



Adult, Health and Housing - Voluntary and Community Sector, Compact Agreement, Commissioning Framework, and Grant Funding Procedure Rules for 2010/11

SUMMARY

- 1.1 The National Government are committed to all public sector bodies working closely with the voluntary and community sector to develop and support sustainable communities. They have set out a set of principles and guidelines in the National Compact which all public bodies should follow. The Derby Compact Agreement embodies the principles and guidelines set out in the national document and has been developed with all partners in the Derby City Partnership. The Commissioning Framework and Grant Procedure rules are practical documents reinforcing the Compact Agreement.
- 1.2 The Compact Agreement sets out the shared principles and guidelines in detail to promote effective partnership working between the public sector (e.g. Derby City Council and the NHS Derby City) and the voluntary and community sector in Derby. The Compact stands for better partnership working and creating better outcomes for individuals and local communities. The focus for partnership working is in three key areas, policy development, allocating resources and advancing equality.
- 1.3 The Commissioning Framework for the voluntary and community sector provides guidance on processes to be adopted by the Council and commissioning partners to ensure effective voluntary and community sector involvement in the planning, commissioning and delivery of services.
- 1.4 The Grant Procedures provide guidance and a set of principles to Council officers as to when the Council should be contracting and when it should be offering grants to the voluntary and community sector.

RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 To approve the
 - ❖ the revised Derby Compact Agreement
 - ❖ Council's Commissioning Framework for the voluntary and community sector
 - ❖ Council's Grant Procedures.
- 2.2 To charge all Strategic Directors with the responsibility of ensuring the principles, guidance and rules in the aforementioned documents are applied in their Directorates.
- 2.3 To give authority to the Strategic Director of Adult Health & Housing to make amendments to any of the three documents in consultation with the relevant Cabinet member.

Derby Compact Agreement

- 3.1 The Compact is an agreement between the public sector and the voluntary and community sector in Derby. It sets out commitments on both sides to improve the way in which the two sectors work together allowing them to work more effectively to strengthen communities and improve people's lives.
- 3.2 Following extensive discussion nationally on the future of the National Compact during 2008/09, a refreshed National Compact was produced by Government office. As well as retaining all the key points of the original, the refreshed National Compact agreement takes into account recent developments in law, policy and practice.
- 3.3 The refreshed National Compact replaces the 1998 agreement and five codes of practice. The new document is divided into three key areas covering involvement in policy development, allocating resources and advancing equality.
- 3.4 Derby Compact Forum has updated the local Compact Agreement to reflect latest national guidelines and therefore seeks Cabinet's approval for its adoption.
- 3.5 The Council is committed to complying with the principles and commitments set out in the Compact, and in taking a strategic approach to supporting the voluntary sector to strengthen our relationship with the sector.

Commissioning Framework

- 3.6 A Commissioning Framework has been developed to ensure that key principles of commissioning from the voluntary & community sector are communicated and shared across the Council. This shall provide a process that is clear and transparent to the voluntary and community sector across all directorates.
- 3.7 The Commissioning Framework offers the opportunity for both existing and new organisations to work with the City Council to have a positive impact through the delivery of excellent services to our communities. This approach will also ensure that funding is aligned with the Council's strategic and priorities.
- 3.8 The framework will provide guidance to officers of the Council on the process for commissioning services from the voluntary and community sector. This document aims to translate into practice the principles set out in the Derby Compact Agreement on best practice in relations between the statutory sector and the voluntary sector.
- 3.9 The Commissioning Framework will be monitored and supported through the Compact Forum and the Compact Implementation Network subgroup. The Compact Forum is made up of Councillors and officers from across Derby City partnership and they oversee the implementation of the Compact Agreement.

Grant Procedure

- 3.10 A report to Cabinet in March 2010 outlined when the Council should be contracting and when it should be offering grants to the voluntary & community sector. This was duly approved. This required that the Council developed a procedure for how it

allocates grants to this sector.

- 3.11 The attached grant funding procedure is designed to provide guidance to officers on the process required in the allocation of grants to the voluntary and community sector. The procedure also enables officers to support organisations to develop areas of good practice in complying with legal duties concerning health and safety when providing a service to the public.
- 3.12 It is important that the financial relationship between the Council and the voluntary and community sector is constructed in such a way that allows outcomes to be maximised through processes that are clear.
- 3.13 These processes outlined in the grant procedures will help inform the specific path of funding and the best approval method to ensure successful outcomes.

OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

4. None.

For more information contact:	Phil Bacon 01332 255507 e-mail: phil.bacon@derby.gov.uk
Background papers:	None
List of appendices:	Appendix 1 – Implications Appendix 2 - Derby Compact Agreement Appendix 3 - VCS Commissioning Framework Appendix 4 – Grant Funding Procedure

IMPLICATIONS

Financial

- 1.1 There are no specific financial implications arising out of this report. The Commissioning Framework, Grant Funding Procedure and the principles contained within the local Compact will enable DCC to have a consistent financial process for commissioning and grant funding of services across the Council.

Legal

- 2.1 Powers to support the voluntary and community sector are granted under section 2 of the Local Government Act 2000, which gives the Council the general power to promote the social, economic and environmental well-being of its area.

Personnel

- 3.1 There are no personnel implications for the Council.

Equalities impact

- 4.1 The document aims to incorporate best practice in working with the Voluntary and Community Sector, and in developing good relationships with the Sector, particularly those organisations which support the most vulnerable communities.
- 4.2 The commissioning framework and new grant funding procedures will provide guidance on a fair and equitable way to commission from the sector.
- 4.3 Funded organisations will be consulted on these new monitoring forms with a view to implementing them during 2010/11. A flexible, proportionate approach will be needed, reflecting the size of organisations and the levels of funding involved.

Corporate objectives and priorities for change

- 5.1 The work of voluntary and community sector help contribute to delivering all of the Council's priorities to promoting strong and positive communities and protecting and supporting people.