

**Full Executive On 21<sup>st</sup> February 2006**

Report Title: Development and Implementation of Haringey's Compact	
Forward Plan reference number (if applicable): <b>[add reference]</b>	
Report of: Development and Implementation of Haringey's Compact	
Wards(s) affected: <b>All</b>	Report for: <b>Key Decision</b>
<p><b>1. Purpose</b></p> <p>1.1 To present the Compact agreement (<b>see attachment A</b>) to the Executive Board</p> <p>1.2 To request that Executive to endorse the Compact on behalf of Haringey Council</p>	
<p><b>2. Introduction by Executive Member</b></p> <p>2.1 This Council recognises the importance of voluntary sector organisations in delivering local services, building community cohesion and encouraging civic pride throughout our area.</p> <p>2.2 Their work within the community, fostering engagement, driving forward local initiatives and campaigning for local projects is invaluable to our vision of an effective and working society and achieving the Council's objectives</p> <p>2.3 This Council believes that in order to ensure both the Council and the third sector are able to compliment each other to the best of their abilities there must be a clear partnership framework</p> <p>2.4 This report presents the draft Compact for consideration and approval and outlines how the Compact will positively impact on the way that Haringey works in partnership with the Voluntary and Community Sector</p>	
<p><b>3. Recommendations</b></p> <p>3.1 That Executive endorses Haringey's Compact agreement.</p> <p>3.2 That Executive supports the effective implementation of Haringey's Compact within Haringey Council and key partnerships including the Haringey Strategic Partnership.</p> <p>3.3 That the Chief Executive and the Leader of the Council agrees the Compact with other key partners involved in the process including Haringey Association of Voluntary and Community Organisations (HAVCO) Haringey Strategic Partnership and the Teaching Primary Care Trust (TPCT) at the public launch of the Compact scheduled to be held in March 2006.</p>	

3.4	That Compact Link Officers <sup>[1]</sup> are appointed across the Council directorates reporting to the relevant directors involved in partnership working.
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<b>4. Executive Summary</b>	
4.1	This report outlines how the Compact will positively impact on the way that Haringey works in partnership with the Voluntary and Community Sector.
4.2	The Council has been developing Haringey's Compact in partnership with key public agencies and the voluntary, community and faith sector.
4.3	The Compact once in place will be a key partnership tool and a mechanism to strengthen the relationship with the VCS to effectively meet the needs of Haringey's Communities.
<b>5. Reasons for any change in policy or for new policy development (if applicable)</b>	
5.1	N/A
<b>6. Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985</b>	
6.1	Other Local Authorities Compacts; National Compact and codes of good practice; <a href="http://www.thecompact.org.uk">www.thecompact.org.uk</a> <a href="http://www.idea.gov.uk">www.idea.gov.uk</a> Strengthening Partnerships: Next Steps for Compact, A consultation document, March 2005

## 7. Background

- 7.1 Local Compacts follow on from the National Compact between the government and Voluntary, Community and Faith Sector (VCS). A Compact is set of principles and undertakings that provide a framework for partnership and relations between the public sector and the VCS.
- 7.2 The Compact will enhance the Council's community leadership role and will ensure more effective working with partners to deliver the Council's strategic objectives. The Council recognises the importance of voluntary sector organisations in delivering services, building community cohesion and encouraging civic pride throughout Haringey.

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<sup>[1]</sup> Compact link officers have the responsibility for making the Compact known, understood and used within their individual organisation, or through local partnerships, forums and events. Compact Champions have a vital role to play in raising awareness of the Compact in Haringey internally within an organisation and externally.

- 7.3 The Compact will assist Haringey's Local Area Agreements (LAA) which will locally integrate funding and through that services. Strong partnerships are a pre requisite for a functioning agreement.
- 7.4 Based on the Corporate Peer Review Benchmark, which was devised to reflect changes in the new Corporate Performance Assessment, the Compact can make a real contribution to the Council becoming an excellent Council. Therefore the Council needs to be committed to work in partnership with the VCS to compliment each other to the best of their abilities. To enable this there must be a clear partnership that supports the VCS ability to deliver services to the community at the highest level which include:
- Leadership and Governance
  - Customer focus and community engagement
  - Communication and community empowerment
  - Delivering through partnerships
  - Performance management
  - Resource management
- 7.5 The Compact also support this agenda by:
- Ensuring the delivery of more high quality accessible services by using partners' mutual strengths. A valuable strength of the voluntary and community sector is its responsive, flexible and innovative approach to delivering services and the sector often enables access for service users where statutory services cannot.
  - Strengthening and facilitating local dialogue centred on two way communications between the Council and its communities and it provides a mediation mechanism when disputes arise.
  - Securing Community empowerment by increasing representation, and acting as effective advocates for the interests of all the sections of the communities, including under-represented and disenfranchised groups
  - Engaging the VCS in meaningful opportunities for policy and decision making and setting priorities.
  - Delivering sustained added value in defined areas through partnerships.
  - Improving outcomes through effective processes that create clear links between corporate and community objectives.
  - Allowing a greater role for the VCS in the planning, design and development of services.
  - Ensuring the best use of resources, reducing duplication and securing value for money to deliver the Council's strategic objectives.
  - Creating a shared understanding of our partners.
  - Improving the quality of consultation and developing joint working protocols which facilitate and build upon efficient and effective services
  - Promoting effective referrals and providing more choice for Haringey's communities.

## **8. Haringey's draft Compact Development Process**

- 8.1 The Compact is a result of a 20 month development process managed by a multi-agency steering group. Over 300 representatives from statutory, voluntary, community organisations have participated in the process. The process included a 13 week consultation period on the Compact. The Compact document has been reviewed by the Legal Service, and the Communications and Equalities Team to ensure that Haringey Council can confidently sign up to the agreement.

- 8.2 The Compact was presented at the Haringey Strategic Partnership (HSP) on 7th November 2005. The Metropolitan Police, Teaching Primary Care Trust and the Mental Health Trust have in principle endorsed the Compact at an organisational level and through the Haringey Strategic Partnership (HSP) level. The Executive Voluntary Sector Committee has endorsed the process and values the development of Haringey's Compact.
- 8.3 Further engagement and signatories particularly from VCS organisations to the Compact will be forthcoming once Haringey Council, have endorsed their commitment to the agreement.
- 8.4 It is anticipated that a public launch of the Compact will take place at the end of March 2006.

## **9. Taking the Compact agenda forward**

- 9.1 There will be further revisions to the Compact agreement which will include:
- The Compact dispute resolution procedure cannot be used within contract disputes.
  - To our best endeavours wherever possible partners will work towards meeting the commitments of the Compact agreement.
- 9.2 The finalised agreement will be supported by a 3-year Work Plan on how the principles will be implemented. It also outlines the areas identified as objectives and targets within the agreement. Partners to the Compact will be invited to state how they will work towards and achieve the objectives and targets.
- 9.3 The effectiveness of the Compact will be reviewed, monitored and evaluated by a steering group who will report the outcomes annually to the HSP.
- 9.4 The Council as a whole needs to be seen to be delivering the Compact in the spirit of partnership and demonstrating that it is committed to securing a mutually advantageous agreement. Therefore, such involvement needs to be encouraged across other Council departments at all levels.
- 9.5 In order to move this forward it is recommended that Compact Link Officers <sup>[1]</sup> are appointed across the Council directorates involved in partnership working reporting to the relevant director for a time limited period for no longer than 6 months during the implementation period. A timetable will be put in place to support this.
- 9.6 This recommendation is supported by the Executive Voluntary Sector Committee held on the 29<sup>th</sup> November 2004 who resolved that the 'Council be requested to actively support and engage in the development of Haringey's Compact agreeable to the voluntary and community sector and to this end the Executive advisory Board to ensure that all outstanding appointment of Directorate link officers were made'.
- 9.7 To ensure that the Council uses a standardised approach in implementing the Compact will be mainstreamed partnership training courses and officers encouraged to attend any

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other relevant training through the Council or partner agency. Joint Compact and Champion training, workshops and support will be organised by the HCWG.

## **10 Consultation:**

- 10.1 The commitments included within the draft Compact are a reflection of the extensive consultation process. The process that was implemented was flexible to ensure a good level of commitment was achieved and that smaller and the hard to reach agencies were able to participate (i.e. newly emerging organisations), ultimately producing a Compact that works in practice. There has been significant activity both in terms of engagement and communication. An equalities impact assessment has now be done.
- 10.2 To date over 300 representatives from the statutory, voluntary, community and faith sector have actively participated in the Compact development process. The partners that have participated in the process have included:
- Haringey Strategic Partnership
  - Teaching Primary Care Trust (TPCT)
  - Mental Health Trust (MHT)
  - College of North East London (CONEL)
  - Learning Skills Council
  - Fire Brigade
  - Ambulance Service
  - A wide range of voluntary, community and faith groups

## **11. Funding and Resources**

- 11.1 Future funding for the Compact will be contained within the Corporate Voluntary Sector Team budget. Funding is also been sought from partners to develop appropriate engagement tools and to support the successful implementation of Haringey's Compact after it has been launched.

## **12. Summary and Conclusion**

- 12.1 The Executive is asked to support the recommendations and approve Haringey's draft Compact and its implementation for the reasons outlined in this Report

## **13. Recommendations**

- 13.1 With the official consultation ending we are now requesting:  
That Executive endorses Haringey's Compact agreement and support the effective implementation of Haringey's Compact within Haringey Council and key partnerships including the Haringey Strategic Partnership.
- 13.2 That the Chief Executive and/or the Leader of the Council agrees the Compact with other key partners involved in the process including Haringey Association of Voluntary and Community Organisations (HAVCO) Haringey Strategic Partnership and the Teaching Primary Care Trust (TPCT) at the public launch of the Compact scheduled to be held in March 2006.

13.3 That Compact Link Officers<sup>[1]</sup> are appointed across the Council directorates reporting to the relevant directors involved in partnership working. Refer to 10.4

#### **14. Comments of the Director of Finance**

14.1 The largest resource for 2006/07 will be support to voluntary groups around them developing the Compact. Financial support to cover staff and running costs within the voluntary sector HAVCO will be contained within the Voluntary Sector Team, LBH budget. Additional funding is being sought from partners such as TPCT & Police to further support development after implementation.

#### **15. Comments of the Head of Legal Services**

15.1 The Head of Legal Services notes the contents of this report and has no specific comment but should be consulted in relation to any revisions to the Compact agreement and on the individual projects/ initiatives set out in the report.

#### **16. Equalities Implications**

16.1 Traditionally, Haringey's minority ethnic communities are well represented in the use of the services of the Voluntary Sector Unit, including, advice, support and in grant aid and in consultation on the how the Council should and work better with the local voluntary sector.

The Compact is a protocol developed to govern the way the Council and other public sector agencies work together with the local voluntary and community sector organisations and the private sector to improve services to local people.

The compact involves a wide range of local organisations and has specific focus on involving groups from all equalities strands, including:  
Black and Ethnic minority community organisations;  
Women's organisations  
Faith groups  
Organisations representing young people;  
Older People, and  
Disability organisations.

Among the key aims and values of Compact are the promotion of inclusiveness and cohesion in Haringey; sustainability of communities through capacity building; addressing inequality in service provision, and recognition for the role and contribution of local groups in helping to make Haringey a better place to live and work.

The Compact Working Group, which itself is widely representative of the diversity of the borough, has consulted extensively and the equalities issues raise during consultation

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(e.g. remaining issues of representation, for example, the inclusion of domestic violence) have been addressed. The Draft document has broad agreement across the diverse groups in Haringey, and has the concurrence of the Equalities Unit, which has been part of the working group.

Its implementation will be monitored for its effectiveness and for its equalities impact and changes made in light of experience.

## **17. Comment of Head of Social Services**

17.1 Social Services have studied the compact carefully. It would appear to be a model of good practice and mirrors practices already in place within Social Services

## **18. Use of Appendices / Tables / Photographs**

18.1 Draft Haringey's Compact. Please note that this documents needs to go to communications for design.