



VOLUNTARY SECTOR LIAISON COMMITTEE - 2ND DECEMBER 2015

SUBJECT: REVIEW OF COMPACT AGREEMENT AND ANNUAL COMPACT ACTION PLAN

REPORT BY: ACTING DIRECTOR CORPORATE SERVICES

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1 The purpose of this report is to:

- a) suggest a process for reviewing the Compact Agreement, and Annual Compact Action Plan;
- b) provide an opportunity for a discussion on the new policy directions ushered under the Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 and implications for ways of working; and
- c) seek nominations to sit on the Compact Review task and finish group to be convened by the Policy Unit.

2. SUMMARY

2.1 The Compact is an agreement between organisations and the Voluntary Sector in the Caerphilly County Borough. The Compact recognises the mutual benefits that can be gained from close co-operation and sets out guidelines for how all parties should work together. The Compact is delivered and monitored through an annual Compact Action Plan, which provides a detailed programme of work for shared activities.

3. LINKS TO STRATEGY

- 3.1 The Voluntary Sector makes an important contribution to public service provision across the Caerphilly County Borough, and plays a key role in the implementation of *Caerphilly Delivers - The Single Integrated Plan 2013-2017*.
- 3.2 The Compact Action Plan is integral for operationalising the strategic, high level document *Delivery Together Compact Agreement 2013-2017* into practical shared work activities by the Compact Partners.

4. THE REPORT

4.1 Compact Agreement Review

4.1.1 The Compact is an agreement between organisations and the Voluntary and Community Sector in the Caerphilly County Borough. The Compact recognises the mutual benefits that can be gained from close co-operation and sets out guidelines for how all parties should work together, and is delivered through an Annual Compact Action Plan, which includes over 70 actions. The Compact was first established in 1999, and is now in its fifth edition - *Delivering Together Compact Agreement 2013-2017*.

- 4.1.2 Every four years the Compact Agreement is reviewed, and it is intended for a comprehensive review to commence in March 2016, convened by the Policy Unit through a task and finish group consisting of GAVO officers, nominated Voluntary Sector Representatives, and a representative from each of the Compact Partners:-
- Gwent Police
 - Gwent Police and Crime Commissioner Office
 - Aneurin Bevan University Health Board
 - South Wales Fire and Rescue Service
 - Caerphilly county borough Community/Town Councils
 - Caerphilly Business Forum.
- 4.1.3 A thorough review of the Compact Agreement will be undertaken ensuring the Agreement closely relates to the Future Generations Act (Wales) Act 2015, which comes into implementation for public sector bodies from April 2016, replacing Local Service Boards with Public Service Boards, and introducing the following 7 wellbeing goals:
1. A more prosperous Wales
 2. A resilient Wales
 3. A healthier Wales
 4. A more equal Wales
 5. A Wales of cohesive communities
 6. A Wales of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh language
 7. A globally responsible Wales.
- 4.1.4 The way these goals are pursued is crucial for fully meeting both the ethos and the requirements of the Act. In tackling the goals the sustainable development principle, is the integrating factor, recognising that the needs of the present are met without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.
- 4.1.5 The Compact Agreement has always been grounded on the principal of community planning, initially through the Caerphilly Borough Community Strategy, now the Single Integrated Plan. The Future Generations Act will be replacing Single Integrated Plans, with Wellbeing Plans, which will provide the future framework for both the Compact Agreement and the Annual Compact Action Plan.
- 4.1.6 Following the May 2016 National Assembly Elections the future direction of Local Government Reorganisation in Wales will become clearer for possible incorporation in the new Compact Agreement. For example, an invitation to become a Compact Partner could be extended to further organisations that CCBC may need to collaborate with.
- 4.1.7 This time, it is suggested the review process, will also look in more detail at what the Voluntary Sector Liaison Committee is aiming to achieve through its annual Compact Action Plan. The current intention of this annual plan is to provide a detailed programme of work for shared activities by the Compact Partners, with progress monitored through the Voluntary Sector Liaison Committee, and an Annual Report produced on the achievements of Compact working. Although subject to consultation every year by Compact Partners and officers contributing information on the activity areas across the Compact Partner organisations, there has been little change to the format of the Compact Action Plan since 2009, with the need now to refresh the Committee's annual work programme, and especially so in the light of the Future Generations (Wales) Act.
- 4.1.8 It is envisaged that a number of meetings of the task and finish group will be needed in undertaking the review and scoping content for the revised Compact Agreement and format for the Annual Compact Action Plans. The meetings will take place between March to July, with the drafting of the revised Compact Agreement and Compact Action Plan by the Policy Unit taking place over the Autumn for consideration, and endorsement by the December 2016 Voluntary Sector Liaison Committee. The revised Compact Agreement will also need to be endorsed by Cabinet, and also by similar structures of ratification in the Compact Partner organisations. A Compact Agreement for 2017-2021 will also be going to Caerphilly Local Service Board for endorsement. The Compact Agreement will be published April 2017.

5. EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 Promoting equalities is a fundamental part of the work of Compact Partners and features prominently in the Compact Agreement, and Annual Compact Action Plan.

6. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 None arising.

7. PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 None arising.

8. CONSULTATIONS

- 8.1 Compact Partners were invited to give comments before the report was considered at the December Voluntary Sector Liaison Committee, with the comments below received:

- **Gwent Police & Crime Commissioner** - the review will also need to consider the impact of cuts on all organisations and each organisations capacity to deliver and attend meetings. There is a need to make meetings meaningful and outcome focussed rather than meeting for the sake of meeting.
- **South Wales Fire and Rescue Service** - the only issue will be the number of meetings required, with the Service covering all 10 Unitary Authorities.
- **GAVO:**
 - It would be helpful to reflect the wider legislative framework that sets the strategic context at the moment in addition to the Wellbeing of Future Generations Act, Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014 and Public Service Reform;
 - The Welsh Government's new Principles for Working with Communities will need to be taken into account - <http://gov.wales/about/cabinet/cabinetstatements/2015/workingcommunities/?lang=en>
 - The Welsh Government is currently drafting guidance likely to advocate a shift in language from local Compacts to local Third Sector Schemes. GAVO sits on the national working group preparing for this new guidance and would be able to advise of the need to reflect any changes locally in the Caerphilly borough. In the same vein, we may wish to consider language of the Voluntary Sector Liaison Committee itself and test whether this fits the new policy framework;
 - Membership may need to be reviewed to reflect new members of Public Service Boards (such as NRW);
 - A discussion on additionality and added value of partnership working would be useful and
 - it would be helpful to scope Third Sector Engagement in the existing Single Integrated Plan and in the transition to Wellbeing Plans.

9. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 9.1 For members to:

1. Comment on the new policy directions and suggested review process for the Compact Agreement, and Annual Compact Action Plan.
2. Nominate representatives to sit on the Compact Review task and finish group to be convened by the Policy Unit.

10. STATUTORY POWER

10.1 Local Government Act 2000.

Author: Jackie Dix, Policy and Research Manager, CCBC
Consultees: Cllr. Carter, Chair of Voluntary Sector Liaison Committee
Bob Cooke, Vice Chair of Voluntary Sector Liaison Committee
Colin Jones, Head of Performance and Property, CCBC
Rob Hartshorn, Head of Public Protection, CCBC
Howard Rees, Programme Manager, CCBC
Martin Featherstone, Chief Executive, GAVO
Emily Forbes, Deputy Chief Executive, GAVO
Alison Palmer, Community Planning Coordinator GAVO/CCBC
John Elliott, Research Officer, CCBC
Maria Chapman, Gwent Police and Crime Commissioner Office
Ian Bartholomew, Nicholas McLain and Andrew O'Keefe Gwent Police
Sam Crane, Aneurin Bevan University Health Board
Donna Crossman, South Wales Fire and Rescue Service
Cllr. Howard Llewellyn, Caerphilly borough Community/Town Councils
Denise Lovering, Caerphilly Business Forum