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 **NALC**

**Northumberland Association of Local Councils**

# The Contribution of the VCS



- A voice for the local community, and for specialist interests
- A provider of services, for local government
- A major contributor to quality of life, social capital, cohesion, etc
- Enshrined in UA bid and in Local Area Agreement objectives

# How can the VCS contribute?



1)

## During Transition:

- Consultation on Belonging Communities
- Consultation on key stages of LGR e.g. 'design blueprint'
- Involvement in Joint Implementation Team components, especially service clusters
- Visioning exercise re relationships, policies and practices.

# How can the VCS contribute?



## 2) Longer-Term

- Through local bodies and Belonging Community forums
- Area and county-wide partnerships
- Engagement re service-areas, e.g. youth work, regeneration
- Collaboration with ward councillors

# What will happen over the next 12 months?



- 1) Baselining
  - Grants (both one-off and continuing)
  - Help in kind, e.g.
    - officer support
    - premises
    - rates relief
    - purchasing/supplies
  - Contract arrangements
  - Involvement in 'outside bodies'

# What will happen over the next 12 months?



## 2) Development

- VCS visioning
- Harmonisation of different district practices
- Policy framework, Summer 08
- 09-10 budget, Autumn 08
- Negotiating 'transition versus transformation'
- Embedding 'VCS focus' in services
- Supporting the VCS to adapt

# Not forgetting:



- Business as usual
- The Compact