
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 serving the Borough. Compact outlines how all parties will work together giving a framework for how we can work co-operate in the future. It is a jointly agreed document between representatives of 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:

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

2. Common Principles

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

- 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;
- The Council and the voluntary sector are committed to promoting voluntary activity and to value the contributions of individual volunteers across the Borough;

- The Council recognises the independence of the voluntary sector and its right to challenge policies and practices of the Council;
- The voluntary sector recognises that the Council has certain statutory responsibilities and constraints placed upon it;
- 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 who the sector helps.
- 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 and Consultation

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

Key Principles

- 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
- The Council will seek to promote partnerships with the voluntary sector, the private sector and statutory organisations
- The Council will consult the voluntary sector on issues which may affect them or their users/clients
- The Council will allow adequate time for consultation, the standard would be 12 weeks
- The Council will ensure that as part of a consultation exercise it is clear what the parameters are and what can realistically be achieved
- The Council will ensure that materials for a consultation are available in accessible formats
- The Council will ensure that feedback is given as to the results of all consultations

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.

Key principles

- The voluntary Sector recognises the need for accountability when receiving public money and to provide information on how funding has been utilised
- The voluntary sector will develop and share its resources for the good of all members of the community to which its terms apply
- The Council will inform the voluntary sector about its criteria and priorities for funding
- **The Council will allocate resources and funding according to clear and consistent criteria:**
 - a. being clear about which organisations and services would be eligible for funding through Service Level Agreements and/or through grants
 - b. entering into contracts in accordance with the Council's Standing Orders and adopt best practice in contracting and procurement procedures
 - c. acknowledging that it is a sign of good management to have reserves and will accept the Charity Commissions recommendations on what is adequate.
 - d. being consistent and clear in the information it requires from the voluntary and community sector organisations
 - e. the Council and the voluntary and community sector acknowledge that for the Compact to be effective, the agreed objectives will be regularly reviewed, no less than every two years.

5. Acknowledgements

The Compact has been reviewed by Eastleigh Borough Council in partnership with One Community.

Appendix 1

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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: funds, equipment, accommodation, 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.
