

LOCAL GOVERNMENT NATIONAL INDICATOR SET TECHNICAL HANDBOOK - RESPONSE TO CONSULTATION DOCUMENT

**Name and address of responding organisation:
Devon County Council**

Is this your organisation's official response to the consultation? No

**Name and phone number of key contact in case of follow-up queries:
Sue Craythorne 01392 382226**

National Indicator Number:

NI 7

Please complete a separate form for each indicator on which you wish to respond

Indicator Issue	
1. Is the Technical Definition of this indicator clear?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
If NO a. What aspects of the technical definition of the indicator are unclear? Please specify clearly - is it in relation to the measurement method, or - on reporting b. Please suggest how the template can be clarified/improved.	a. No proposal has been given in the definition of the variety of ratings that respondents can choose from. b. There should be some pilot work to ensure that the eventual rating choices are understood in a consistent way.
2. Does the Technical Definition for this indicator have any unintended consequences?	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
If YES a. What are the unintended consequences on this national indicator? b. Can the unintended consequence be avoided? If so, how?	There are estimated to be over 4000 voluntary and community groups in Devon, many of whom neither need nor wish for funding from public sector bodies. Those that do range from large national organisations which

	<p>happen to operate in the county, or have contracts to deliver services, to infrastructure bodies (CVS, RCC etc) and a very wide range of client specific social enterprises or voluntary organisations with whom there are SLAs or contracts.</p> <p>The definition should give an indication of the number of responses required to validate the results, otherwise a very small number of responses could skew the result. It would also be helpful to specify whether a VCS organisation has sought funding or contracts.</p> <p>The 'environment' for the VCS sector includes many aspects other than funding. A wider survey based on Compact principles would give a better quality of results.</p>
<p>3. Will the Technical Definitions for this indicator work in practice?</p>	<p>Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p>
<p>If NO a. Why would this technical definition not work in practice?</p>	<p>see above. It might work - but there are flaws based on numbers</p>
<p>4. Is this indicator defined at the right spatial level?</p>	<p>Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/></p>
<p>a) If not, what level should it be defined at? (including whether information is already gathered and/or reported at that level and if so where, if not, estimated cost of collecting and reporting it)</p>	

<p>5. Should data for this indicator be provided for any or all of the different equalities strands (please tick the relevant box)?</p>	<p>Ethnicity <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Gender <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Religion <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Age <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Sexual orientation <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Disability <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Other <input type="checkbox"/> (Please specify)</p>
<p>a) For any boxes ticked at 5, is this information already gathered and/or reported and, if so, where? If not, what would be the estimated additional burden of collecting and reporting it?</p>	<p>The information is not collected, but it would be easy to include a self reporting section of the survey form to capture it.</p> <p>It is important to find out whether equalities organisations are treated fairly. However, there may be such a small number in any given area, that the results would have to be treated with caution.</p>
<p>6. Further comments on the questions above and /or any other comments that are not covered above questions.</p>	
<p>Completed versions can be sent to niconsultation@communities.gsi.gov.uk. Hard copy responses should be returned to Local Government Quality and Performance Division, Zone J2, 4th Floor, Eland House, Bressenden Place, LONDON, SW1E 5DU.</p>	