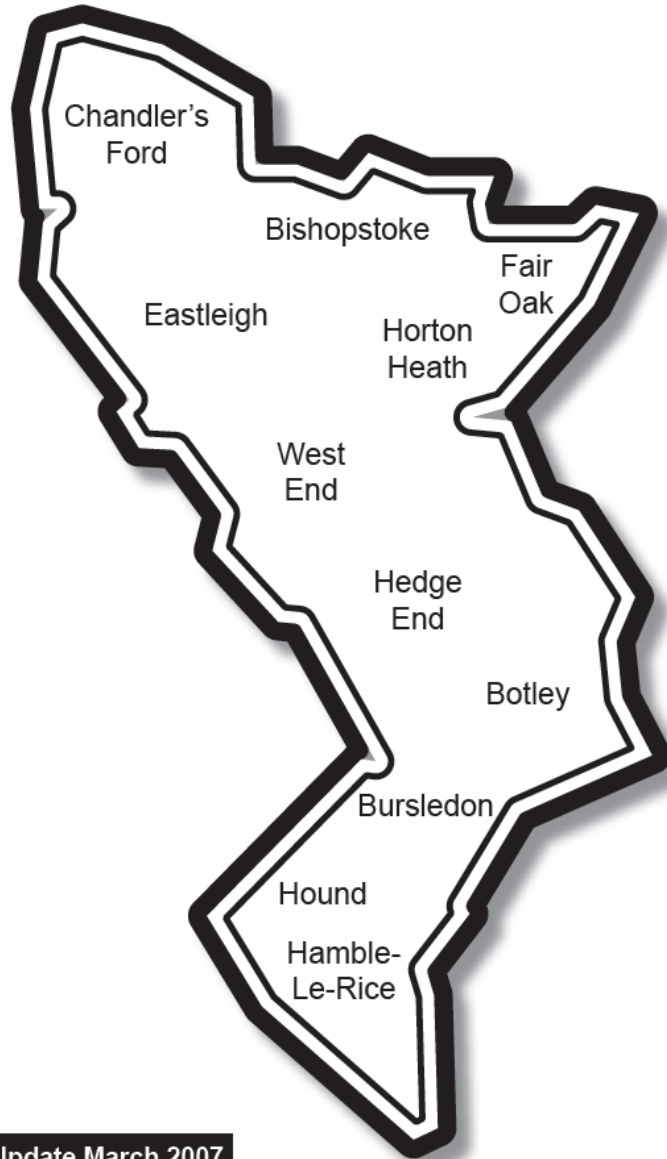


EASTLEIGH COMPACT



Update March 2007

A partnership between Eastleigh Borough Council,
One Community and the Voluntary and Community Sector

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Eastleigh Compact

Forward

Nationally the Government has been keen to encourage Local Authorities to establish Compacts with the voluntary sector. In 1998 the Government published the Compact between the Government and voluntary and community organisations. Since that time the Government has emphasized the importance of Local Authorities working more and more in partnership with the voluntary sector. To underline the importance attached to public and voluntary sectors working together the Government has now required that all Local Authorities have a compact by the end of March 2004.

For the Council, One Community, voluntary and community organisations serving the people of the Borough, the development of a local Compact is an opportunity to build upon the good relations and working arrangements that already exist. The aim of the Eastleigh Borough Compact is to provide a framework for partnership between the Council and the voluntary sector in the Borough.

It is important that the Compact delivers real improvements in the way both sectors work together. This Compact document sets out the framework by which both sectors can work to improve the quality of life of people living and working in the Borough.

Councillor Anne Winstanley
Executive Councillor for Social Policy

Updated March 2007

THE EASTLEIGH COMPACT

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1. What is a Compact?

1.1 A Compact is an agreement between Eastleigh Borough Council and voluntary and community sector organisations. A compact outlines how all parties will work together and would normally outline a framework for working together in the future. It is a mutually agreed document which represents the interests of voluntary and community organisations and the public sector who share a fundamental aim to serve and represent the interests of local people and communities. The compact is not a legal document; it is a public statement of intent. It is a mutual agreement between those organisations who wish to sign up to it.

1.2 The benefits of having a Compact are:

- a. To ensure that resources are used effectively and not wasted
- b. To give consistency in relationships between Eastleigh Borough Council and voluntary and community sector.
- c. To have a framework to allow issues to be resolved in a constructive way
- d. To increase awareness about the role of each sector
- e. To extend the capacity of voluntary and community sector to participate in decision-making processes
- f. To allow the voluntary and community sector better access to resources within the public sector

2. Common Principles

2.1 The following common principles have been agreed to as a basis for the Compact:

- a. The Council and the voluntary and community sector recognises the role each sector plays in improving the quality of life of people living and working in the Borough;
- b. The Council and the voluntary sector are committed to promoting voluntary activity and to value the contributions of individual volunteers across the Borough;
- c. The Council recognises the independence of the voluntary sector and its right to challenge policies and practices of the Council;
- d. The voluntary sector recognises that the Council has certain statutory responsibilities and constraints placed upon it;
- e. Both the Council and the voluntary sector acknowledge the need to be inclusive and that the Compact reflects the needs and aspirations of all people.
- f. The Council recognises that the voluntary sector depends on individuals with limited time and whose top priority has to be their own organisation.

3. Improving Communication

3.1 The Council and the voluntary and community sector are committed to sharing information and communicating effectively with each other.

Key Actions:

- a. In order to increase opportunities for networking and pooling resources information about community and voluntary groups will be made available
- b. To help voluntary and community sector organisations access the Council a guide to “who’s who at the Council” will be produced
- c. A list of key contacts involved in the implementation of the Compact will be produced

4. Funding and Resources

4.1 The Council and the voluntary sector acknowledge that access to adequate funding and resources underlies the effectiveness in meeting the needs of local people.

Funding

Key actions:

The Council will:

- a. allocate resources and funding according to clear and consistent criteria
- b. inform the voluntary sector about its criteria and priorities for funding
- c. be clear about which organisations and services would be eligible for funding through Service Level Agreements and/or through grants
- d. enter into contracts in accordance with the Council’s Standing Orders and adopt best practice in contracting and procurement procedures
- e. acknowledge that it is a sign of good management to have reserves and will accept the Charity Commissions recommendations on what is adequate.
- f. Be consistent and clear in the information it requires from the voluntary and community sector organisations
- g. Make a commitment to support voluntary and community organisations in obtaining funding from other sources

4.2 The voluntary Sector

Funding

- a. Recognises the need for accountability when receiving public money and provide information on how funding has been utilised
- b. Acknowledge that the Council is constrained by the funding it receives from central Government

Resource

- c. Develop and share its resources for the good of the whole community

5. Partnership and Consultation

5.1 The Council and the voluntary and community sector acknowledge that good communication underpins the effectiveness of the Compact but recognises that some matters remain confidential. It also recognises that local statutory organisations and the voluntary and community sector have distinct but complimentary roles.

Key actions:

- a. The Council and the voluntary and community sector are committed to sharing information to ensure that their aims are fully understood by each other and by the public
- b. The Council and the voluntary sector will establish mechanisms for improving communication through the Compact
- c. The voluntary sector will be encouraged to participate as a partner in the Local Strategic Partnership
- d. The Council will seek to develop the capacity of the voluntary and community sector by assisting with expenses and training where required by way of grant payments.

5.2 For the Council:

- a. The Council will clarify to organisations the role of Councillors on the management committees of voluntary groups
- b. The Council will seek to promote partnerships with the voluntary sector, the private sector and statutory organisations
- c. The Council will consult the voluntary sector on issues which may affect them or their users/clients
- d. The Council will produce and follow a code of good practice for use in its consultation process.
- e. The Council will ensure that as part of a consultation exercise it is clear what the parameters are and what can realistically be achieved

- f. The Council will ensure that materials for a consultation are available in accessible formats
- g. The Council will issue a “consultation time-timetable” so that consultations can be planned.

6. Implementation of the Compact

6.1 The Council and the voluntary and community sector acknowledge that for the Compact to be effective the agreed objectives will be regularly reviewed.

Key actions:

In implementing the Compact the first step will be

- a. To develop a range of Codes of Good Practice for working together. Funding, Volunteering, Consultation, Black and Minority Ethnic Groups and Community Groups
- b. A Compact Working Group will be established to implement the Compact and to report back on the progress through reviews and evaluation
- c. To review objectives annually and report back to all compact partners
- d. The Council will nominate a Councillor to be a representative for Compact issues
- e. To ensure that the small voluntary and community groups are included in the development and implementation of the compact
- f. In the event of any disagreement and where no mutually agreed resolution appears possible the matter will be taken to an independent mediator

7. Acknowledgement

The Compact has been produced by the Eastleigh Compact Working Group which is a borough wide group made up from local voluntary and community organisations together with Eastleigh Borough Council.

Appendix 1

Contact Details

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Appendix 2

Eastleigh Compact Working Group Organisations

Eastleigh Borough Council

One Community

Hedge End Retirement Club

Eastleigh Good Neighbours

Bursledon Village Hall

Eastleigh Southern Parishes Older Peoples Forum

Sencit Club

Bishopstoke Community Association

ParentlinePlus

Eastleigh Guides

Monday Club – Age Concern

Eastleigh Drama league

Appendix 3

Compact Glossary of Terms

Organisation	Used to refer to any group of people who come together for a common purpose and have some agreed rules for how they operate together. These rules are usually written in to a governing document, however for some organisations they may be verbal.
Voluntary Organisation	This is an organisation that has certain characteristics: Set up for charitable, social, educational, philanthropic, religious, political or similar purposes Any profit or surplus used only for the organisation's purposes and which are not part of any government department, local or health authority or other statutory body.
Community Organisation	A group that operates at a local level, ranges from small informal community groups to large multi-purpose community organisations. There are some diverse groups that make up the community sector. Including: neighbourhood based groups, those built on a common interest or experience, faith, ethnic origin, refugee and asylum seeker status, arts and crafts, disability or ill health
Voluntary Sector	Described often as the third sector, as it is distinct from the public and private sectors. It is the sector comprising independent not-for-profit organisations, including voluntary and community organisations.
Resources	This term includes the following: equipment, information, skills and knowledge.
Partnerships	A relationship usually involving close cooperation between parties, (in this case organisations) having specified and joint responsibilities. The word responsibilities brings to mind the notion of tasks that each party is accountable for in the relationship.
Codes of good practice	There are 5 Codes of good practice that act as enabling mechanisms to enhance the relationship between government and the voluntary sector. A good practice guide's authority is derived from its endorsement by government and by the sector itself through the consultation process. The 5 codes include: Funding, Volunteering, Community Groups, Black and Ethnic Minority Groups, and Consultation.
Local Strategic Partnership	Representatives of key organisations within a borough or district that work together on borough wide initiatives like the Community Plan and Local Compact. A Local strategic Partnership has a minimum number of permanent members who are committed to working in partnership on an on-going long-term basis.