regular briefings are issued to over one hundred partners and stakeholders. In addition copies have been sent to local authorities for distribution to all local councillors. Officers from NPA are also briefing all six community safety partnership boards with regular updates on transition.
- 12 Engagement with partners includes working with Community Safety Partnerships to identify priorities for the PCCs first Police and Crime Plan and developing a commissioning framework and induction arrangements for the PCC. The Authority are also working with a Local Criminal Justice Board (LCJB) task and finish group, this group is looking at the potential impact of PCCs on the criminal justice system. In addition the authority is working with Victim Support and Voluntary, Community and Social Enterprise (VCSE) organisations ensuring their knowledge of local needs is recognised in developing police and crime plan.
- 13 The Police Authority website has been updated with information for local people and potential PCC candidates for Northumbria available in one area of the site. This includes ten things you need to know about PCCs. There are also links to the Home Office website.

Scrutiny of Transition

- 14 National scrutiny of transition will be informed by a series of support and challenge meetings between Police Authorities and Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary (HMIC). HMIC will focus on:
 - the Authority's approach to and planning for transition;
 - key transition risks and how they are being mitigated;
 - how the Authority are ensuring effective governance until November 2012; and

- how effective are the Authority's arrangements for engagement throughout transition.
- 15 Northumbria's support and challenge meeting took place at the end of May and a short public facing report will be published shortly in the HMIC website.

Recommendation

- 16 Members of the GSP Steering Group are asked to note the report.

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