

Meeting:	BNG Board
Date:	21 September 2007
Contact:	Anne Mulroy
Board Action:	For Discussion
Sensitivity:	Public / Appendix 2 Confidential

Item 6 – Strategic Commissions Review and Business Plan 2008/11

Link to BNG Vision and Objectives:

The process of the Review of Strategic Commissions and the use of this information to inform the Business Plan 2008/11 is crucial to BNG's future ability to intervene and assist where market problems continue.

Recommendation:

Board are asked to consider and comment on the attached documents which describe The Changing Place of BNG; the outcomes of the Review and the potential allocation of resources for the programme 2008/11.

Report to: BNG Board, 21 September 2007

Subject: Item 6 – Strategic Commissions Review and Business Plan 2008/11

During recent months a substantial and robust Review has been carried out across all of the Strategic Commissions. This Review has been carried out alongside a major piece of work by Martin Crookston of Llewelyn Davis Yeang to review the Changing Place of BNG and its potential future direction.

Research has also been commissioned from Professor Glen Bramley of Herriot Watt University on modelling future markets and potential interventions.

This work is now informing our Business Plan 2008/11 to ensure our future work is strategically sound, properly targeted and effective and maximises the potential of our resources in the context of a programme which is likely at best to be based on an average of the last two years' allocation.

As part of this review both Local Authorities have been consulted on their views of the Strategic Priorities within BNG. In Newcastle the identified priorities are Walker Riverside and Scotswood. Gateshead have identified Bensham and Saltwell and continuation of work at Teams as their Strategic priority.

At Appendix 1 to this report is The Changing Place which BNG will use to lobby for support and will form the accompanying document to the Business Plan in our submission to CLG. The two documents will demonstrate an up to date and evidenced strategy; the Business Plan supported by a clear rationale for the future. The Board are asked to comment on this draft before publication.

At Appendix 2 to this report is a summary report of the reviews of each Strategic Commission. This report details the overarching themes which have emerged for each area and also summarises Advisory Group's views on proposed interventions for 2008/11. Board are asked to comment on the potential implications for each Strategic Commission as this report shows those areas which will become the focus of Strategic Interventions and which areas will receive less financial support in the future.

Appendix 3 gives an overview of the potential resources based on £32 million investment scenario, ie flat line for 3 years and £35.2 million scenario, an increase of 10% on flat line. Both scenarios are considerably less than the initial plans for this period, however recent discussions with CLG have confirmed that this is realistic.

A further update will be given at the Board on the outcome of 18 September Review Day and any implications for these documents.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Board are asked to consider and comment on the content of the documents and the approach to the Business Plan.

Board are asked to declare the approval of the Business Plan to a small sub group led by the Chair.