

Meeting:	BNG Board
Date:	23 January 2009
Contact:	Anne Mulroy
Board Action:	For Discussion
Sensitivity:	Public

**Subject: Item 8 – Review of Governance Arrangements**

## 1. BACKGROUND

The recent extension of BNG's role to include strategy formulation, co-ordination and performance management for Housing Growth as well as Housing Market Renewal will require a review of the Governance arrangements for BNG.

This report outlines the principles of the Review and the process for carrying out the Review before a revised Draft Scheme of Governance is presented to the Board for approval in March 2009.

## 2. PRINCIPLES OF THE REVIEW

- As an overarching principle the revised Scheme should be brief, easy to read and reflect the nature and strength of Partnership as an incorporated body avoiding the use of overly legalistic wording.
- The document will express the Vision and Purpose of the Partnership and demonstrate how the Scheme of Governance will achieve that Vision.
- The revised Vision will be based on 'Creating Great Places to Live' with Growth and Renewal on the current programmes underpinning the work of the Partnership in contributing to the Place Agenda of the HCA.
- The boundaries of operation will be extended to include the whole of Newcastle and Gateshead.
- Membership of the Board will be reviewed and extended to enable the Board to operate across the wider geographic area of Newcastle and Gateshead and also contribute to the Sustainable Communities Strategy of each of the Partner Local Authorities.
- The Partnership Governance should be referenced to the Gateshead and Newcastle Partnership and be linked to the Sub Region and City Region in which the Partnership operates.
- The reviewed document will contain details of:-
  - Membership
  - Draft Terms of Reference for the Board
  - Role of the Chair
  - Board Member Obligations
  - Conduct and Probity
  - The Conduct of Board Business
  - Sub Groups
  - Decision-making and Conflict Resolution

- The managerial and process elements of the present Governance Structure will be separated out, for example into a separate section of Standing Orders and Delegations.
- Review implications for Board Sub Groups and their Terms of Reference.
- The Revised Scheme will incorporate the Nolan Principles on Conduct in Public Life and will reflect the Langlands Report recommendations.

### 3. **PROCESS OF REVIEW**

Board are recommended to request the Director to draft the document for consideration by the extended Executive Group of BNG established to consider Renewal and Growth Programmes, which is:-

Lindsay Kirkley, Gateshead Council  
Sheila Johnston, Gateshead Council  
Harvey Emms, NCC  
David Slater, NCC  
Anne Mulroy, BNG

and that this group achieve the sign off of each of the LA Partners so that a draft Revised Scheme of Governance can be presented to the Board on 13 March 2009.

### 4. **RECOMMENDATIONS**

- i) Board agree to the Principles of the Review of the Scheme of Governance as outlined above.
- ii) Board agree to the process outlined with a draft Revised Scheme of Governance to be presented to Board on 13 March.