



SPECIAL COUNCIL – 24TH MAY 2012

SUBJECT: A COMPACT FOR CHANGE BETWEEN THE WELSH GOVERNMENT AND THE WELSH LOCAL GOVERNMENT

REPORT BY: DEPUTY CHIEF EXECUTIVE

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To introduce the Compact (attached Appendix 1) for Council to consider.

2. SUMMARY

- 2.1 The Compact represents a key point of the Welsh Government's Change Agenda. The Compact provides a mechanism for the Welsh Government and Local Government to deliver change over the lifetime of the current Assembly Term.
- 2.2 The Compact's ultimate goal is to seek to improve performance efficiency and outcomes for the people of Wales.

3. LINKS TO STRATEGY

- 3.1 The Compact, supported through collaborative endeavour with the WLGA, was drafted following the Simpson Review Local Regional National: What services are Delivered Where?; The Vivian Thomas Report The Structure of Education Services in Wales and Sustainable Social Services for Wales – A Framework for Action.
- 3.2 The Simpson Report made 21 recommendations, one of which was to develop a Compact detailing the development of collaborative and national service delivery agreed by the Welsh Government and the WLGA.

4. THE REPORT

- 4.1 The Compact (see Appendix 1) is "based on the development of voluntary collaborations between Councils" and contains an implementation programme that sets out a number of service areas in which Local Authorities are expected to work more collaboratively at a regional and national level. These service areas, grouped together in the form of 3 implementation contracts include:
- Education Services
 - Social Services
 - Recommendations of the Simpson Report (not already covered by Education and Social Services Contracts).

- 4.2 Members will have already received and supported significant work in this area i.e.
- 4.2.1 Education Services – Council have endorsed Caerphilly County Borough Council’s involvement with the Integrated Achievement Service, a partnership for improving Education Services with Torfaen; Newport; Monmouth and Blaenau Gwent Councils.
- 4.2.2 Social Services - Council have fully endorsed the development of a fully integrated Social Services model with Blaenau Gwent.
- 4.2.3 Other – A collaborative arrangement for Procurement Services with Merthyr Council is fully underway as is the development of an integrated ICT “Cloud Computing” service with Newport City Council.
- 4.2.4 Caerphilly is engaged in a £1bn collaborative procurement around waste management “Project Gwyrdd” with Cardiff; Newport; Monmouth and Merthyr Councils.
- 4.3 The Compact states that the Welsh Government established collaborative footprint for Public Services provides clarity around regional areas based on the Local Health Board and Police Authority Boundaries to provide a stable and coherent framework that supports collaborative relationships. It is important to note that collaborative working within Caerphilly, as demonstrated above, is not limited to the regional boundary identified.

5. EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 This report introduces the Compact for Council to consider and there are no negative Equality implications.
- 5.2 Each work stream, as they are developed, will each be equality impact assessed.

6. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 There is an expectation by working more collaboratively and efficiently, savings will follow.
- 6.2 Clearly, this will need to be tested as individual programmes are designed and delivered. For example, the Project Gwyrdd Programme is predicated on future cost avoidance rather than savings, whereas the Medium Term Plan reflects an expectation in 2014/15 of £300 k annual savings through delivering the Social Services integration with Blaenau Gwent.

7. PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 Clearly, as collaborative work is developed, there are likely to be implications for staff, including possible TUPE transfers; redeployment etc.
- 7.2 The paper sets out the principle framework of the work, the detail will need to be considered by Councils on a case-by-case basis as proposals are brought forward.

8. CONSULTATIONS

- 8.1 The Compact has been consulted upon with the WLGA and the Welsh Government. The report is now being considered by all 22 Welsh Local Authorities, with the majority already having been approved.

9. RECOMMENDATIONS

9.1 That Council consider and adopt the Compact.

10. REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDATIONS

10.1 To seek Council approval in supporting the Compact for Change.

11. STATUTORY POWER

11.1 Local Government Acts 1972 and 2000.

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Appendices:
Appendix 1 Compact for Change Document