

SOUTH CAMBRIDGESHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

REPORT TO: The Leader

15 January 2009

AUTHOR/S: Chief Executive / Partnerships Manager

COMPACT FUNDING AND COMMISSIONING CODE

Purpose

1. To consult the Leader on the proposed Cambridgeshire Compact Code of Good Practice for Funding and Commissioning Code of Good Practice.

Background

2. The Cambridgeshire Compact is a partnership agreement between statutory bodies and the voluntary and community sector. It is designed to improve our relationships and provide a framework within which we can understand what to expect from each other.
3. The Cambridgeshire Compact provides:
 - a set of Undertakings that clarify roles and expectations;
 - an agreement to work towards 3-year funding cycles;
 - a recommended 12 weeks notice of changes;
 - an honest problem-solving environment;
 - a set of Good Practice Codes.
4. South Cambridgeshire District Council signed up to the main Compact document in Autumn 2006.

Considerations

5. The proposed Code of Good Practice for Funding and Commissioning (Appendix A) is currently being consulted upon. The consultation period runs from 1st November 2008 until 31st January 2009. The District Council is being asked to formally respond to the consultation.
6. The questions that are being asked through the consultation process are:

Section 2: Guiding Principles

- (i) Do you agree with the guiding principles on which the Code is based?
- (ii) Does the District Council think the undertakings will assist funding and commissioning relationships between statutory organisations and the third sector? Is there anything else you believe should be included?

Section 3: Grant Funding Code

- (iii) Does the District Council think that the Grant Code will assist the funding relationship between statutory organisations and the third sector? Is there anything else you believe should be included?

Section 4: The Commissioning and Procurement Code

- (iv) Does the District Council think that the Commissioning & Procurement Code will assist the commissioning relationship between statutory organisations and the third sector? Is there anything else you believe should be included?

Section 5: Asset Transfer Code

- (v) Does the District Council think that this section will be of benefit to the third sector?

Implications

7. Financial	The Council has already moved towards three-year service level agreement with many of the voluntary organisations it funds.
Legal	The word 'undertaking' is currently being discussed by local authority legal teams as there has been concern expressed by a couple of lawyers. The term will only be included when all Legal Teams are in agreement.
Staffing	None.
Risk Management	The Code of Good Practice should reduce risks associated with providing grants to the third sector.
Equal Opportunities	If followed, the Code should improve openness and transparency and provide consistency, coordination and fairness.

Consultations

8. The Council's Procurement Officer has been involved in the development of the Code.

Effect on Corporate Objectives and Service Priorities

9.	Work in partnership to manage growth to benefit everyone in South Cambridgeshire now and in the future
	The Council provides funding to the third sector, which will impact upon the growth areas.
	Deliver high quality services that represent best value and are accessible to all our community
	Following the Good Practice Guide should ensure that grants to the third sector are best value.
	Enhance quality of life and build a sustainable South Cambridgeshire where everyone is proud to live and work
	The Council provides funding to the third sector for project that improve quality of life.

Recommendations

10. To comment upon the Commissioning and Funding Code to feed into the formal consultation process.

Background Papers: the following background papers were used in the preparation of this report:

- The Cambridgeshire Compact

Contact Officer: Gemma Barron – Partnerships Manager
Telephone: (01954) 713340