

10 June 2021**Agenda Item:6**

REPORT OF THE SERVICE DIRECTOR, PLACE AND COMMUNITIES

COMPACT BETWEEN PUBLIC SECTOR BODIES AND THE VOLUNTARY AND COMMUNITY SECTOR IN NOTTINGHAMSHIRE

Purpose of the Report

1. To update the Committee on the development of the Compact between Public Sector Bodies and the Voluntary and Community Sector in Nottinghamshire.
2. To seek approval of the Committee for the adoption of the Compact by the Council.

Information

3. The Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS) across Nottinghamshire has always made a huge contribution to the lives of the people of the County. The Council has a proud tradition of partnership working with, and support to, the sector.
4. The impact of Covid-19 and the response of the VCS to it has highlighted it's critical role. The sector very quickly mobilised to provide support to our most vulnerable residents such as older people, disabled people, those with specific health conditions, the homeless, and those significantly economically disadvantaged.
5. The sector has also been at the heart of the Local Resilience Forum (LRF) humanitarian response, helping it to meet the expectations placed on the partnership by the Government. The development of the Compact has been borne out of this relationship, with the work to develop a compact commissioned by the Humanitarian Action Group (HAG).
6. Building on examples of cross-sector collaboration during the pandemic, the Compact has been developed to provide a framework for partners to work together going forward, to build capacity in local communities in addition to helping to generate wider debate that will shape a stronger future for the VCS across both Nottinghamshire and Nottingham.

About the Compact

7. The Compact was presented to and approved by the HAG partners on 20th April 2021. It asks public sector partners and the VCS to commit to a set of shared values and principles which support the long-term development of effective partnership working. The Compact is attached as **Appendix 1**.
8. The Compact is intended to be an agreement between public sector organisations and the VCS, encouraging partnership working underpinned by trust, respect and collaboration.

Voluntary and community groups are involved in a wide of partnerships with local public services including local authorities, health, the police and fire and rescue services. The way in which local relationships are developed have a strong impact on communities, and the way in which services are delivered.

9. To implement the Compact effectively, partners are each being asked to formally adopt the Compact, and to then ensure that its principles are incorporated within their organisations work. This will support the development and longer-term sustainability of the VCS to help residents and communities effectively.
10. To facilitate more effective partnership working going forward, a 'Working Collaborative' alliance will be developed. The Alliance of partners will aim to better understand how the VSC contributes to, and can leverage its resources towards, an integrated 'systems approach'. It will embed good practice and use community action to address any inequalities affecting our communities, and create the opportunity for innovation across the County.

The State of the Sector

11. To support this approach, last summer the LRF HAG proposed that a VCS State of Sector Report was commissioned. A year on through the pandemic is a good time to revisit the situation and take stock of where the sector is now and where it is headed.
12. Whilst some organisations have thrived, some have not, and it is important to examine whether this has happened because of Covid-19 or due to pre-existing, underlying causes. This can form a basis for a roadmap to recovery for the sector, and identify how partners can support this process.

Other Options Considered

13. That the Compact not be adopted.

Reasons for Recommendations

14. The recommendation makes a commitment to building on good partnership working established during pandemic response with the VCS.

Statutory and Policy Implications

15. This report has been compiled after consideration of implications in respect of crime and disorder, data protection and information governance finance, human resources, human rights, the NHS Constitution (public health services), the public sector equality duty, safeguarding of children and adults at risk, service users, smarter working, sustainability and the environment and where such implications are material they are described below. Appropriate consultation has been undertaken and advice sought on these issues as required.

Financial Implications

16. None

RECOMMENDATION

- 1) That the Committee approves the adoption of the Compact by the Council.

Derek Higton
Service Director, Place and Communities

For any enquiries about this report please contact Mark Walker, Group Manager, Trading Standards and Communities, 0115 977 2173.

Constitutional Comments (LW 07/05/2021)

17. Communities Committee is the appropriate body to consider the content of the report.

Financial Comments (SES 28/04/2021)

18. There are no specific financial implications arising directly from this report.

Background Papers and Published Documents

Except for previously published documents, which will be available elsewhere, the documents listed here will be available for inspection in accordance with Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972.

- None

Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected

- All