

## Expression of Interest (EOI)

# “Together for Communities”

### About “Together for Communities”

Key “community anchor” organisations and social housing providers are invited to demonstrate the value of the existing or emerging partnerships that they have built or may be building. Designed as an important element of the Communitybuilders programme, the opportunity exists for the partners to develop or extend a programme of joint activity that will contribute to the achievement of strong and sustainable communities. Communitybuilders support for the “Together for Communities” programme will run until March 2011.

### Here’s where the idea for “Together for Communities” came from.....

*“Community anchors are independent multi-purpose community organisations through which a local community can achieve long-term positive transformation. Social housing organisations usually operate beyond a single community but nevertheless have a keen interest in achieving long-term community regeneration.*

*It is now time, we believe, to take this a step further. We suggest a concerted programme to promote ways in which housing organisations with their financial and professional resources can provide practical assistance and development support to independent local community anchors working in distinct neighbourhoods, and where community anchors can engage in programmes of work which help housing organisations achieve their regeneration goals and therefore improve the lives of their tenants in these neighbourhoods.”*

*Development Trusts Association: December 2007*

**Hact is looking to work with a number of these neighbourhood partnerships between community anchors and housing organisations to identify how these can be strengthened and developed.**

## **If you are interested in bidding to “Together for Communities” this is an indication of the information that you will be asked to provide...**

- A brief description of your partnership – why and how it was established, any achievements so far and any supporting documents – maybe a Partnership Action Plan
- Any material drawn from internal progress reports if you have any, so you can identify learning points from past experience
- Evidence of yours being an emerging partnership that is presently in the development phase but knows where it wants to go
- A background on how the community anchor came into being including a description of how local initiative, energy and enthusiasm has been harnessed to further its development
- A brief description of the partnership’s geographical area with reference to the social and economic factors that impact on your work
- A calculation of the extent to which the housing organisation partner has already invested in the partnership

Hact recognises that partnerships won’t cover all these points. Some are well developed, others still emerging. But the details will provide a picture of each partnership, and allow us to make a balanced assessment of each application to the programme. Hact will look to support a mix of different types of partnerships in a variety of settings.

You will have the opportunity to describe past and existing achievements. Or you can outline achievable plans for partnerships that are just emerging. We recognise that in the case of both the housing organisations and the “community anchors” that the ownership of assets may be an important aspect in demonstrating the sustainability of the partnership. But we are also interested in partnerships where the “community anchor” may, as yet, have few or no physical assets but can demonstrate a degree of social assets through the significant support it achieves from residents who are seeking to transform their neighbourhoods.

## **How many existing or emerging partnerships will be chosen and what’s in it for the partners themselves?**

Hact and Communitybuilders intend to select a minimum of ten “Together for Communities” partnerships involving a “community anchor” and a social housing organisation. We recognise that putting a partnership together or developing existing work further may entail a cost. So Communitybuilders will make a grant of up to £30,000 to each of the selected “community anchors” to help you negotiate, develop or sustain your activities. This would be in addition to any other development, feasibility or investment programme that Communitybuilders might approve.

Hact will also look to select a further ten “Together for Communities” partnerships that may not be approaching Communitybuilders. Although no direct grant aid will be available to this group, they will be able to take part in the project network, to contribute their experiences and most importantly to share the learning the project will develop.

To achieve this learning, once the minimum of 20 exemplar partnerships have been identified, hact will develop an information network for the chosen “Together for Communities” teams. Hact will also organise a series of “round table” discussions bringing together these housing and community anchor partners to share information and maximise learning. The discussions may also involve a small number of community anchors interested in assessing the potential of joint working with housing organisations. These round table meetings will explore and capture the benefits of the “Together for Communities” programme.

In addition to the network and the programme of events, hact's team of skilled Associates will be available to provide facilitation support and learning to all the partnerships through this period. We can offer a maximum of 2.0 days a month for up to 10 months to offer a mix of community development skills, mentoring capacity and assistance in planning and evaluation.

## What next?

We have decided to ask you for basic information in a structured way, by producing a simple Application Form. So the next step, once you have taken the decision to bid for support for your partnership, is to ask hact to email a copy of the Application Form to you (details below). Hact associate, Chris Wadhams (see below) is the contact for further advice and he can be contacted by email or phone.

In the Application Form we'll need to know if you are making a bid for support from the main Communitybuilders programme. For community anchors it will ask you to let us know if you are a member of the Community Alliance (Development Trusts Association, BASSAC or Community Matters), and, if so, what region you are in.

The Application Form will enable you to describe clearly the impact your partnership is having. You can explain the benefit that an additional £30,000 Communitybuilders award would bring to your partnership. We have deliberately left the uses for this funding as wide as possible. So we will ask you just to tell us how you would spend the money, on what and when and the extra benefits this will bring to your partnership. If you might be able to access other funds, including support in kind, you can tell us about this too.

Whilst having a vision of what might be achievable in future is important, the main criteria will be to demonstrate how your partnership will provide a sound and practical foundation for the talents of the residents to blossom and how both partners might support any small voluntary and community groups working in the neighbourhood. Your achieved or anticipated community empowerment outcomes, both for individuals and for voluntary and community organisations, will be an important element in a successful bid to "Together for Communities".

Your completed form should reach hact by 16.00 hours on Monday 15<sup>th</sup> March 2010 at the latest and we anticipate that all the "exemplar" partnerships will be selected by Easter 2010.

**Contact John Coburn at hact for an Application Form**

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Tel: 020 7247 7800  
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**Hact background reports:**  
"An Opportunity Waiting to Happen" and  
"Supporting the First Steps"

plus other information is on  
the hact website: [www.hact.org.uk](http://www.hact.org.uk)

**Communitybuilders:**

The Social Investment Business  
5th Floor  
6 St Andrew Street  
London  
EC4A 3AE  
[www.socialinvestmentbusiness.org](http://www.socialinvestmentbusiness.org)

**Contact Chris Wadhams (hact associate)  
for further advice about the programme**

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