

FUNDING CODE OF PRACTICE - CORE TEXT FOR ALL PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENTS Approved by Executive Committee, December 2011

1 The Fabian Society¹, welcomes and is grateful for financial and other support for its work from external organisations and from individuals. External organisations may include private sector businesses, public enterprises, trade unions, non-governmental organisations and charitable trusts, among others. Forms of support may include sponsorship of publications and events (conferences, seminars, lectures, receptions, etc), funding for research, and financial and other resources provided for other activities.

2 We recognise that those supporting our work have reasons for doing so, and in some cases may be seeking some benefits in return. The Society is a democratically constituted organisation and is accountable to its members. We operate in a political world where our role must be absolutely clear and transparent. These guidelines are therefore intended to set the ground rules for our relationship with funders.

3 The Fabian Society seeks financial and other kinds of support only for work we believe will further our programme and which reflect our concerns. We do not undertake activities at the behest of others simply because they may provide a source of funding.

4 The Society insists on the retention of complete editorial control over its work, and does not allow funders to decide the content either of publications or of conferences, seminars and other events. We will be happy to receive helpful suggestions, but the final editorial decisions always rest with us.² The organisation of Fabian events, publications and other outputs are carried out solely by the Fabian Society staff. Funding partners should therefore always communicate with the relevant staff members responsible for the project, and should not directly contact participants about the project, unless this has been explicitly agreed by the Fabian Society in advance for some specific purpose.

5 The Fabian Society's work frequently involves senior politicians, advisers or senior Labour Party personnel. But this is always for the purpose of furthering political and policy debate. We do not provide access to such figures simply in return for funding. We are not a lobbying organisation.

6 The Fabian Society is an independent think tank and political society whose aim is to advance social democratic politics and promote free debate. We may therefore refuse sponsorship of research, publications or events from sources whose involvement, in the opinion of the Society, may suggest to outside observers that the debate we are promoting has been influenced by particular vested

¹ Including the Young Fabians, Fabian Women's Network and Scottish and Welsh Fabians to whom this code applies.

² The only exception is where the society carries out research consultancy for publication by a third party. In these instances all other aspects of this code will still be followed.

interests. We recognise that financial supporters will usually be involved in the relevant field of work. But their involvement with us should reflect (and be seen to reflect) a concern to promote general debate in that field, rather than their particular interests. Where there may be a perception that a sponsor may restrict or unduly influence the debate, we may seek co-sponsorship from other organisations with counter-balancing interests. The nature of the work, rather than the status of the funder, will also be taken into account (for example funding for a balanced debate will receive less scrutiny than funding for original research when the reality and appearance of impartiality is essential).

7 The Fabian Society does not accept financial or other support from organisations whose activities are judged by the Society's Executive Committee to be unethical or otherwise likely to damage the Society's reputation through association. These include certain arms exporters (such as those exporting arms to regimes which violate human rights and manufacturers of landmines), manufacturers of tobacco and pornography, and companies whose activities in respect of employment, discrimination, the environment, taxation, corruption, intrusions on privacy and consumer protection are regarded as unacceptable (for example bribery, exploitation of low paid workers or vulnerable consumers or wilful harm to the environment). The General Secretary shall decide whether this rule may apply to a specific organisation and when in doubt will seek advice from the society's Finance and General Purposes committee.

8 The Executive Committee of the Fabian Society is ultimately responsible for the interpretation and implementation of this policy. We hope that funders and potential funders of our work will understand the reasons for these guidelines and will work within them in partnership with the Society.