

APPENDIX I

CONCORDAT COMMITMENTS

- 1 Freezing council tax rates in each local authority at 2007-08 levels.
- 2 Making an additional 1000 police officers available in communities. This will be achieved through an investment of £54 million to support additional recruitment of new officers and building capacity at a national level as well as providing support for key retention and redeployment initiatives. This additional funding will be transferred from the local government settlement to the Justice portfolio shortly.
- 3 Introducing the Small Business Bonus Scheme in a phased way from April 2008 pending full implementation in 2010-11. This will be funded by a reduction in the non domestic rate income which authorities will receive and the expected reduction has already been factored into the overall settlement.
- 4 Improving the learning experience for children and young people by improving the fabric of schools and nurseries; developing and delivering *A Curriculum for Excellence*; and, as quickly as is possible, reducing class sizes in P1 to P3 to a maximum of 18 and improving early years provision with access to a teacher for every pre-school child. The provision of additional capital allocation and specific arrangements for local authorities to maintain teacher numbers in the face of falling school rolls will allow significant progress on this policy over the Spending Review period. Taking into account retirals, the capacity of the universities to train new teachers, changing demographic trends, and the different circumstances across authorities including accommodation pressures, it is recognised that the pace of implementation of class size reduction will vary across authorities depending on local circumstances and needs. Local government will be expected to show year on year progress toward delivery of the class size reduction policy.
- 5 Expanding pre-school provision and making substantial progress towards a 50% increase in pre-school entitlement for 3 and 4 year olds. The entitlement to pre-school provision will be maintained at the new level of 475 hours per annum (equivalent to 38 weeks at 12½ hours) in 2008-09 and 2009-10. This will increase to 570 hours per annum (equivalent to 38 weeks at 15 hours) in August 2010.
- 6 Free school meals – Providing nutritious free school meals for all P1 to P3 pupils in the pilot areas until the end of the current academic year (ie up to June 2008). The remainder of 2008-09 will be taken up with evaluation of the trials. In 2009-10, provided the

evaluation of the trials is positive, legislation will be introduced to allow extension of the nutritious free school meals to all pupils in P1 to P3. Assuming the legislation is passed, local authorities will provide free school meals to all P1 to P3 pupils from August 2010.

- 7** Subject to necessary legislation being passed, extending entitlement to free school meals to all primary and secondary pupils of families in receipt of maximum child tax credit and maximum working tax credit from August 2009.
- 8** Vocational education/skills – working in partnership with colleges, local employers and others as appropriate to give more school pupils opportunities to experience vocational learning.
- 9** Kinship care – providing allowances for kinship carers of “looked after children” to treat them on an equivalent basis to foster carers.
- 10** Improving care home quality through care home fees and the quality framework.
- 11** Free personal care – increasing current standard payment levels in line with inflation from April 2008 and allowance for subsequent years (this is not intended to cover any significant adjustments arising from the Sutherland review).
- 12** Carers’ support – progress towards delivering 10,000 extra respite weeks per annum at home and in care homes.