

Report to Be Birmingham Partnership 25 January 2008

1 Purpose

To update board on sustainable procurement compact and endorse prior to formal launch and signing in March. To give the sustainable procurement compact the status of a Partnership Statement.

2 Background

The Compact is a voluntary statement of common purpose to use procurement sustainably and effectively in order to deliver the objectives set out in ***Birmingham 2026: Our Vision for the Future*** and our Local Area Agreement. Once endorsed by be-Birmingham partners we will be requesting organisations and businesses located or serving Birmingham also to commit to delivering its recommendations and outcomes.

The compact has been developed through detailed consultation with partners' procurement staff, chief executives as well as taking legal guidance.

Birmingham is taking a national lead with this initiative. It is hoped that other authorities in the region and further a field will follow it: early indications are that many are very interested and likely to do so.

Sustainable Procurement Objectives include:

- Social, economic and environmental sustainability;
- Optimum value for money, maximising the benefits of goods and services purchased by partners;
- Stimulation of innovation in the market, bringing employment and training opportunities;
- Promotion of diversity in the supply chain: support and capacity-building for small businesses and the Voluntary and Community Sector in making their contribution as suppliers of goods and services;
- Encouraging participation by deprived communities, better access to services, improved service delivery;
- Minimising environmental impacts and achieving reductions in greenhouse gas emissions.

3 Recommendation/decisions

To endorse sustainable procurement compact to enable be-birmingham partners to formally sign at launch on 12 March 2008