

**Dear Sir or Madam**

Please find my comments on the questions related to the Modernising Commissioning Green Paper.

**1. In which public service areas could government create new opportunities for civil society organisations to deliver?**

- There are a great many areas where community and voluntary sector groups can deliver services and support growth in community activity more effectively than the public sector. These include health and well being to guard against poor health, community development, arts, culture and sport.
- Their ability to deliver this has to take into account the significance of the security of the organisation to deliver the services rather than concentrate on its survival as an organisation.

*\* Introducing payment by results - so payment is linked to outcomes not inputs;* This has its attractions but as so many outcomes are dependent on the vagaries of the nation and international climate in it many senses this has the potential to back fire for the voluntary and community groups

*\* Setting proportions of specific services that should be delivered by independent organisations;*

- good idea

*\* Introducing new rights for communities to run services.*

- Also a good idea, the area to guard against is that those able communities with the ability to articulate and organise would be able to take this on easily while those less confident and less able would be less likely to take advantage of the opportunity when they are potentially the people most likely to benefit.

**2. How could government make existing public service markets more accessible to civil society organisations?**

- The problems about local community and voluntary groups engaging the procurement of services is that the market seems stacked against them. Where the larger provider are making the case to put forward the bid the sub contraction to voluntary groups is the area where the smallest amounts of resources go. So that procurement on these levels should be set up in such a way that local and community groups should be able to access the lion share of the resources for doing the lion share of the work at a local level. Otherwise the feeling is that local groups are doing the dirty work for the remaining crumbs on the table once the big boys have taken the major share.

*\* Cut away unnecessary red tape by streamlining procurement processes;*

- Local groups need to be able to access opportunity for local delivery and cutting away the areas which ensure they have an good chance are not best served by big contracts and little regulation.

### **3. How could commissioners use assessments of full social, environmental and economic value to inform their commissioning decisions?**

- \* Encourage understanding of social and environmental priorities of local people to be considered in the commissioning process; and
- Requiring that social and environmental capital are significant considerations in the making of decisions and that the amount something costs in pounds does not short change the future, the community, young people or the environment.
- \* Support the 'Social enterprise and Social Value' Bill which would require the recognition of 'full value' as part of mainstream commissioning practice.

### **4. How could civil society organisations support greater citizen and community involvement in all stages of commissioning?**

- \* Roll out 'Community Budgets' which pool funding for local services giving more flexibility to meet local priorities and a joined up approach across the board.
- Fully support this on the basis that local groups are able to be the key deliverers and opportunities are not swept up by highly organised national organisations .

I trust the comments above provide some form of useful response in relation to the questions posed.

With kind regards

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