

**COMMITMENT TO AND IMPLEMENTATION OF COMPACT
LEICESTERSHIRE
REPORT OF DEPUTY CHIEF EXECUTIVE (CORPORATE
DIRECTION)**



Hinckley & Bosworth
Borough Council

A Borough to be proud of

WARDS AFFECTED: ALL WARDS

1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- To brief members on Compact Leicestershire
- To seek members endorsement of Compact Leicestershire and approval for sign up to the principles and commitments in Compact Leicestershire

2. RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1. That members agree to support the adoption and implementation of Compact Leicestershire.

3.0. BACKGROUND

- 3.1. Compact as a concept was initially developed at a national level in 1998, with the aim of developing better partnership working between Public Sector organisations and the Voluntary and Community Sector, to enable better service delivery and outcomes for individuals and local communities.
- 3.2. Essentially Compact is an agreement between statutory agencies and the voluntary sector, committing the former to fully engage with the latter in all aspects of partnership working. It is both an agreement and an acknowledgement of the place and role of the voluntary sector, in policy and service development and delivery, ensuring partnership working with the voluntary sector is a key and embedded feature of service planning delivery.
- 3.3. In the context of the national Compact agreement, Hinckley and Bosworth established a local Compact in 2004, (revised in 2007), a written agreement providing a framework for the way in which public sector organisations and the voluntary and community sector, work together. The key partners who signed up to the local Compact were HBBC, PCT, and Voluntary Action Hinckley and Bosworth, on behalf of a range of VCS organisations. The agreement set out the principles for effective working practice in relation to policy development, consultation and engagement, communication and procurement.
- 3.4. Whilst the Compact agreement has resulted in bringing about improvements in relation to the key areas of working practice as detailed in paragraph 3.3. above, i.e. these principles are now embedded within the authority's corporate policy and procedures, overtime further developments have tended to evolve within established key delivery partnerships within Hinckley and Bosworth e.g. Community Safety Partnership, Town Centre Partnership, Health & Wellbeing Partnership, etc. as opposed to collective regular review of the impact of the Compact agreement.
- 3.5. Therefore, Compact Leicestershire seeks to build on the work undertaken through the original Compact agreement, and reflects the revised (December 2010) National

Compact between the Coalition Government and civil society organisations, and forms a framework to support Big Society developments in Leicestershire.

3.6. **Why a Compact for Leicestershire?**

3.7. The VCS by its very nature is large and diverse. VCS organisations have developed in response to the needs of communities and individuals, and have distinct aims, ethos and ways of working. However, differences in approach and delivery between the VCS and the Public Sector can initially make partnership working challenging. Compact Leicestershire will seek to overcome these challenges.

3.8. Compact Leicestershire will raise specific challenges, not least that it aims to develop a whole Leicestershire approach including District and Borough Councils, local health services, the Police, Fire and Rescue and Ambulance Services. The Compact provides an essential guide for anyone who needs to know about the way that the Public Sector, the Voluntary and Community Sector and potentially the Private Sector, should work together in Leicestershire. It recognises shared values, principles and commitments and sets out guidelines for how parties should work together. **Full details of Compact Leicestershire are attached at Appendix 1.**

3.9. Given the intention of Compact Leicestershire, it will be important to show how commitment will be delivered. Here the Compact commits the Public Sector to promote the understanding of Compact principles and undertakings within signatory Public Sector bodies, ensuring a driven corporate commitment throughout. It also commits the Voluntary and Community Sector to promote understanding and compliance throughout signatory VCS organisations.

3.10. Compact Leicestershire lists a number of key outcomes between the Voluntary and Community Sector and the Public Sector which will illustrate if the Compact is working. Outcomes include:

- (I) Increased understanding of the roles, responsibilities and obligations of partners
- (II) Better communication, better consultation processes and procedures
- (III) Increased joint planning and policy initiatives
- (IV) Greater VCS engagement in consultation exercises with regard to efficiency savings, funding arrangements, procedures and subsequent public service delivery.
- (V) Efficient information flow.
- (VI) Better service delivery and value for money.
- (VII) Establishment of Compact Champions in Public Sector and VCS organisations

3.11. To ensure the above outcomes are delivered a Multi-Agency Compact Implementation Group will establish mechanisms to review and monitor the impact of the Compact. An annually reviewed action plan will ensure the Compact remains current and focused, and that delivery supports the words in the Compact document.

3.12. **The shared principles of Compact Leicestershire**

3.13. All signatories of Compact Leicestershire must sign up to a number of shared principles. **These are detailed at Appendix 2**

3.14 **Implications for HBBC**

In undertaking this commitment each Service Area will be responsible for:

- Ensuring the requirements of the Compact agreement are embedded within Service Plans, including the authority's approach to commissioning and procurement of services, and subsequently reviewed and monitored.

-The Strategic and Community Planning Officer will have lead responsibility for ensuring the above is undertaken, including responsibility for the development of an annual report, detailing actions and outcomes to demonstrate our commitment to the delivery of the shared principles. Lead officer responsibility will also include the engagement of other key partner agencies to sign up to Compact Leicestershire.

4.0. **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS (DB)**

There are no financial implications arising directly from this report.

5.0. **LEGAL IMPLICATIONS (AB)**

Although the Compact Leicestershire document is not intended to be legally binding and specifically provides that no party to it should be subject to sanction for a failure to comply with its terms it should be borne in mind that there will be an expectation for the Council to comply with its provisions.

In particular the expectation that voluntary organisations should be given three months notice of any changes to existing contracts, should be considered in all future contract negotiations.

6.0. **CORPORATE PLAN IMPLICATIONS**

The contents of the report relate to and support the following strategic aims:

- Thriving Economy
- Strong and distinctive communities

7.0. **CONSULTATION**

In establishing Compact Leicestershire a comprehensive review and consultation process took place during 2010/11. A representative steering group was set up to support the process at which Hinckley and Bosworth BC was represented, which was followed by a three month broader partner consultation process, to inform guidance and approach.

8. **RISK IMPLICATIONS**

It is the Council's policy to proactively identify and manage significant risks which may prevent delivery of business objectives.

It is not possible to eliminate or manage all risks all of the time and risks will remain which have not been identified. However, it is the officer's opinion based on the information available, that the significant risks associated with this decision/project have been identified, assessed and that controls are in place to manage them effectively.

The following significant risks associated with this report / decisions were identified from this assessment:

Management of significant (Net Red) Risks		
Risk Description	Mitigating actions	Owner

Risk of not fully engaging with the VCS in the development of policy, and development, design and delivery of key services	Commitment to fully engage with the VCS, by signing up to the principles of the Compact Leicestershire agreement	E Grant
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9. **KNOWING YOUR COMMUNITY – EQUALITY AND RURAL IMPLICATIONS**

Through Compact Leicestershire a key principle promoted is that the Public Sector and the VCS acknowledge the importance of promoting equality of opportunity for all people, regardless of race, age, disability, gender, sexuality, religion, ethnic or national origin, marital status or medical condition.

Where there is a proposed new service, change of service, or a new or reviewed policy, an Equality Impact Assessment is required and has been undertaken and can be viewed here: None required.

10. **CORPORATE IMPLICATIONS**

By submitting this report, the report author has taken the following into account:

- Community Safety implications
- Environmental implications
- ICT implications
- Asset Management implications
- Human Resources implications
- Planning Implications
- Voluntary Sector

Background papers: None

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