

Slough Compact Protocols

Accommodation and Premises

Public bodies may have accommodation or premises that are made available to the voluntary and community sector for hire, rent or lease.

There is common agreement that:

- Provision of accommodation as in-kind support to the Voluntary and Community Sector should reflect local policy and priorities.
- Small community groups and those groups working with under-represented communities will have particular needs that must be identified.
- An imaginative and creative approach is needed to building up the accommodation supply base to address a wide range of needs and that this is a challenging target. A voluntary sector resource centre providing a range of development facilities could provide a solution to accommodation difficulties experienced by some organisations.

The public sector will:

- Help the Voluntary and Community Sector meet its premises needs should it have suitable accommodation available.
- Publish clear guidelines for policy, priorities and any subsidies or conditions for use and maintain clear and transparent methods of access.
- Apply any subsidy or in kind support agreed against published policy and priorities equitably and in a flexible and cost-effective manner based upon a realistic needs and eligibility assessment
- The public sector undertakes to be responsible and responsive landlords, upholding the principles of good estate management.

The Voluntary and Community sector:

- Acknowledges that policy concerned with accommodation and premises should reflect current legislative limitations for use, and that rental and lease values will be set at a market level.
- The Voluntary and Community Sector acknowledge that the public sector cannot meet all their accommodation needs
- Agrees to apply the principles of good governance and to fulfil the covenants of their leases