

# Slough Compact Protocols

## Finance and Funding

The Voluntary and Community Sector looks to the Public Sector for financial support and the Public Sector looks to the VCS as a key strategic partner and for service delivery. Financial matters can define and over-burden the relationship, it is critical that the Compact articulates the common understanding and contributes to an equitable relationship where funding matters do not dominate the relationship.

There is common agreement

- There is a need to discuss with the VCS strategic planning; for funding and the VCS accepts that the Public Sector will take many issues into account when it sets priorities
- That funding criteria that is clear, consistent, transparent with accountability for any grants awarded is essential.
- The Public Sector has finite resources available to them and with the best will in the world will not be able to meet all expectations and there is need to manage VCS expectations
- That the VCS must be realistic about what can be managed and the Public Sector understands that not all VCS groups wish to grow.
- That both sectors need to work towards improved access to resources for the VCS this includes:
- An understandable and competent tendering process for Public Sector services is essential.
- About the need to develop advice, guidance, support and training for the VCS.
- That constraints upon central government funding to local statutory agencies for service delivery means that cash and time limits cannot be extended and some funding may be subject to short notice periods.

### The Public Sector:

- Undertakes to set priorities and demonstrate their local relevance and to be equitable, culturally and linguistically sensitive and provide equality of access in its financial dealings with the VCS.
- Accepts the need to provide clear and consistent information about the criteria and processes for applications and bidding. This includes making sure that they are accessible and understandable.
- Will be open to new methods of monitoring and evaluation wherever possible and to link it to size and risk (e.g. ESF funding) and make grant holders clear about the criteria.
- Understands the need to assist with capacity building and to provide clarity about VCS groups that wish to expand into Public Sector service delivery may do so. This will include a pre-qualification database of Voluntary and Community Sector groups and support with development to meet qualification criteria
- Agrees to continue their commitment to long term (currently three years) strategic (corporate) funding arrangements where possible
- Will be as clear as possible about cash and time limits set by central government on some funding.

### The Voluntary and Community Sector:

- Recognises that it has a responsibility to organise itself effectively and to communicate clearly.
- Accepts that monitoring and evaluation is part of grant process that must be completed in a proper and timely way.
- Accepts that the Public Sector is often constrained by external funding requirements and may not always be able to vary these.