

## AT A GLANCE

### *Governance*

#### Definition

Governance is not a word used in normal conversation: but put simply, it covers how things are organised and run; who is involved; how decisions are made; who makes them; and how those people are chosen.

It balances the needs to provide leadership and to include people, enabling effective participation by individuals and organisations, either by direct involvement or through representatives.

Importantly for the Egan Review it means doing things well to start with, then continually improving them as time goes on. This requires good monitoring to measure impact and feedback from users. It is not just about structures but equally (maybe more importantly) about attitudes, the culture of working together, and behaviour, both of individuals and organisations.

It is really about getting things done through effective and inclusive partnerships and organisations.

#### How is the Egan theme reflected in IGNITE?

The Governance theme in IGNITE has a number of sub themes. To identify the information contained in IGNITE which may be relevant to your enquiry, you can either browse through the sub themes (described as sub categories) or use key words in the query tool. Individual documents or events may be categorised under more than one sub theme.

These sub themes and the areas they cover are:

- **Central and local government**

Includes relationships between central government and local authorities, and how policy is implemented at local level. It contains information relating to areas of local authorities' statutory responsibilities, and information targeted at officers, members, and MPs.

- **Democracy and elections**

Includes information relevant to the development of democratic processes, engagement, participation and representation.

- **European Union**

Covers the role of European Union, its programmes and policies, in the region.

- **Policy making**

Includes items providing support to policy making processes, relating to research and the evidence base for policy, together with the results of evaluation and access to good practice.

- **Regional policy**

Includes both government national policy relating to the region, and region-wide policy developed within the North East.

- **Organisational structures**

Includes the frameworks, networks and partnerships within which individual organisations operate.

- **Community planning partnerships**

Includes a range of partnership activities, including Local Strategic Partnerships, thematic partnerships, community strategies and Local Area Agreements. It also contains a growing archive of final evaluations of SRB projects and programmes.

If you are involved yourself in running things, you may find it helpful to look at the Generic Skills theme on IGNITE, which has information and resources which may be useful to you in these roles

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