**North East Joint (Members and Officers) Scrutiny Network –
Working Terms of Reference**

Purpose of the Network

(a)   To provide a forum for elected members who have a role within the scrutiny function to meet, make useful contacts with other members and officers, and to share 'experiences'.

(b)   To provide a mechanism to share information on, for example: scrutiny best practice; outcomes of scrutiny investigations; benchmarking; service planning; performance indicators; conference feedback and funding streams.

(c)   To share ideas on improving scrutiny processes and enhancing effectiveness.

(d)   To provide a mechanism to facilitate personal and professional development.

(e)   To provide a conduit between the North East authorities and the Centre for Public Scrutiny for sharing up-to-date information, this would include inviting speakers to talk about recent national policy developments.

Objectives

(a)   Establish an annual conference of the North East Regional Employers' Organisation Scrutiny Officers' Network (subject to successful funding bid).

(b)   To provide a forum for members of the network to make useful contacts with other scrutiny members and officers in the region.

(c)   To consider and develop action learning sets through the network as and when appropriate.

(d)   To develop facilities for peer reviews through the network as and when appropriate.

(e)   To enhance scrutiny member and officer training and development opportunities throughout the network.

(f)   Increase the use of the NEREO website and incorporate a library of scrutiny information, contact list, and examples of joint working onto this.

(g)   Provide a forum for the development of joint working in relation to: reviews; commissioning; research; and training.

(h)   Establish links between the network and other bodies such as the Centre for Public Scrutiny and other regional scrutiny networks.

(i)   Invite academics, professionals, representatives of government and other public sector organisations to share research/information that might impact on scrutiny with the network.

(j)   Develop 'responsive' sessions responding to 'current' issues as and when appropriate.