

The Concordat Between the Scottish Government and Local Government

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Why have the Concordat ?

- It will deliver benefits for the people of Scotland
- Supports the Scottish Government in delivering its purpose, strategic objectives and national outcomes
- Empowers local government and their partners to deliver on local priorities

A New Relationship

- A relationship based on trust – partners in the governance of Scotland
- Scottish Government leads on over-arching outcomes, and stands back from micro-managing service delivery
- Local Government and its partners are free to meet local needs and priorities, and will be subject to less bureaucracy
- Huge culture change for all

Key aspects of the Concordat

- A commitment to no structural change
- An agreement to deliver a specified set of “Concordat” commitments
- A commitment to work together to develop policy
- A 3 year funding package with a significant reduction in ring fencing

Key aspects of the Concordat

- Retention of efficiency savings
- Single Outcome Agreements – based on a common framework for national and local outcomes
- Streamlined reporting arrangements
- A proportionate external scrutiny regime

Key Role for Community Planning Partnerships

- Almost all outcomes require effective partnership working
- SOAs will develop over time to fully involve CPPs, communities and the private and third sectors,
- Initial SOAs will have varying degrees of CP involvement
- All 2008 SOAs will have a plan to have CP partners fully engaged by April 2009
- Concordat recognises that eventually all SOAs should be with CPPs

Oversight Agreements

- One group to oversee the process towards the implementation of the single outcome agreements
- Second group with a more over-arching role to oversee the process of managing the new arrangements
- Plus a joint task group to strengthen the relationship with the Third Sector
- Also regular political meetings with Cabinet Secretaries and an annual meeting with First

What does a Single Outcome Agreement look like?

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Purpose and Scope of the Agreement

- The SOA is set in the context of the Concordat - a new relationship based on mutual respect and partnership
- It confirms that it potentially covers all public services delivered locally including by private/third sectors

It confirms the purpose of SOAs is to identify areas of improvement, and

- Expresses a joint commitment to deliver the agreed outcomes

A Developmental Process

- The initial Agreement explains the process for the ongoing development of the SOA over the next 2 years
- Huge capacity issues for all involved
- It explains the arrangement for ensuring that community planning partners are fully engaged during 2008/09
- It describes how the evidence base for profiling the local area, prioritising outcomes and monitoring progress will be developed, and
- Outlines the arrangements for enhancing community involvement in future iterations of the SOA

Local Context for the National Outcomes

- All 15 Outcomes in the National Performance Framework will have been considered in developing the SOA in terms of their priority locally
- The prioritisation of outcomes is based on an analysis of past performance and an assessment of local needs and circumstances
- The evidence base for the first draft is largely drawn on existing corporate, service and community planning commitments

Outcomes and Commitments

- For each of the national outcomes prioritised the SOA sets out the improvements sought by 2011 and the indicators which will track performance.
- These improved outcomes form the proposal for the Agreement between Scottish Government, the Council and the Community Planning Partners.
- All 32 initial Agreements which have now been signed off also identify the specific commitments made by all parties to help achieve these improved outcomes, and
- Finally the Agreements outline the risk assumptions underpinning the delivery of these commitments

Performance Management and Reporting

- The SOA summarises the performance management arrangements which will underpin the delivery of the improved outcomes
- The self-assessment and performance review processes that will be in place to support the SOA Partners.
- The nationally agreed arrangements for addressing the causes of failing to deliver the agreed outcomes and resolving disputes
- Provide for a single performance reporting framework