



SOUTH BELFAST  
PARTNERSHIP BOARD

Social Clauses Consultation  
Business Research & Development  
Development Dept.  
Cecil Ward Building  
4-10 Linenhall St  
Belfast. BT2 8BP

13 February 2015

Dear Sir/Madam

**Re: Policy on the use of Social Clauses in Council Contracts - Belfast City Council Equality Screening Document**

Thank you for providing the Partnership Board and South Belfast Economic Forum with an opportunity to provide comment on the above named policy. It is extremely pleasing to see the Council open up their social clauses in procurement contracts to public consultation. I hope that you will find the attached comments helpful. If you require clarification on any of the points raised please do not hesitate to contact us.

Yours sincerely

Briege Arthurs  
Chief Executive

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## COMMENT

- 1) *Vacancies* to be sent out; including those within the subcontractors supply chain should be sent to community organisations within the surrounding catchment area.
- 2) The Council should ensure that there is openness and clarity throughout the procurement process.
- 3) Opportunities should be created for the third sector organisations to enable them to enter the supply chain or at least to provide added value by linking local services to local needs. The Council could assist potential contractors by sign posting the voluntary organisations that could assist them with their clauses.
- 4) Contracts relating to goods, facilities and services would normally have a social clause if they were over £30,000 in value. Multiple contracts may also be provided by the same contractor and these should be looked at in their totality.
- 5) Hold engagement events across the business community to raise awareness about procurement opportunities and to give non-traditional contractors support and guidance on the procurement process.
- 6) Actively involve service users, at an early stage in the design, delivery and evaluation of services.
- 7) Monitor compliance with social clauses as an aspect of general contract management. Create penalties for non compliance.
- 8) Improve access to procurement opportunities.
- 9) Debrief unsuccessful bidders.
- 10) Comply with equal pay for work of equal value, and promote gender equality.
- 11) Address discrimination on other grounds such as age, disability, race, religion and sexual orientation.
  - 12) Definition of long term unemployed could be changed to those unemployed/economically inactive for a minimum of 6 months.
  - 13) Permanent employment would count towards employment weeks.
  - 14) The Council needs to ensure that job opportunities are adequately communicated to disadvantaged and underrepresented groups so that they are positively encouraged to apply. Furthermore they could ring fence vacancies for some of these identified groups.
  - 15) The Council could provide written examples of social clauses which would be similar to those as laid out in the SIB toolkit.