



**Regional Forum  
Briefing Paper No. 1**

# Improving communities

A beginners' guide  
to policies aimed at improving communities

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## Contents

1.	Introduction .....	3
2.	Civil Renewal .....	4
	Together We Can.....	4
	Active Citizenship Centre .....	6
	National Community Safety Plan (NCSP) .....	6
	Tenant Empowerment programme.....	7
3.	Sustainable Communities .....	7
	Local:Vision.....	8
4.	Neighbourhood Renewal.....	10
	Community Cohesion.....	10
	Local Strategic Partnerships .....	11
	Representation, Community Leadership and Participation .....	11
5.	Community Cohesion.....	14
6.	Rural Communities.....	15
	Yorkshire and Humber Rural Framework 2006.....	15
	Quality Parish and Town Council scheme.....	16
7.	Other policies and programmes .....	17
	Community Service Agreements (CSA) .....	17
	Double Devolution.....	17
8.	Links for further information .....	18

## **1. Introduction**

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At a recent Regional Forum Policy Foresight event I made a quick list of policy areas mentioned in the first hour of the day.

1. Learning and skills
2. Diversity
3. Inclusion
4. Community engagement
5. Active Citizens
6. Partnership working
7. Local Area Agreements
8. Health
9. Regional Economic Strategy
10. Every Child Matters
11. Housing issues
12. City Regions
13. Regional Spatial Strategy
14. Leadership
15. Poverty
16. Well being
17. Work and worklessness
18. Life chances
19. Economic inclusion
20. Voice and choice
21. Comprehensive Spending Review 2007
22. Double Devolution
23. Community Cohesion
24. Social inclusion
25. Commissioning
26. Neighbourhoods
27. Individualism and community
28. Local Government White Paper
29. Empowerment
30. Capacity Building
31. Mainstreaming
32. Regeneration
33. Single Pot
34. Public Service Delivery
35. Procurement
36. Contracting
37. Sustainable Funding
38. Single Communities Programme
39. Safer and Stronger Communities
40. Advocacy
41. Sure Start & Children's centres
42. Public Service Agreement targets
43. Youth provision
44. Older people
45. Power and influence
46. BME infrastructure
47. Rights and Responsibilities
48. Civil Renewal
49. Respect
50. Transport
51. Evidence of impact
52. Sustainability
53. Lobbying

All of these are relevant as they impact on communities and there are many more that I could add to the list. However, there are some government policy initiatives specifically designed to improve communities. This beginners' guide summarises some of these and provides links so that you can find out more. This is only a snapshot of the current situation - the picture is forever changing and I have even had to revise bits as they have changed while I've been writing.

Peter Richardson, September 2006

## ***2. Civil Renewal***

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The aim of the Civil Renewal agenda is for people and government to work together to make life better. It is designed to involve more people being able to influence decisions about their communities, and more people taking responsibility for tackling local problems, rather than expecting others to.

The idea is that government can't solve everything by itself, and nor can the community: it's better to work together.

There are three key ingredients to civil renewal:

- **Active citizens:** people with the motivation, skills and confidence to speak up for their communities and say what improvements are needed
- **Strengthened communities:** community groups with the capability and resources to bring people together to work out shared solutions
- **Partnership with public bodies:** public bodies willing and able to work as partners with local people

The Civil Renewal Unit is part of the Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG). It launched *Firm Foundations - The Government's Framework for Community Capacity Building at a Together We Can* conference in December 2004 and is being taken forward in the Together WE Can action plan.

The *Firm Foundations* has six core principles:

- **Adopt a community development approach** - accepting as a starting point the values on which community development is based.
- **Recognise and build on what exists** - focusing on the assets and strengths of communities, as well as their needs or deficiencies.
- **Take a long view** - recognising there are no quick fixes if change is to be sustainable.
- **Ensure support is accessible at neighbourhood, parish or community level** - the key components of such support are described as a meeting space or base, access to seedcorn funding, workers with community development skills, a forum or network and learning opportunities.
- **Accept that learning is a key to success** for everyone involved.
- **Embrace diversity** and recognise solutions are needed which respond to local circumstances, rather than taking a one-size-fits-all approach.

### **Together We Can**

The Together We Can plan sets out the Government's commitment to citizens, communities and public bodies working together to set and achieve common goals. It outlines eight key policy areas:

### **Citizens & democracy**

1. Together We Can ensure children and young people have their say
2. Together We Can strengthen our democracy

### **Regeneration & cohesion**

3. Together We Can revitalise neighbourhoods
4. Together We Can increase community cohesion and race equality

### **Safety & justice**

5. Together We Can build safer communities
6. Together We Can reduce re-offending and increase confidence in the criminal justice system

### **Health & sustainability**

7. Together We Can improve our health and well being
8. Together We Can secure our future

### **Together We Can - action**

The Civil Renewal Unit's programmes in Together We Can are:

- The Guide Neighbourhoods - resident-led organisations providing advice to others involved in community regeneration
- Active Learning for Active Citizenship - citizenship education for adults
- Civic Pioneers - local authorities working with local communities to develop local services

**Guide Neighbourhoods** are successful community organisations which have tackled issues such as crime, poor housing and unemployment in their community.

If you are leading a new or potential project in your own community you can visit a guide neighbourhood to find out what they have done and how they did it. The Guide Neighbourhood can also offer on-going advice to help you on your first steps to improve the quality of life in your community. Once you are working with a Guide Neighbourhood you may be able to apply for a small grant to kick start or accelerate the work in your neighbourhood - funds are limited so don't hang around!

Help is available to cover the costs of taking part in the Guide Neighbourhood programme, for example travel costs for a visit if you can't cover this yourself. There are two Guide Neighbourhoods in our region – Royds in Bradford and Goodwin Development Trust in Hull.

**Active Learning for Active Citizenship** is a strategy for the development of widespread citizenship learning opportunities for adults based around the following values:

- Social Justice
- Participation
- Equality and diversity
- Co-operation

In 2005/06 the curriculum was delivered through 7 regional hubs, including one in South Yorkshire and one in Lincolnshire. The hubs tried out a variety of approaches to citizenship learning for adults. The results included increased confidence and skills in tackling local issues with service providers among groups such as migrant workers, Asian women, people with learning disabilities and their carers, and others in disadvantaged and hard to reach communities.

**Civic Pioneers** are in essence local authorities committed to the ethos of community engagement as a vital complement to representative democracy. Bradford, Leeds and Sheffield are Civic Pioneer authorities in our region.

### **Active Citizenship Centre**

The Active Citizenship Centre takes the lead on the Government's Together We Can strategy and its website includes research material, reports and information about civil renewal programmes.

### **Every Action Counts**

Every Action Counts is a three year initiative launched in June 2006 as part of 'Together We Can Secure the Future' with the over arching aim to ensure that communities and the Government work together to improve quality of life for communities and safeguard the environment now and for future generations. It is supported by Defra and delivered through a consortium of voluntary and community sector organisations.

### **Community Action 2020**

One of the commitments in the Securing the Future report (see Sustainable Communities below) was to "a new programme of community engagement – Community Action 2020". If you are wondering what happened to Community Action 2020 – it is part of Together We Can and Every Action Counts.

### **National Community Safety Plan (NCSP)**

The NCSP sets out the Government's community safety priorities for 2006-2009 and includes contributions from 11 Government departments.

The Plan underlines the need for citizens to be active in helping to identify community safety priorities for their neighbourhoods and to work with key agencies to make sure they are tackled. It also recognises that strong and active voluntary and community groups make a vital contribution to community safety.

The NCSP is built around 5 themes:

- Making communities stronger and more effective.
- Further reducing crime and anti-social behaviour.
- Creating safer environments.
- Protecting the public and building confidence.
- Improving people's lives, so they are less likely to commit offences or reoffend.

### **Tenant Empowerment programme**

The Government wants council tenants to have a proper say in how their homes and estates are managed. Getting involved makes for better local services and strong communities. Tenants and councils working together will produce a written agreement, called a Tenant Participation Compact, setting out how tenants will be involved in decisions that affect them.

The Tenant Empowerment Programme will help tenants to develop skills and knowledge to improve the quality of their involvement, to set up a tenant management organisation or to carry out local community projects that will make a real difference to their neighbourhood. The Programme also provides information and advice on a range of related issues together with good practice examples of new or innovative ways of involving tenants.

The day-to-day operational aspects of the Tenant Empowerment Programme are managed by the Housing Corporation on behalf of the Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG).

### **3. Sustainable Communities**

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Sustainable communities are:

- Active, inclusive and safe
- Well run
- Environmentally sensitive
- Well designed and built
- Well connected
- Thriving
- Well served
- Fair for everyone.

The Government's new strategy for sustainable development, **Securing The Future**, was launched on 7 March 2005. This strategy is cross departmental with each department highlighting its key contributions.

"Creating Sustainable Communities means putting sustainable development into practice. Sustainable Communities must combine social inclusion, homes, jobs, services, infrastructure and respect for the environment to

create places where people will want to live now and in the future.” Deputy Prime Minister, Feb 2005

The Department for Communities and Local Government published its Sustainable Development Action Plan in March 2006. This identified five key drivers of sustainable communities

- High quality services: focused on continuous improvement and the delivery of visible results in service delivery and public perceptions;
- A good physical environment: clean, safe and environmentally sustainable;
- A strong economic base: good infrastructure, employment and opportunity for all, and a good climate for enterprise and investment;
- Strong leadership: reinvigorated local democracy, strong partnerships;
- Shared values: building cohesion and respect across communities

It goes on to identify action around planning and housing. It then considers “Getting People Involved” and refers two programmes: Together We Can, which has been mentioned above, and Local:Vision.

### **Local:Vision**

The aim of local:vision is to generate a shared vision for the future of local government, to secure continuous improvement in public services and to achieve better outcomes for people and places. Local:Vision has three themes : Local Leadership, Neighbourhoods, and developing a new Performance Framework. Details of these are in the following publications:

- **Vibrant Local Leadership** - Proposals on how to develop the role of councils and councillors in leading the community, experimentation in governance models and leadership arrangements. (January 2005)
- **Citizen Engagement and Public Services: Why Neighbourhoods Matter** - Proposals on how to empower people to take action in their neighbourhoods to help shape the services they receive - jointly published with the Home Office. Further details are below. (January 2005)
- **Securing Better Outcomes: Developing a New Performance Framework** - Ideas for local government to secure improvement in public service delivery. (March 2005)

In **Citizen Engagement and Public Services: Why Neighbourhoods Matter** the focus is on empowering people through a National Neighbourhoods Framework, local government charters and a menu of practical options for neighbourhood action.

The document sets out what the Government wants to see:

- opportunities for people to get involved in their neighbourhood everywhere

- local government at the heart of devolution to the neighbourhood level
- continuing variety building on existing neighbourhood arrangements

The menu of options for neighbourhood action include:

- Extra anti-social behaviour-related powers for parish councils
- Triggers for action in response to under-performance in local services
- Neighbourhood Improvement Districts (NIDs)
- Delegation of budgets
- Neighbourhood contracts with service providers
- Parish arrangements
- New rights for communities to assume ownership of community assets
- Neighbourhood management
- Introduction of model bye-laws

The National Neighbourhoods Agreements are planned to be produced in the Local Government White Paper which was due out this summer.

### **Local Area Agreements (LAAs)**

LAAs form part of Local:Vision. They are also seen as key mechanisms for taking forward Neighbourhood Renewal and for picking up some of the work highlighted in the next section.

LAAs set out the priorities for a local area agreed between central government and a local area (the local authority and Local Strategic Partnership) and other key partners at the local level.

The idea is that LAAs simplify some central funding, help join up public services more effectively and allow greater flexibility for local solutions to local circumstances.

The LAAs are structured around four key “blocks”:

- children and young people
- safer and stronger communities
- healthier communities and older people
- economic development and enterprise

The most relevant here is the Safer and Stronger Communities block, which includes outcomes to:

- Reassure the public and reduce the fear of crime
- Build respect in communities and reduce anti-social behaviour
- Empower local people to have a greater choice and influence over local decision making and a greater role in public service delivery
- Cleaner, greener and safer public spaces
- Improve quality of life in deprived areas, and liveability

- Improve the quality of public space and the quality of the local environment
- Narrow the gap (for areas in receipt of Neighbourhood Renewal Funds)

#### ***4. Neighbourhood renewal***

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Where we live can greatly affect our opportunities in life. For those living in areas of need, quality of life can be severely limited by what has been called 'postcode poverty'. Neighbourhood Renewal aims to improve the quality of life for those living in the most disadvantaged areas by tackling:

- Poor job prospects
- High crime levels
- Educational under-achievement
- Poor health
- Problems with housing and their local environment

The Neighbourhood Renewal Unit (NRU) is also now part of DCLG and leads on this by "harnessing work of all government departments". The NRU website still identifies four key areas of work

- Single Community Programme
- Community Cohesion & Conflict Resolution
- Representation, Community Leadership and Participation
- Local Strategic Partnerships

However, recently Government has confirmed that the Single Community Programme will not continue as it is. This programme of work is intended to be picked up in Local Area Agreements (see previous section) and in relationships with the Local Strategic Partnerships. The Single Community Programme had provided a single funding stream flowing from the NRU, via Government Offices to the Community Empowerment Network in each of the 88 Neighbourhood Renewal areas, enabling them to play a more strategic and delivery focused role at the neighbourhood level.

#### **Community Cohesion**

The Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) brings together responsibility for equality policy, including policy on race, faith, gender and sexual orientation. It includes the Women and Equality Unit and the Race, Cohesion and Faiths directorate. DCLG is also the sponsor for a number of public bodies, including the new Commission for Equality and Human Rights, the Commission for Racial Equality and the Women's National Commission.

In August, Communities Secretary Ruth Kelly also launched a new Commission on Integration and Cohesion. This commission aims to report in July 2007 on:

- the issues that raise tensions between different groups in different areas, and that lead to segregation and conflict;
- how local community and political leadership can push further against perceived barriers to cohesion and integration;
- how local communities themselves can be empowered to tackle extremist ideologies;
- approaches that build local areas' own capacity to prevent problems, and ensure they have the structures in place to recover from periods of tension.

The development of Community Cohesion is the attempt to build communities with four key characteristics:

- a common vision and a sense of belonging for all communities
- the valuing of diversity
- similar life opportunities for all
- strong and positive relationships between people from different backgrounds and circumstances in the workplace, in the school and within neighbourhoods.

### **Local Strategic Partnerships**

A Local Strategic Partnership (LSPs) is a single non-statutory, multi-agency body, which matches local authority boundaries, and aims to bring together at a local level the different parts of the public, private, community and voluntary sectors. They are seen as central to the delivery of the New Commitment to Neighbourhood Renewal - National Strategy Action Plan, and are key to tackling deep seated, multi-faceted problems, requiring a range of responses from different bodies.

### **Representation, Community Leadership and Participation**

Government policy seeks to encourage the involvement of community leaders, voluntary groups, neighbourhood residents and civic associations in decisions that affect their lives, including the design and delivery of services, especially at the local level. These initiatives are seen as enhancing civic life, deepening democratic participation, and contributing to more effective neighbourhood renewal and sustainable communities. But some critics argue that participatory approaches can confuse and weaken the role of local government. In many areas, local councillors feel that new forms of community participation erode their role as local community leaders. These tensions can undermine partnership working at local authority and neighbourhood level. Resolving them is a priority for the neighbourhood renewal agenda.

The NRU has a number of programmes, many of which are coming to an end, with the intention that that are included in mainstream provision.

### **Neighbourhood Renewal Fund**

The NRU started the Neighbourhood Renewal Fund (NRF), worth £1.875 billion over the five years in 2001. It provided extra resources for the most deprived local authority districts. The fund boosted government departments' main spending programmes, and got neighbourhood renewal strategies under way. At the conclusion of the Spending Review 2004 (SR2004) provision was made for a further £525 million for each of the years 2006/07 and 2007/08. IN our region the NRF areas are Barnsley, Bradford, Doncaster, Hull, Kirklees, Leeds, Rotherham, Sheffield, Wakefield. North East Lincolnshire was also added in 2006 with an NRF allocation for 2 years.

A key strand of the NRF has been support for Community Empowerment Networks and the **Community Empowerment Fund**. This money was to provide resources for bringing voluntary and community sector organisations together to help them engage with and present a coherent voice to the Local Strategic Partnership.

### **Neighbourhood Managers**

Neighbourhood managers aim to be a single point of contact for residents and businesses and have the clout to negotiate with providers about how services are delivered. In addition to the Neighbourhood Management Pathfinder programme, support is being provided to the wider family of neighbourhood management initiatives through the Neighbourhood Management National Network.

### **Neighbourhood Wardens**

Since 2001 there has been funding allocated for Neighbourhood Wardens totalling around £90 million. The idea is that these services are now mainstreamed rather than having direct funding. A recent New Start survey showed that in many areas this has happened and the number of Neighbourhood Wardens has grown significantly.

In our region this has been particularly true with the exception of Sheffield. Hull has been leading the way with 160 Neighbourhood Wardens now employed through a partnership with the Goodwin Development Trust. The Hull Community Warden Service also won the 'Scheme of the year' award from the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister and was also one of the first four schemes to receive the Quality Standard award. It's objectives are:

- Crime prevention and reducing the fear of crime
- Promoting community spirit
- Improving the environment

## **New Deal for Communities**

The New Deal for Communities (NDC) programme has been running since autumn 1998 and has been an important test-bed for many of the ideas and policy initiatives being developed to support renewal.

New Deal for Communities partnerships have been established in 39 neighbourhoods across England. Over the ten-year duration of the programme, they will receive approximately £2 billion. Partnerships bring together local communities, service providers and other agencies to tackle the problems in their neighbourhoods in an intensive and co-ordinated way.

There are four NDC areas in our region, Bradford Trident, Doncaster Central, Preston Road in Hull and Burngreave in Sheffield.

## **Skills and Knowledge Programme**

The Skills & Knowledge Programme is about improving skills and knowledge for all involved in Neighbourhood Renewal and ensuring that everyone involved in neighbourhood renewal has the support they need to improve neighbourhoods. A vision for this change is set out in The Learning Curve.

Specific activity includes:

- [www.renewal.net](http://www.renewal.net) the on-line guide to what works in neighbourhood renewal.
- Neighbourhood Renewal Advisers, including residents, providing face-to-face advice to partnerships involved in neighbourhood renewal activity
- pilot project on 'Resident Consultancy'
- opportunities for better networking among those involved in renewal.

## **Local Enterprise Growth Initiative**

The Local Enterprise Growth Initiative (LEGI) was announced in 2005 and aims to release the economic and productivity potential of the most deprived local areas (the Neighbourhood Renewal Area). It aims to use enterprise and investment to boost local incomes and employment opportunities, and building sustainable communities. The programme is worth £300 million over three years to 2008-2009 subject to the comprehensive spending review. Specific aims are:

- To increase total entrepreneurial activity among the population in deprived local areas;
- To support the sustainable growth and reduce the failure rate of locally owned business in deprived areas; and
- To attract appropriate investment and franchising into deprived areas, making use of local labour resources.

Bradford was one of 10 successful bidders in the first round. Second round applications have just been submitted.

## ***5. Community cohesion***

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Although cohesion is mentioned above under Neighbourhood Renewal and Civil Renewal it is worth highlighting as another key area where government policy is aiming to build up communities. Community Cohesion is lead by the Race, Cohesion and Faiths Directorate which is another part of DCLG. It works with other government departments to reduce race and faith inequalities in education, health, housing and the Criminal Justice System, as well as the labour market.

A broad working definition (jointly agreed by the Home Office, the Local Government Association and the Commission for Race Equality) defines community cohesion as 'a state of well-being that affects the harmony and stability of a given geographical community'

The key document is **Improving Opportunity, Strengthening Society**: the Government's strategy to increase race equality and community cohesion (2005)

The government also produced a toolkit which identifies seven steps to developing community cohesion, these are:

- Leadership and commitment
- Developing a vision and values for community cohesion
- Programme planning and management
- Engaging communities
- Challenging and changing perceptions
- Community cohesion and specialist areas
- Ensuring sustainability of programmes

In 2002/2003 the Home Office launched a community cohesion Pathfinder Programme and a Community Facilitation Programme. Both have now been completed with the view that ideas and learning from these have been mainstreamed into general neighbourhood renewal policies and programmes.

### **Social Exclusion**

In the last few weeks Hilary Armstrong, Social Exclusion Minister, launched **Reaching Out: An Action Plan on Social Exclusion**. This is the Government's response to the 2.5 per cent of every generation which seem to be stuck in a lifetime of disadvantage.

This plan is guided by five principles:

- early intervention

- systematically identifying what works
- better co-ordination of the many separate agencies
- personal rights and responsibilities
- intolerance of poor performance

The Action Plan will include:

- Health-led support from pre-birth to age 2
- Individual budget-holding for looked after children
- Teenage pregnancy hotspots targeted with enhanced Social and Relationship Education; an expanded media campaign; and better access to contraceptives.
- Multi-agency and family based approaches piloted for tackling behavioural and mental health problems in childhood.
- Personalised, coordinated and tailored interventions piloted for adults with chaotic lives and multiple needs.

## **6. Rural Communities**

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Rural communities are included in many of the programmes mentioned above – but by no means all of them. It is therefore worth highlighting specific policies and initiatives aimed at rural communities.

Department for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) has a core purpose to improve the current and future quality of life. This brings together the interests of farmers and the countryside; the environment and the rural economy; the food we eat, the air we breathe and the water we drink. Defra aims to do all this by integrating environmental, social and economic objectives - putting sustainable development into practice every day, and by championing sustainable communities as the way forward for Government policy. Defra has five strategic priorities:

- Climate change and energy
- Sustainable consumption and production
- Protecting the countryside and natural resource protection
- Sustainable rural communities
- A sustainable farming and food sector including animal health and welfare

One of Defra's initiatives is Every Action Counts – which has been highlighted earlier. This is not a specific rural initiative but includes rural areas.

### **Yorkshire and Humber Rural Framework 2006**

The Rural Framework aims to address the inefficiencies of current governance and delivery structures and make best use of the available rural resources. It seeks to achieve this through 10 Rural Priorities:

1. Rural business development
2. Employment, education and skills training
3. Market towns
4. Sustainable tourism
5. Access to services
6. Rural transport
7. Rural housing
8. Rural communities – promote social cohesion, and encourage and support the engagement of rural communities and the active roles that they can play.
9. The natural environment
10. Promote a 'functional landscape'

Within this some of the planned actions are:

- Understand and monitor rural deprivation
- Recognition of role of community activities to deliver sustainable development
- Network of community development work (but no funding to do this)
- Research around minority and hard to reach groups' engagement and acceptance at community level
- Sustainable communities through enterprise

### **Quality Parish and Town Council scheme**

The Rural White Paper, 'Our Countryside: The Future. A Fair Deal For Rural England', published in November 2000, set out a number of measures to give local people the opportunity to become more involved in the development of their communities. The Government believes that parish and town councils, as the tier of government that is closest to local communities, have a central role to play in improving local quality of life. Included in the White paper was the concept of Quality Parish Councils with a scheme being launched in 2003.

A Quality Parish or Town Council:

- is representative of, and actively engages, all parts of its community, providing vision, identity and a sense of belonging;
- is effectively and properly managed;
- articulates the needs and wishes of its community;
- upholds high standards of conduct;
- is committed to work in partnership with principal local authorities and other public service agencies;
- in proportion to its size and skills, delivers local services on behalf of principal local authorities when this represents the best deal for the local community;
- works closely with voluntary groups in its community;
- provides leadership to the community through its work on parish plans; and

- working with its partners, acts as an information point for local services.

In order to achieve Quality status, parish and town councils must demonstrate that they have reached the standard in areas of Electoral Mandate, Qualifications of the Clerk, Council Meetings, Communications, Annual Report, Accounts and Code of Conduct. There are over 8,700 parish and town councils with 330 achieving the Quality Status.

## ***7. Other policies and programmes***

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### **Community Service Agreements (CSA)**

These are worth mentioning as they seem to be gaining some popularity with Government. I first came across these at last year's Regional Forum Policy Conference, where Matthew Pike from the Scarman Trust was speaking. Since then they have become more widely talked about and may become part of the future landscape.

The CSA sets out a negotiated action plan between communities on the one hand and outside service providers on the other. CSAs consists of three main elements:

- resources or assets committed on each side;
- reciprocal commitments on each side;
- incentives for success.

The Scarman Trust is currently working as part of a Community Alliance with bassac, Community Matters and the Development Trusts Association to develop a Community Service Agreement How-to Guide.

### **Double Devolution**

In February this year, David Miliband, Minister for Communities and Local Government set out a vision for devolving power from the state and local authorities to individuals and community groups.

He said: "I call it 'double devolution' - not just devolution that takes power from central government and gives it to local government, but power that goes from local government down to local people, providing a critical role for individuals and neighbourhoods, often through the voluntary sector.

How this vision will be implemented should be set out in a Local Government White Paper, which was expected this summer.

Geoff Mulgan, who will be speaking at the Regional Forum Policy Conference in September 2006, edited a series of essays earlier this year that set out the basis for a changed relationship at every level of government. It suggests:

- Central Government is doing too much and needs to be more strategic and leaner
- Local Government needs to be re-made with a more strategic role built on the basis of Local Strategic Partnerships
- The creation of neighbourhood bodies with elected Neighbourhood Councillors and significant powers

## **8. Links for further information**

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Please note: this beginner's guide can be downloaded from the Regional Forum website. By downloading you would then be able to access any of the following links with one simple click of your mouse. Apologies if any of the links do not work – people keep changing their websites!

### **Civil Renewal**

Together We Can:

<http://www.togetherwecan.info/>

Firm Foundations Report:

[http://www.togetherwecan.info/acc/firm\\_foundations\\_report.html](http://www.togetherwecan.info/acc/firm_foundations_report.html)

Active Citizenship Centre: <http://www.togetherwecan.info/acc/>

Active learning for Active Citizen's report <http://www.togetherwecan.info/alac/>

Civic Pioneers:

<http://www.communities.gov.uk/index.asp?id=1502443>

<http://civilrenewal.communities.gov.uk/civil/about-civil-renewal/civil-renewal-unit/civic-pioneers/>

Civic Pioneers: Local People, Local Government, Working Together To Make Life Better report: <http://www.communities.gov.uk/index.asp?id=1502528>

Every Action Counts: <http://everyactioncounts.org.uk/>

National Communities Safety Plan:

<http://www.crimereduction.gov.uk/communitysafety01.htm>

Tenant empowerment programme:

<http://www.communities.gov.uk/index.asp?id=1154067>

### **Sustainable Communities**

<http://www.sustainable-development.gov.uk/index.asp>

DCLG's Sustainable Development Action Plan:

<http://www.communities.gov.uk/index.asp?id=1164438>

Local:Vision : <http://www.communities.gov.uk/index.asp?id=1137790>

Vibrant Local Leadership: <http://www.communities.gov.uk/index.asp?id=1163150>

Citizen Engagement and Public Services: Why Neighbourhoods Matter:  
<http://www.communities.gov.uk/index.asp?id=1163148>

Securing Better Outcomes: Developing a New Performance Framework:  
<http://www.communities.gov.uk/index.asp?id=1163152>

Local Area Agreements: <http://www.communities.gov.uk/index.asp?id=1161635>

## **Neighbourhood Renewal**

Neighbourhood Renewal Unit: <http://www.neighbourhood.gov.uk/>

What works guide: <http://www.neighbourhood.gov.uk/publications.asp?did=270>

Recognising Residents- Achievement in Neighbourhood Renewal:  
<http://www.neighbourhood.gov.uk/publications.asp?did=356>

Keeping the beat alive (New Start article on Neighbourhood Wardens)  
<http://www.newstartmag.co.uk/wardens.html>

Hull Community Warden's scheme: <http://www.goodwin-centre.org/Default.asp?SeDept=Wardens&Page=index---home-page>

The Neighbourhood Management Network: <http://www.renewal.net/NNMN/>

LEGI: <http://www.neighbourhood.gov.uk/legi>

## **Community Cohesion**

'Improving Opportunity, Strengthening Society' the Government's strategy to increase race equality and community cohesion:

[http://raceandfaith.communities.gov.uk/raceandfaith/reports\\_pubs/publications/race\\_faith/improving-opportunity](http://raceandfaith.communities.gov.uk/raceandfaith/reports_pubs/publications/race_faith/improving-opportunity)

Community Cohesion: Seven Steps, A Practitioner's Toolkit:

[http://raceandfaith.communities.gov.uk/raceandfaith/reports\\_pubs/publications/race\\_faith/comcoh\\_7steps.pdf](http://raceandfaith.communities.gov.uk/raceandfaith/reports_pubs/publications/race_faith/comcoh_7steps.pdf)

Equality, diversity and cohesion:

<http://www.communities.gov.uk/index.asp?id=1123181>

Reaching Out: An Action Plan on Social Exclusion:

[http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/social\\_exclusion\\_task\\_force/reaching\\_out/index.asp](http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/social_exclusion_task_force/reaching_out/index.asp)

## **Rural Communities**

Delivering the essentials of life: Defra's five year strategy:

<http://www.defra.gov.uk/corporate/5year-strategy/index.htm>

Yorkshire and Humber Rural Framework 2006:

<http://www.gos.gov.uk/goyh/menvrur/rrp/rurstat/rdf/>

Our Countryside: The Future. A Fair Deal For Rural England:  
<http://www.defra.gov.uk/rural/ruralwp/whitepaper/default.htm>

Quality Parish and Town Councils:

[http://www.countryside.gov.uk/VitalVillages/Local\\_Governance/town\\_and\\_parish\\_councils.asp](http://www.countryside.gov.uk/VitalVillages/Local_Governance/town_and_parish_councils.asp)

[http://www.defra.gov.uk/rural/quality\\_parishes/default.htm](http://www.defra.gov.uk/rural/quality_parishes/default.htm)

<http://www.communities.gov.uk/index.asp?id=1500892>

<http://www.nalc.gov.uk/quality/index.html>

### **Other links**

Double devolution speech by David Miliband

<http://society.guardian.co.uk/localgovt/story/0,,1714613,00.html>

Double Devolution: the Renewal of Local Government, essays edited by Geoff Mulgan

<http://www.youngfoundation.org.uk/index.php?cat=113>