

Working Together

The Hackney Compact 2015

The Compact agreement between the Council and Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS) commits organisations within the partnership to a set of shared principles aimed at getting the best out of partnership working for the benefit of local people.

The updated compact has been developed jointly between the Council and HCVS to keep it effective in delivering the best for local people. The Compact allows the partnership to;

- deliver better outcomes for local people
- develop shared local priorities in response to needs
- maximise resources, and attract external funding
- work on joint initiatives – exploring how the partnership can work together in new ways to address local concerns, or attract investment into the borough
- be open and transparent within the partnership
- promote good and effective governance

Compact Principles

The Compact brings together organisations across the Council and the Voluntary and Community Sector to make a strategic commitment to working together to benefit local people. The Compact acknowledges the interdependency of partners, and that all who sign up to it have a role to play to understand and respond to the different needs of the community. This compact recognises that good working relations are vital if local people are to have the highest quality services and representation.

In developing the Compact a diverse range of partners have come together to develop ideas of how the partnership will work together, and to do this a set of core principles have been identified which provide the necessary framework to support partnership working.

These principles have been developed under five themes, which capture the aspiration of the partnership to address the challenges facing the borough and improve the lives of the community in Hackney

- the difference we can make
- what we can bring to the borough
- how we work with each other
- effectively managing the assets we have
- the Resources we need to be effective

1. The difference we can make

Working together to make things better for local people

We will use a strong evidence base for identifying needs, share information and set common priorities. This will guide what we do in order to deliver better outcomes for local people, especially for the most vulnerable in Hackney.

Understanding and articulating impact

We will work together to better understand the impact the Voluntary and Community Sector achieve, the difference it makes for the community and the additional resources it brings into Hackney.

Supporting cohesion and community relations

We will work within the partnership to explore how we can contribute to promoting cohesion and good community relations at a time when the borough is changing quickly.

2. What we can bring into the borough

New ways of working

We will explore different ways of working together to maximise the impact of our shared budgets and identify the added contribution of social value. This will include seeking ways we can diversify sources of income and work on joint funding bids, considering mergers or consortia arrangements when they are appropriate and working together to reduce dependency on public sector funding.

Regeneration

We will work together to explore how the community benefits from regeneration programmes and how the Voluntary and Community Sector supports this to build sustainable and cohesive communities.

Philanthropy and local giving

We will explore opportunities available to promote local giving and philanthropy; both money and gifts in kind as well as new investment streams that can support the partnership to better serve communities, especially the most vulnerable.

Business partnership

We will continue to work with local businesses together with the partnership to address issues where business can make a real difference. We will also encourage businesses to engage with the voluntary and community sector to promote opportunities for local people.

3. How we work with each other

Good Governance

We will promote good governance and due diligence across the Council and in the Voluntary and Community Sector by emphasising the importance of complying with legal

requirements and following good practice. We will safeguard the people we serve from avoidable harm or risks and comply and be accountable for meeting the required standards.

Maximising opportunities by maintaining good partnership relations

We will continue to build and maintain a constructive working environment between the Voluntary and Community Sector and the Council with all parties working together towards shared goals and opportunities.

Responsiveness to external influences

We will work flexibly together to enable us to respond effectively to external circumstances.

Principle of Co-production

We will renew our commitment to active citizenship and give opportunities for service users to participate in the design of services, shaping outcomes, resourcing priorities and delivery.

Respecting the independence of Voluntary and Community Sector organisations

We will protect the right of the Voluntary and Community Sector to campaign within the law addressing the root causes of social problems, and campaigning for better services.

Engagement and consultation on key policies and decisions

The Voluntary and Community Sector are often user or volunteer led and so when new policies are introduced which affect the sector we will build sufficient time into the process to allow for real engagement.

4. Effectively working with the assets we have

People based assets

We will recognise that people are our greatest asset and this is reflected in many forms such as local networks and communities of interest.

Volunteering

Volunteers make a very valuable contribution in Hackney, We will consider different ways for supporting volunteering in the future and acknowledge that managing volunteering programmes have actual costs in terms of programme management, brokerage and volunteer support.

Local economic development

We will continue to attract investment into Hackney and work with local businesses and stakeholders to support the local economy and safeguard local wealth where possible through Council procurement.

Making the best use of our buildings

We will maximise and safeguard VCS space across the partnership and explore options for innovative shared use of premises and opening up access to a wider range of users who can deliver community benefits.

5. The resources we need to be effective

Promoting a mix of funding

We will promote a mix of funding, including grants contracts, and other Council investment as the best way to ensure that the sector remains innovative and effective.

Responding to the funding environment

We will work together in the light of budgetary pressures to mitigate impact on services, and ensure the cuts are not disproportionately applied to the sector or to specific communities. Where contracts or funding come to an end earlier than expected we will give up to three month notice to the affected organisation to allow changes to be planned and implemented.

Proportionality

We will be proportionate in setting the requirements for contract and grant processes – the application, evidence, monitoring and reporting requirements and risk assessments will be based on the size of the contract or grant awarded.

Enabling organisations to recover full costs

We will support a discussion around ways that organisations fund their management and overhead costs so that everyone has a better understanding of these costs and how they can be covered.

Transparency

We will make funding arrangements between Hackney Council and the Voluntary and Community Sector consistent and transparent from beginning to end.