



Meeting on 9th November 2010

Results from Discussion Group 1 -

1. *What would a 'Big Society' joint endeavour between a local authority (LA) and the voluntary sector (VS) look like?*

- Two models suggested - CHARITABLE TRUST (CT) and SOCIAL ENTERPRISE (SE).
- Example of CT idea was Ilkley where Trust may take on town museum, swimming pool and theatre from Bradford Council. Funding might come from Town Council precept on Council Tax within Ilkley and / or surrounding parishes only with proceeds going to Trust. Drawback could be high future costs for building maintenance In smaller places, groups / parishes might need to group together and seek expert advice.
- Several examples of SEs given from Hull and Calderdale plus one recent proposal in East Riding of Yorkshire to pilot delivery of social care to elderly in remote rural area. Other eg of delivering community transport in the rural East Riding using volunteer staff where mainstream buses are not viable.
- LAs can provide expertise in set-up and perhaps limited or transitional funding. VS provides volunteer staff and organises operations on local basis tailored to community needs.

2. *What changing behaviours from both parties are needed for success?*

- LA willingness to relinquish powers / ownership and delegate activity
- VS needs to build capacity and work together better across organisations
- More willingness to experiment, take risks
- All need to work openly to build trust
- Use all sources of advice, expertise & best practice.

3. *What are the challenges to achieving LA / VS co-operation?*

- Lack of willingness by LAs to give up functions / powers
- Lack of trust between partner bodies
- Lack of VS capacity - may build too slowly or never reach competence threshold
- Insufficient transition expertise / funding
- BIGGEST PROBLEM may be TIMING. LA funding and activity may reduce too quickly before mutual trust and VS capacity has developed. So there is a risk that good project ideas may fall by the wayside. Rural communities could be the losers GC 14.11.2010