



May 8th, 2023

CommonWealth Development Compact

The CommonWealth Development Compact is a call for municipalities throughout the Commonwealth of Massachusetts to redefine and update planning and development policy to combat economic inequality within real estate development. The below-signed municipalities in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts are committed to fostering a real estate development industry that assures ready access to the economic and social benefits of real estate development to all the people and businesses of the commonwealth. In furtherance of that aspiration, the municipalities have banded together to become initial signatories of the CommonWealth Development Compact. Each signatory to this Compact commits to the Compact’s four key elements for real estate development projects inside their borders.

Each signatory shall:

- 1 For the development or other disposition of municipal-owned properties, use its best efforts to require that a Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Plan shall comprise 25% of the comparative evaluation of each proposal submitted.
- 2 Request that all projects requiring a special permit, variance or other zoning relief, within thresholds to be determined by the individual municipalities, to include a Diversity, Equity DEI Plan Disclosure.
- 3 During discussions with developers and other stakeholders, public officials and city agencies actively promote the City’s interest in diversity, equity, and inclusion by explicitly including DEI-related community benefits in the list of priorities that municipalities expect to be addressed in developers’ proposals.
- 4 Discuss the findings and experiences of implementing these policies and share feedback with the municipalities and Compact Partners.

To launch this initiative, the municipalities will participate in a pilot program of the CommonWealth Development Model, which will include adherence to the Key Elements of the Compact described above. Each municipality, in collaboration with the Compact project team, will collect certain prescribed data on each involved real estate development project and will work with other municipalities and the project team, to assess the effectiveness of the Model, develop best practices from their experience, and help to promote adoption of the Model across the Commonwealth.

Signature
City of Boston



Signature
City of Cambridge



Signature
City of Lynn



Signature
City of Salem



Signature
City of Somerville

