

Summary on a Page: January 2010

Going for Growth: Our Future Prosperity

What is it?

The government has published its strategy for economic recovery and securing sustainable and competitive growth. It follows on from '[New Industry, New Jobs](#)' and links to '[Unleashing Aspiration](#)'.

What does it say?

The government believes that economic growth is needed to secure the recovery and protect from future downturns. Their strategy for this includes encouraging enterprise, investing in knowledge conversion to innovation, valuing and training people, creating appropriate infrastructure to support growth, developing open and competitive markets while recognising the role of government in shaping them, and focussing energies on industrial strengths.




Any implications?

The strategy focuses on the business sector, but emphasises that growth must be 'widely shared' and talks about the importance of 'increasing employment, raising incomes, and supporting an improving quality of life' (p4). These are ambitions shared by the Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS). So what is the impact on the sector, and what might its contribution be?

1. Investment in the confidence, knowledge and skills needed to start and grow new organisations, alongside simplifying the regulatory framework and reducing the costs associated with compliance with regulation will benefit the VCS as well as the business sector
2. Provision of early support to help unemployed people overcome barriers to taking up self employment provides an additional approach for the VCS to use when working with their clients
3. A jobs-rich recovery, where those who have lost work during the downturn can find employment quickly is important. The Young Person's guarantee improves outcomes for young people.
4. Investing in skills is at the heart of the VCS. Where people have appropriate skills to engage in work or volunteering, there are many recognised benefits additional to the income element.
5. In addition, the VCS itself can benefit from workforce development schemes, where they are sufficiently flexible to take into account the particular characteristics of the sector.
6. The creation of a new financial support scheme to encourage undergraduate internships in professions with historically poor access will be open to the VCS.
7. Public procurement reforms including encouraging smaller organisations to bid for contracts, improving information and simplifying administrative requirements are improvements that have long been called for by the VCS.
8. Proposals for the launch of a single public procurement web portal should contribute to easier access to public funds for the sector, as will making the 'winning the Contract' online resource free of charge to small organisations.

The sector needs to position itself strategically in the changing policy landscape, making the most of opportunities offered wherever possible, and maximising its contribution to relevant outcomes.

Key links:

-  Read the full paper '[Going for Growth](#)'
-  Read the '[Skills for Growth](#)' strategy, or COVER's recent [summary of it](#)
-  Visit the '[Building Britain's Future](#)' website