

LOCAL GOVERNMENT INFORMATION UNIT  
NEWS RELEASE  
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### **North East voters show need to challenge the quango state**

The Local Government Information Unit (LGIU) has responded to the referendum vote against setting up a regional assembly in the North East by calling on ministers to strengthen local democracy.

Dennis Reed, LGIU Chief Executive, said: "The clear message from the North East is that people want to have efficient democratic institutions of local government with the power to allow local communities to set their own priorities. This is not a vote for centralised administration from London or for the unelected quangos that command too much power and public money.

"Ministers must now consider the crucial role of local government in providing democratic accountability and a means of joining up public services. This means an end to ill-considered proposals that drain power from local communities and their elected representatives, such as setting up single purpose boards and other measures that remove functions from local government. Similarly, we need to challenge the unaccountable quango state, including the regional quangos, to see what can be devolved to elected local government."