

THIS ITEM IS FOR INFORMATION ONLY

Title of meeting:	Resources Portfolio Decision Making Meeting
Subject:	Portsmouth Compact Update Report
Date of meeting:	5 th December 2013
Report by:	Jo York, Head of Integrated Commissioning Unit (Interim)
Wards affected:	All

1. Requested by: Portfolio Holder

2. Purpose

This report is seeking to update the Cabinet Member for Resources on the revision and re-launch of the Portsmouth Compact

3. Background Information

- 3.1 The Compact is the agreement between government and the voluntary and community sector, which sets out key principles and establishes a way of working that improves their relationship for mutual advantage. It considers areas such as involvement in policy design and consultation, funding arrangements (including grants and contracts), promoting equality, ensuring better involvement in service design and delivery, and strengthening independence.
- 3.2 As well as the national Compact, most areas in England (including Portsmouth) also have a local Compact, which interprets the principles set out in the Compact to reflect local need. Signatories can include representation from councils, healthcare organisations, social care organisations, police, fire, and housing, amongst others.
- 3.3 Local Compacts have become an established feature of local partnership working in most parts of England. In the 2013 Compact Voice survey of local Compacts, 89% of respondents agreed that 'the Compact is important and effort needs to be made to implement it in full'. Local Compacts can work anywhere and where they do, they are highly valued by all.

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- 3.4 The Portsmouth Compact was originally launched in 2004; a multi-agency Compact working group, which included representatives from both the voluntary and public sectors, met regularly to promote and ensure implementation of the Compact

4 Current Situation

- 4.1 In 2010 the Portsmouth Compact was incorporated into a wider document, the Portsmouth Voluntary and Community Sector Framework. It built upon the foundation of the Portsmouth Compact, which was encompassed in the framework. Key partners included:

- Community First For Portsmouth
- LSP's Community Involvement Partnership Board
- The Third Sector Leadership group
- Portsmouth Third Sector Development Consortium
- Community Network
- Compact Review group
- Portsmouth City Council

The framework was published in 2010 and since then there have been a number of changes within the voluntary and community sector in Portsmouth, with some organisations no longer in existence.

- 4.2 A new infrastructure provider for the city, Community Action in Portsmouth, (CAiP) was appointed and started delivery in July 2012. A key action in their contract is "*the implementation of the VCS Framework including the Compact*" and this is monitored and discussed at regular partnership and contract meetings. Following the 2013 Peer Challenge a recommendation was to "*Revisit the compact and use this process to establish rules of engagement both strategically and tactically*" with the measure of success being "*New compact in place.*"
- 4.3 A working group, comprising representatives of the voluntary and community sector and Portsmouth City Council have now looked closely at the current Compact. Having done this no major changes to the content/principles of the current Compact are considered to be necessary. What is proposed is:
- Having the Compact as a stand-alone document (it is currently part of the Voluntary and Community Sector Framework)
 - Re-branding
 - Updating links and contact details
 - Including a section on the Social Value Act which has been introduced since the last Compact revisions
 - Including a (disputes) resolution flowchart
 - Promotion of Commissioning Plans
- 4.4 It was agreed by the working group that a key action is to raise awareness of the Compact, and to encourage both voluntary and statutory sectors to use the processes. VCS organisations will be encouraged to sign up to the revised Compact on an individual basis, rather than CAiP signing on behalf of the whole sector. It is felt that if organisations sign up individually they will have more "ownership" and better understanding.

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4.4 The ownership of the revised Portsmouth Compact sits with Portsmouth Voluntary and Community Sector Network (facilitated by CAiP). The Voluntary Sector Team leads on the Compact on behalf of PCC.

5 Proposals

5.1 It is proposed to circulate the revised document to VCS contacts and to PCC colleagues and members by the end of November 2013. Both PCC and CAiP will circulate the document and people/organisations can respond to either CAiP or PCC. We are currently in discussion with the Community Engagement Team about the best ways to use the Consultation process to do this. Suggestions/revisions will be considered by a small working group comprising PCC and VCS representatives.

5.2 The revised Portsmouth Compact will be re-launched in the spring of 2014 at the "Festival of Ideas", an event being held to showcase the Voluntary Sector to commissioners in the city. The Compact will be re-branded and sign up will be encouraged from a range of agencies from the voluntary and statutory sectors.

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Signed by (Head of Service)

Appendices:

Background list of documents: Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972

The following documents disclose facts or matters, which have been relied upon to a material extent by the author in preparing this report:

Title of document	Location