



## Briefing Paper -November 2010

### Building a Stronger Civil Society

#### INTRODUCTION

A strategy to support charities, voluntary groups and social enterprises was unveiled by Nick Hurd, Minister for Civil Society in October of this year following the Spending Review. It is the first step towards helping civil society organisations grasp new opportunities arising from the massive devolution of power to local communities and reform of public services that underpins the Big Society.

Plans in the strategy include:

- reducing red tape for small organisations
- giving public sector staff the right to spin-out and form a co-ops or mutual supported by a new network of advice and mentoring
- give local communities the right to buy or bid to run community assets
- continue to match fund local endowments to encourage giving
- modernisation of public service commissioning so the most efficient and effective charities can get a fair chance to bid for public contracts.

Charities voluntary groups and social enterprises will also find new opportunities in the drive for greater transparency. For example local authorities are now required to publish all their spending above £500 which will give the sector greater access to competitively important information. The full version of Supporting a Stronger Civil Society can be downloaded here: [The Building a Stronger Civil Society strategy](#)

If you would like to comment on the strategy a consultation paper is available here: [The consultation, Supporting a Stronger Civil Society](#)

The deadline for responses is 6th January 2011 however responses to question 9 in the consultation is 25th November 2010.

The questions on which you are asked to respond is attached below for ease of reference