



GOVERNMENT OFFICE  
FOR THE NORTH EAST

# **The National Compact at a Local Level**

Ian Dodds

Head of Community Policy

Government Office for the North East



GOVERNMENT OFFICE  
FOR THE NORTH EAST

# “Strong and Prosperous Communities” October 2006

*“We want the best local partnership working between local authorities and the Third Sector to be the rule, not the exception, and for the Sector to be placed on a level playing field with mainstream providers when it comes to local service provision.”*



GOVERNMENT OFFICE  
FOR THE NORTH EAST

# The Third Sector at the Heart of Regeneration

- Local Government White Paper
- The Future Role of the Third Sector in Social and Economic Regeneration:
  - Voice and campaigning
  - Strengthening communities
  - Public services
  - Social enterprise
- Public Service Agreement 21 - Build more cohesive, empowered and active communities
- Action Plan for Community Empowerment



GOVERNMENT OFFICE  
FOR THE NORTH EAST

# The National Compact

- Established 1998
- Codes of Best Practice
  - Community Groups,
  - Black and Minority Ethnic Groups,
  - Volunteering,
  - Consultation and Policy Appraisal
  - Funding and Procurement
- Commission for the Compact
- Compact Voice



GOVERNMENT OFFICE  
FOR THE NORTH EAST

# Key Compact Principles

- Voluntary action as an essential component of a democratic society.
- An independent and diverse Third Sector is fundamental to the well-being of society.
- Distinct but complementary roles of Government and the Third Sector
- Added value of working in partnership
- Need for integrity, objectivity, accountability, openness, honesty and leadership
- Entitlement of Third Sector to campaign within the law
- Government as a funder of some Third Sector organisations
- Promotion of equality of opportunity for all people



GOVERNMENT OFFICE  
FOR THE NORTH EAST

# The Regional Compact

- Established 2007
- Commitment by all key regional organisations
- Involving the Third Sector in strategic discussions
- Building relationships with Government and the Third Sector
- Supporting the development of regional infrastructure
- Developing the role of the Third Sector in Local Area Agreements and Local Strategic Partnerships
- Funding and Procurement



GOVERNMENT OFFICE  
FOR THE NORTH EAST

# Local Compact Delivery

- Basis for partnership working
- Greater engagement of communities in policy, programmes and service delivery
- Funding and procurement practices to be more accessible to the Third Sector



GOVERNMENT OFFICE  
FOR THE NORTH EAST

# What have Compacts delivered so far?

- Helped to change Culture
- Helped partners identify the value and potential of the Third Sector
- Helped to identify gaps in support
- Process provides a framework for dialogue



GOVERNMENT OFFICE  
FOR THE NORTH EAST

# Challenges for Local Compacts

- More of a “living” document
- More commitment to deliver against the principles of the Compact
- Impact of the new PSA Framework
- Right to Campaign?
- Procurement and Commissioning?
- Community involvement and consultation?
- Three year funding as the norm rather than the exception?