LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND REGENERATION COMMITTEE

The Scottish Parliament’s Local Government and Regeneration Committee launched a call for written evidence on strand 3 of its inquiry into public services reform on 9 November 2012. This is the third and final strand of its public services reform inquiry and focuses on developing new ways of delivering services.

The remit of the inquiry is—

To examine progress in relation to: the development of shared services and other innovative ways of achieving economies of scale and: harnessing the strengths and skills of key public sector partners to deliver the best possible quality services in local areas.

As the final strand of the inquiry this also provides an opportunity for the Committee to reflect on the earlier strands, as well as focusing on developing new ways of delivering services.

Organisations and individuals are invited to submit written evidence to the Committee setting out their views and experiences on the development of new ways of delivering services.

Committee’s call for evidence

The Committee invites all interested parties to submit written evidence. It would be helpful if written submissions could address the following questions:

- What are local authorities doing or considering doing in terms of alternative delivery methods? What has worked and what hasn’t? What savings have been achieved from adopting alternative delivery methods? What support is being provided by the Government in driving change?

- How are opportunities for sharing services being identified?

- What is hindering moves toward developing shared and innovative service delivery models? In areas where moves to alternative service delivery models are not being pursued, what efforts are being made to standardise, streamline and simplify existing methods of delivery?

- How are the tensions between potential savings and possible job losses being resolved?
• What legislative barriers are there to developing shared and innovative service delivery models to their full potential?

• In what areas is there scope for national shared services along the lines of the shared recruitment portal for local authorities, ‘myjobsScotland’?

• What has been learned from elsewhere, for example Nottingham Early Intervention City or Birmingham total place initiative?

• In what ways can innovative delivery methods and collaborative arrangements (as mentioned, for example, in the Christie Commission report) help to improve outcomes and tackle embedded social problems?

• In what ways are CPPs being involved in driving the move toward new service delivery methods? What is hampering their involvement and how can it be overcome?

How to submit your evidence

Submissions should be limited to no more than eight pages of A4. Responses should be sent, wherever possible, electronically and in MS Word format to the following email address: psrandlocalgov.inquiry@scottish.parliament.uk

Responses can also be sent by post to:

Clerk to the Local Government and Regeneration Committee
Committee Office
Room T3.60
Scottish Parliament
Edinburgh EH99 1SP

The closing date for receipt of submissions has now been extended to 6pm on Friday 25th January 2013.

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