

Title:	Derwentside Compact and Procurement Concordat for the Voluntary and Community Sector
To/On:	Executive – 16 th October 2006
By:	Director of Development and Asset Management
Portfolio:	Stronger Communities
Purpose:	Report

STRATEGIC FACTOR CHECKLIST

The Council's Corporate Management Team has confirmed that the Strategic Factor Checklist has been applied to the development of this report, and there are no key issues, over and above those set out in the body of the report, that need to be brought to Members' attention.

1. Subject Matter and Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 This report seeks Members endorsement of a Compact and Procurement Concordat between the Council and the Voluntary and Community Sector.

The report seeks to inform the members of the impact of adopting these documents and the benefits they will bring.

2. Background

- 2.1 The Compact was initially developed as a national document in 1998 to set out public sector commitment to the voluntary and community sector. Local Authorities were then encouraged to develop County and District Compacts more pertinent to their localities. The Council signed up to the County Durham Compact in 2001.
- 2.2 The Derwentside Compact has recently been produced, although in most part rather than developing a replacement for the County Durham Compact, it endorses it and provides a number of additions relevant only to the district of Derwentside. Appendix One outlines the main elements of the Compact.
- 2.3 Supporting this document would require no change to the way Derwentside District Council conducts its relationship with the Voluntary and Community sector. It is not a legally binding document but simply sets out our commitment to working in partnership with the sector to ensure the delivery of quality services to local people.
- 2.4 A commitment to the Compact requires an equal commitment to the Compact by NHS agencies and the Voluntary and Community sector.

- 2.5 The Compact provides a framework to promote and support partnership working between the voluntary and community sector, the local authority and NHS agencies in the district of Derwentside.
- 2.6 The production of a Voluntary and Community Sector Procurement Concordat aims to build on the benefits of the Compact and extend the commitment of the Small Business Friendly Concordat endorsed by the Executive on the 10th July 2006. The Concordat aims to ensure that all suppliers and potential suppliers are treated equally and to raise awareness of the opportunities for doing business with the Local Authority within the Voluntary and Community Sector.
- 2.7 The Concordat will outline in detail, the process through which Social and Community Enterprises might tender for the delivery of public services or engage with the Council as suppliers. It will signpost these groups to further support in the form of the National Council for Voluntary Organisations Public Sector Procurement Document, and organisations such as the North East Social Enterprise Partnership, the Development Trust Association and the Durham Business Forum for Social Enterprise.
- 2.8 As stated in the Small Business Friendly Concordat, existing procurement advice and information, guides and a website are available for the benefit of Social Enterprises as well as other Small and Medium size Enterprises. The Voluntary and Community Sector Concordat will also appear on the Council website as an accessible document if approval is agreed. Appendix Two outlines the main elements of the CVS Concordat.

3. Material Considerations/Options

- 3.1 The production of a Voluntary and Community Sector Compact and Concordat builds on the progress made by the completion of the Small Business Friendly Concordat and highlights the Council's strengthened commitment to procurement policy and its support of the Voluntary and Community Sector. This commitment has been well received by the CVS and the Development Trust Association (DTA), who are both committed to supporting the Council in raising awareness of the document and the potential opportunities it outlines.
- 3.2 The Concordat recognises the independence of the voluntary and community sector and the right and responsibility of the sector's organisations to determine and manage their own affairs.
- 3.3 The Concordat provides a further opportunity to maintain a constructive dialogue and consultation with the voluntary and community sector with regard to on-going policy development.
- 3.4 Detailed consultation on the draft concordat has been carried out with the Derwentside CVS and the Development Trust Association.
- 3.5 In summary, the Derwentside Concordat states that:

- The Council has published a Corporate Procurement Strategy
- The Council has produced a number of guides to encourage small businesses, including community and voluntary organisations, to supply the Council
- The Council produces a contract register highlighting up and coming supply opportunities
- The Council advertises contract opportunities on it's website, newspapers, trade journals and through NEPO (North East Purchasing Organisation)
- The Council produces a list of current suppliers through a Buyer Profile
- The Council has standardised tender documentation to keep the process as simple as possible
- The Council offers feedback to suppliers to encourage improvement for future tender opportunities
- The Council has published a complaints procedure
- The Council will ensure suppliers are paid in no more than 30 days
- The Council will require suppliers to pay sub-contractors in no more than 30 days

4. **Recommendations and Reasons**

4.1 In consideration of the above, it is recommended that the Council endorse the Derwentside Compact and the Voluntary and Community Sector Concordat.

The reasons for this recommendation are:

- The Derwentside Compact and Voluntary and Community Sector Concordat have the support of the Voluntary and Community Sector represented by the CVS and the Development Trust Association.
- This is a significant opportunity for the Council to demonstrate its support for and commitment to the Voluntary and Community Sector and Social and Community Enterprises in the local area.

For more details on the content of this report contact Chris Barnard – Community Regeneration Coordinator on 01207 218302 or e-mail C.Barnard@derwentside.gov.uk

Appendix One

Derwentside Compact

In signing up to the Derwentside Compact, partners agree to abide by the following values:

- Integrity
- Transparency
- Objectivity
- Accountability
- Honesty
- Consistency
- Respect

The Compact states that:

- Signatories recognise the independence of Derwentside's Voluntary and Community Sector and it's right to challenge policy and practice
- Signatories recognise the diversity of Derwentside's Voluntary and Community Sector as its strength
- Signatories have a common goal: to make Derwentside the best possible place to live for each and every one of its residents
- Signatories recognise that they have complementary roles: that by working together they can achieve more for Derwentside's residents
- Signatories respect and understand each others aims and objectives
- Signatories respect and understand the constraints under which the statutory and voluntary and community sectors operate
- Signatories be flexible, adaptable and open to new ways of working together
- Signatories recognise and treat each other as equal partners

Appendix Two

Derwentside Community and Voluntary Sector Concordat.

In summary, the draft CVS Concordat will state that:

- The Council has published a Corporate Procurement Strategy

- The Council has produced a number of guides to encourage small businesses to supply the Council
- The Council produces a contract register highlighting up and coming supply opportunities
- The Council publishes contract opportunities over £10,000 on it's website and through NEPO (North East Purchasing Organisation)
- The Council produces a list of current suppliers through a Buyer Profile
- The Council has standardised tender documentation to keep the process as simple as possible
- The Council offers feedback to suppliers to encourage improvement for future tender opportunities
- The Council has published a complaints procedure
- The Council will ensure suppliers are paid in no more than 30 days
- The Council will require suppliers to pay sub-contractors in no more than 30 days
- The Council will provide advice and guidance to potential suppliers and signpost them to specialist advisory groups and supporting procurement documents such as the NCVO Public Sector Procurement Document
- The Council will demonstrate a commitment to raising awareness of the opportunities for tendering with and supplying the council within the Voluntary and Community Sector.