

INVITATION TO NORTHERN GAS NETWORKS SOCIAL INVESTMENT WORKSHOPS AND LUNCH:

**Tuesday 4th November at The Royal Station Hotel, Newcastle upon Tyne
or Thursday 13th November at the Royal York Hotel, York
Both 9.30am-1.30pm followed by lunch
(Registration and refreshments 9.00-9.30am)**

I am delighted to invite you to join one of two social investment workshops that Northern Gas Networks (NGN) is holding on 4th November and 13th November. NGN is the company responsible for transporting gas to homes and businesses across the north of England and the workshops will help us to formulate our social investment priorities. We believe that the organisation you represent is likely to have views on a number of the areas for discussion and we would really welcome your input/your colleagues' input. Discussion topics include:

- Tackling fuel poverty, how can NGN do more?
- How better can we support rural communities?
- How to best engage with hard to reach groups
- Sustainability – what should this mean for NGN?
- Innovative thinking – we've got to think forward to move forward
- Carbon monoxide awareness, how else do we get across this important message?
- Partnership working – how can we work with you, whom else should we work with, what can we achieve?
- What is the future for gas and the energy sector?

We will discuss the above topics between 9.30am and 1.30pm followed by lunch at 1.30pm. At 2.15pm there will be optional surgeries that finish at 3pm. The workshops will take the form of informal discussion tables following brief presentations from NGN.

Whilst our regulator Ofgem has confirmed our funding for the coming eight years, **tackling social issues is an area where we have flexibility in our investment programme. This means that your views can make a real difference to how we operate.** For instance, since our workshops held in January 2014 we have made around 600 new gas connections to fuel poor households and have developed new partnerships and ways of working alongside certain charities in the sector. In terms of Carbon Monoxide (CO) awareness we have introduced new safety communications aimed at primary school children and have undertaken activities at a CO Awareness Day, to name just two examples.

We do hope that you are able to attend one of the workshops and will be able to join us for lunch afterwards. At the optional surgeries attendees can question our representatives and hold in-depth discussions on a range of specialist topics such as connections, rural off gas/grid, SME business needs, hard to reach community groups and the role of gas distribution in meeting the future energy needs for the North East and Yorkshire. If there is a topic that you would like to raise, please note it in your reply form and we will try to cover it.

Previous attendees at similar workshops we have held include Local Authority Senior Officers, Cabinet Members and Councillors, Parish Councillors, representatives of charities, businesses and NGOs.

Please RSVP to Lizzie McCann from Instinctif Partners, who will be facilitating the workshops, by emailing Lizzie.McCann@instinctif.com, phoning 0118 983 9474 or by completing the attached RSVP form and scanning, faxing or posting it to Lizzie. It would be extremely helpful if you could let us know by Friday 24th October, 2014 if you, or a representative, are able to attend.

Yours sincerely,



David Gill, Director of Stakeholder Relations

Find out more about Northern Gas Networks at www.northerngasnetworks.co.uk

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number 0800 111 999***

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