

# Community Engagement & Empowerment

**The 2008 Government White Paper, 'Communities in Control: Real People, Real Power' advocated a shift in power, influence and responsibility into the hands of communities and individual citizens. This premise provides the main backdrop to the NEIEP's Community Engagement & Empowerment Programme.**

The Community Engagement & Empowerment Programme enables communities to have a stronger voice and more involvement in the enhancement and delivery of public services in the North East. By engaging a wide range of partners and communities in the development of the Community Engagement & Empowerment Programme itself, involved parties can help us shape the way the region develops from a grass roots level.

Initially the programme went about gathering intelligence about regional needs through engagement with communities, authorities, their partners and regional groups. The delivery phase will take an intelligence-based and evidence-led approach to directly address identified priorities in matters of community engagement and empowerment.

Working closely with local public sector bodies and the North East Empowerment Partnership, we will deliver a number of jointly funded activities which seek to maximise our combined resources to deliver better outcomes for the region. We'll also support authorities to deliver against relevant National Indicator targets.

The Community Engagement & Empowerment Programme will continually assess public services, taking into account how well organisations engage local communities and other stakeholders in the financial planning process.

A summary of Community Engagement & Empowerment projects is provided overleaf and further information is available on our website at: [www.northeastiep.gov.uk/community](http://www.northeastiep.gov.uk/community)

The local authority sponsor is Paul Hanson, Strategic Director of Community Services, North Tyneside Council.

Working towards March 2011, the Community Engagement & Empowerment Programme will implement innovative pilots, collaborative projects and learning and sharing events that seek to empower citizens and communities, allowing them to shape the future of their region.

## **What are the major issues facing your council? What information do you need? How can the RIEP help you?**

To get in touch about any of these issues or if you'd like to know more about specific Community Engagement & Empowerment issues, please email: [riep@northeastcouncils.gov.uk](mailto:riep@northeastcouncils.gov.uk). Look out for updates and events in our regular online Bulletins – sign up at: [www.northeastcouncils.gov.uk](http://www.northeastcouncils.gov.uk)



# Summary of Community Engagement & Empowerment Projects

## Intelligence Gathering and Research

- Baseline research
- Themed Sounding Board & Best Practice events
- Themed Forum events

## Member Development & Sounding Board

## Learning and Sharing Events

## Support for Deprived Communities

- Delivery of Warden and Front-line Related training services
- Supporting Neighbourhood Management and Neighbourhood Policing
- Understanding services and communities

## Developing Community Capacity

## Innovation Fund Projects

- Community Led Planning, Engagement and Empowerment
- The Green Exercise Project
- Community Action Planning
- Getting Involved
- Social Marketing Toolkit for NE FRS
- Durham Young Decision Makers
- Gateshead Volunteer Researcher Project
- Neighbourhood Voices Pilot

## Empowering Cultures

## Measuring effectiveness of Empowerment & Engagement

## Improving cohesion

- Integration and cohesion in Newcastle's East End
- Equality Advocates
- From the Horse's Mouth
- Specialised Volunteer Development Agency
- Youth Conference - Terrorism & Radicalisation
- Engaging with BME's & hard-to-reach communities
- Communities Together

Community Engagement and Empowerment and is one of a range of programmes delivered by the North East Improvement & Efficiency Partnership, which belongs to and includes the 12 North East councils, 4 Fire & Rescue Services and other key partners. Our programmes are able to flex and evolve to reflect the needs and challenges of the partner organisations – the projects listed here may therefore be subject to change.

Further information is available on our website at:  
[www.northeastiep.gov.uk](http://www.northeastiep.gov.uk) or call us on 0191 261 3923