

**Report to Parliament of the
Eighth Annual Meeting to
Review the Compact on Relations
Between Government and the
Voluntary and Community Sector**

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Report to Parliament of the Eighth Annual Meeting to Review the Compact on Relations Between Government and the Voluntary and Community Sector

Joint Foreword by Sir Christopher Kelly, Chair of Compact Voice, Phil Hope, Minister for the Third Sector, Helen Baker, Interim Commissioner for the Compact, and Sir Simon Milton, Chair of the Local Government Association (LGA)

This year marks the tenth anniversary of the Compact. The Compact was born out of the conviction that the state and the voluntary and community sector achieve much more when working together in partnership to identify and tackle need, inequality and injustice in society. This conviction remains as strong as ever, and the commitment on all sides to the principles of partnership working embedded in the Compact remains equally strong.

Much has been achieved since the Compact was signed in 1998. It is integral to better partnership working and better decision-making and ultimately leads to better outcomes for individuals and stronger communities.

Recent figures from NCVO's 2008 Almanac¹ show that:

- The long-term trend of general charities' expansion continues and that there were 865,000 civil society organisations with a total income of £109 billion in 2005–06.
- The total income of general charities increased by almost 10 per cent in real terms to £31 billion from the previous year, while expenditure increased by almost 15 per cent to just over £29 billion.
- A third of all charities are heavily reliant on income from statutory sources. In 2005–06, income from government was £10.5 billion.

The voluntary and community sector has experienced long-term growth over the last ten years. As we enter the second decade of the Compact, the Government remains committed, investing £6 million over the next three years in the Commission for the Compact under its newly appointed Commissioner, Sir Bert Massie CBE, and nearly £1 million in funding for Compact Voice under its new Chair, Simon Blake.

¹ *The UK Civil Society Almanac 2008*, published by the National Council for Voluntary Organisations (NCVO) in February 2008.

However, the Compact needs to be fully embedded in the way that Public Service Agreements and Local Area Agreements are delivered, and government at all levels – national, regional and local – needs to do more to integrate the Compact principles into daily activity, processes and relationships.

The Joint Compact Action Plan agreed in December 2007 represents a full and challenging programme of work in 2008–09 for the Commission for the Compact, Compact Voice and the Office of the Third Sector. It aims to:

- Increase awareness and understanding of the Compact.
- Promote greater use of the Compact by government and the third sector.
- Evidence the benefits of following Compact principles in order to achieve better outcomes for individuals and local communities.
- Keep the Compact relevant and up to date with changes in the way public services are commissioned, paid for and delivered.
- Preserve the freedom of third sector organisations to act and speak out independently.

Delivery of the Action Plan over the coming year will emphasise our commitment to partnership working, the importance of the Compact and its beneficial impact on the relationship between government and the voluntary and community sector.



PHIL HOPE MP
Minister for the Third Sector



SIR CHRISTOPHER KELLY
Chair of Compact Voice



HELEN BAKER
Interim Commissioner for the Compact



SIR SIMON MILTON
Chairman of the LGA

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Compact on relations between government and the voluntary and community sector (VCS)

Joint Compact Action Plan 2008–09

Summary

This Action Plan was prepared for the Compact Annual Meeting on Thursday 13 December 2007. The purpose of the meeting was to review progress in the last year on the implementation of the Compact, and to discuss and agree this revised plan of action for the coming year.

The plan sets out the priorities for progressing the partnership between government and the voluntary and community sector (and parts of the wider third sector) through the Compact.

Both government (central Government Departments, Government Offices for the Regions, executive agencies, Non-Departmental Public Bodies) and the voluntary and community sector signed up to the Compact in 1998. Subsequently, at local level, public bodies and the sector have committed to Local Compacts. There have also been efforts to involve non-governmental partners from the wider “third sector”, for example social enterprises.

The plan is owned by parties both to the National Compact and to the many Local Compacts throughout England, who regard it as binding in principle. Each partner has responsibility for delivering its commitments. The plan will be laid before Parliament.

It is vital that all parties play a role in the delivery of this Action Plan. Once the plan has been agreed, a detailed implementation plan will be developed, setting out the precise actions which need to be taken. This will be developed during spring 2008, with the implementation plan being published in April. This will also feed into the business planning processes of the quartet of Compact bodies – the Commission for the Compact, Compact Voice and the Cabinet Office (Office of the Third Sector).

The eighth annual review meeting is asked to agree this Joint Compact Action Plan. The Commission for the Compact, Compact Voice and the Office of the Third Sector will work with the Local Government Association (LGA), Communities and Local Government (CLG) and other stakeholders from January to March 2008 to produce a more detailed implementation plan. The implementation plan will include specific tasks, indicators and measures.

Outcome-focused target

1. Stronger relationships and partnerships at national level, to deliver the national Compact.

Action required to achieve target, and lead body

- Champion implementation of Compact principles across government, its agencies and public bodies.
- Prepare and publish thematic reviews and reports on particular areas of implementation in conjunction with representative bodies and Third Sector Liaison Officers.
Lead – Commission for the Compact
- Promoting the Compact with departments across government so that it becomes part of the “ground rules” for their partnerships with the third sector, as part of activity to deliver the national “Thriving Third Sector” Public Service Agreement target.
Lead – Office of the Third Sector
- Programme of development work within the third sector, feeding back third sector perspectives on the Compact to government via Compact Voice and discussions with relevant government representatives.
Lead – Commission for the Compact
- Issue an annual voluntary sector report outlining the experience and key messages from the sector about its relationship with government.
Lead – Compact Voice
- Publish the Baseline Study of the implementation of the Compact by government to date and its impact on relationships between government and the third sector and follow up on its recommendations.
Lead – Commission for the Compact
- Undertake further assessment, following on from the Baseline Study, of the extent to which third sector organisations are observing their commitments under the Compact.
Lead – Commission for the Compact
- Work with inspectors and regulators to influence and inform inspection and regulation regimes to be consistent with Compact principles.
Lead – Commission for the Compact
- Further research as necessary on the use and impact of the Compact at national level.
Lead – Commission for the Compact

Outcome-focused target

2. Stronger relationships and partnerships at local level, supported by Local and Regional Compacts and Compact Action Plans.

Action required to achieve target, and lead body

- Research the impact of the inclusion of the “Thriving Third Sector” and “Increased Formal Volunteering” indicators in Local Area Agreements.
- Ongoing work to ensure that Compact principles are at the heart of new Local Area Agreements and the partnerships which underpin them.
Joint Lead – Commission for the Compact/Office of the Third Sector
- Expand work of Local Compact Voice with front-line organisations, building on links with the Local Government Association and Third Sector Liaison Officers in Communities and Local Government and other stakeholder departments to ensure that better national policy and guidance leads to better local delivery.
Lead – Compact Voice
- Review the distinctive impact of Regional Compacts and the development of Multi-Area Agreements.
Lead – Commission for the Compact
- Contribute to the development of the Comprehensive Area Assessment and ensure that the Compact is reflected in the assessment guidance.
Lead – Commission for the Compact
- Work with the Parliamentary and Health Service and Local Government Ombudsman to consider the relevance of the Compact in cases of alleged maladministration.
Joint Lead – Commission for the Compact/Compact Voice
- Develop joint guidance on the role of the Compact in this process.
Joint Lead – Commission for the Compact/Compact Voice
- Develop a benchmark of good practice, through further work with representative organisations and Third Sector Liaison Officers, in relation to funding, commissioning and procurement approaches, which also clarifies the role of grants and the application of the Compact in competitively neutral funding processes.
Joint Lead – Commission for the Compact/Office of the Third Sector
- Support Government Departments, Agencies, Non-Departmental Public Bodies and local public bodies in implementing the Compact.
- Monitor the extent to which good practice principles are followed when central Government funding is devolved to Non-Departmental Public Bodies, local agencies and consortia.
Joint Lead – Commission for the Compact/Office of the Third Sector

Outcome-focused target	Action required to achieve target, and lead body
<p>2. Stronger relationships and partnerships at local level, supported by Local and Regional Compacts and Compact Action Plans. (continued)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Undertake thematic reviews. <i>Lead – Commission for the Compact</i> • Develop arrangements for recording issues raised by third sector organisations and central and local government to arrive at evidence-based solutions through dialogue and engagement. <i>Lead – Compact Voice</i> • Produce more sophisticated guidance on implementing the Government's commitments to full-cost recovery. <i>Lead – Office of the Third Sector</i> • Review progress on the implementation of the move towards three-year grant funding. <i>Lead – Office of the Third Sector</i> • Gather evidence of how the new public sector commissioning environment relates to the Compact and the impact of this on third sector organisations. <i>Lead – Commission for the Compact</i>
<p>3. Increase understanding of the role of the Compact in promoting equality and community cohesion.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Undertake specific campaigns to promote use of the Compact, and raise awareness of how to use it, in particular within: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Black and Minority Ethnic third sector organisations. – Community groups. – Volunteer-involving organisations. <i>Lead – Commission for the Compact</i> • Examine the Black and Minority Ethnic Organisations' Code for consistency with wider race relations and equalities legislation. <i>Lead – Commission for the Compact</i>

Outcome-focused target	Action required to achieve target, and lead body
<p>4. Strengthen the independence, voice and campaigning work of the third sector.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monitor the extent to which Government Departments, Agencies, Non-Departmental Public Bodies and local public bodies are observing their commitment to respect the right of third sector organisations to campaign. • Undertake a programme of learning and development to address issues identified from this monitoring activity. <i>Joint Lead – Compact Voice/Commission for the Compact</i>
<p>• Explain the Compact’s relevance and campaign to increase the sector’s use of the Compact in situations where independence is challenged.</p>	<p><i>Lead – Compact Voice</i></p>
<p>• Clarify the legal status and scope of the Compact.</p>	<p><i>Joint Lead – Commission for the Compact/Compact Voice</i></p>
<p>• Examine the Codes of the National Compact for consistency and relevance in light of recent legislation and government policy guidance.</p>	<p><i>Lead – Commission for the Compact</i></p>
<p>• Develop “how to use” guidance on the Compact for the third sector once legal status and scope have been clarified.</p>	<p><i>Lead – Commission for the Compact</i></p>
<p>• Examine the potential for greater use of the Compact Mediation Service and other forms of alternative dispute resolution.</p>	<p><i>Lead – Commission for the Compact</i></p>
<p>• Review the Codes of the National Compact for a potential update in 2009.</p>	<p><i>Lead – Commission for the Compact</i></p>

The opportunities and challenges identified at the Eighth Annual Meeting

	Opportunities	Challenges
Phil Hope MP, Minister for the Third Sector	New performance framework and in particular the indicators for an “ <i>environment for a thriving third sector</i> ” and for “ <i>increased regular volunteering</i> ”.	To ensure that the Compact and the Codes reflect the changed landscape.
Ministry of Justice	Recognition of the role of the third sector in innovation and policy development, as well as service delivery.	For probation boards to continue to increase subcontracting to the third and private sectors in the current financial year, in line with the 10 per cent of budget subcontracting target, and to continue to drive subcontracting and a plurality of providers in the future.
Department for Work and Pensions (DWP)	The potential for the third sector to take advantage of larger long-term contracts, with five years being the norm.	To ensure that there is further guidance to smaller providers.
Commission for the Compact	Ensuring the continuing relevance of Local Compacts to new local authority structures.	Greater use of the Compact to realise the benefits of partnership working for communities and citizens.
Communities and Local Government	Collective work on the Department’s new third sector strategy and stakeholder group, and new framework for local partnerships.	To recognise that there will be fundamental changes in relationships and there may be difficulties in transition.
Local government	The role of the third sector as a strategic partner.	To now move from awareness to implementation of the Compact, and develop work on outcome-based commissioning.
Compact Voice	To close the gap between aspiration and delivery: what is wanted and the actual experience of partnership of third sector organisations on the ground.	To embed the Compact in the warp and weft of the way business is done.
Front-line organisations and Local Compacts	To increase and sustain Compact awareness through Compact project officers.	To encourage public bodies to promote adequately resourced Local Compacts.
General comments	To make future Annual Compact Meetings more participatory, including workshops that examine in detail some of the key issues.	To ensure that future Annual Meetings are not London-centric and that the net is cast more widely in terms of representation.

Minutes of the Eighth Annual Meeting to review the Compact on relations between government and the voluntary and community sector (VCS) in England

Date: Thursday 13 December 2007

Venue: Church House, Westminster

Chairs: Meeting jointly chaired by Phil Hope MP, Minister for the Third Sector, and Sir Christopher Kelly, Chair of Compact Voice

Present: See Annex A

1. Introductions, welcome and update on progress

- 1.1 Phil Hope opened the meeting by introducing Sir Christopher Kelly as co-chair and congratulating him on his recent appointment as Chair of the Committee on Standards in Public Life. He thanked him for the important contribution he had made as Chair of Compact Voice.
- 1.2 Phil Hope identified some key developments during the past year, including: the publication of the *Third Sector Review*, and in it a restated commitment to the Compact; the new Public Service Agreements, and in particular the indicators for a thriving third sector and an increase in volunteering; and the publication of the *Partnership in Public Services* action plan.

The landscape has changed significantly in the time since the original publication of the Compact and Codes. Moving into the next decade there is a need to ensure that the Compact and Codes reflect those changes. The Commission for the Compact will take forward this work.

Phil Hope invited the ministers present to take the opportunity to comment from their perspectives.

1.3 Ministry of Justice perspective

The Rt Hon David Hanson MP, Minister of State for Justice, offered the ministry's commitment to the Compact and acknowledged the third sector role not only in service delivery but also in innovation and policy development.

The Ministry of Justice is committed to putting in place three-year funding with partners. They have set up a third sector forum, are establishing an infrastructure fund and have published a third sector strategy for consultation.

In the next three years, the Ministry of Justice will be looking for opportunities to develop the relationship with the third sector. In the current year, probation areas were asked to develop subcontracting plans to achieve contracting out of 10 per cent of their main resource grant to the voluntary and private sectors.

(Note: In *Improving Prison and Probation Services: Public Value Partnerships*, published in 2006, the National Offender Management Service set a target for probation boards to subcontract 10 per cent of their budgets to the private and third sectors by April 2008. During the passage of the Offender Management Act 2007, which opened probation services to competition, with restrictions around core offender management work, the Home Secretary announced that the 10 per cent target would be superseded with a Best Value framework akin to that used in local government. This is envisaged to continue to drive subcontracting, but in a more sustainable fashion than a numerical target. We envisage that this will lead to significant service improvement through partnerships with other providers. Progress against the target has been made. At present, probation areas are subcontracting around 7 per cent of their budgets to the private and third sectors.)

1.4 Department for Work and Pensions perspective

Caroline Flint, Minister of State for Employment and Welfare Reform, offered a perspective from the Department for Work and Pensions.

The department has recently published *Ready for Work: Full Employment in Our Generation*, which attracted a significant response from the third sector. The department has also published a Commissioning Strategy, and there will be a joint event with the Office of the Third Sector examining the third sector's role in the future of welfare to work.

The department is looking at larger, long-term contracts, with five years being the norm, making payment on results and publishing a code of conduct for prime contractors who work with sub-providers, clarifying their role and responsibilities.

One attendee commented that whilst commissioners in the public sector are getting training, there is little available for small providers in the third sector on EU procurement regulations, which may mean that local third sector providers get left behind. Caroline Flint replied that the Department for Work and Pensions is looking at what help it can offer to smaller providers, including events at regional and national level on commissioning issues. Further guidance might be offered in the proposed code of conduct, so that when a large contract is given, smaller organisations understand how they can engage.

2. Perspective of the Commission for the Compact

2.1 Helen Baker gave an overview of the first year of operation at the Commission for the Compact. She thanked John Stoker, Angela Sibson and the interim team for establishing a foundation for the future work of the Commission. The Commission for the Compact is a body with a clear remit and direction.

2.2 Four areas of work undertaken by the Commission for the Compact this year were highlighted:

- The Baseline Review.
- Thematic assessments of the current state of play in relation to specific aspects of the government and third sector relationship.

- Essential ongoing work of influencing policy and guidance.
- Work to help raise the awareness of and use of the Compact.

2.3 Wider progress during the year included:

- Central Government's clear commitment to three-year funding as the norm.
- The engagement of central Government bodies, although concerns remain that NHS local bodies and Non-Departmental Public Bodies are unaware of their obligations under the Compact.
- Progress on rationalising and streamlining reporting requirements around funding.

2.4 The Commission for the Compact identified issues on which it will need to focus in the next year including:

- Moving from grant-based funding to competitive contracting and commissioning.
- Ensuring the continuing relevance of Local Compacts to new local authority structures.
- Campaigning and Voice.

2.5 In the next year the Commission for the Compact will strive to deliver:

- Continuing political commitment at all levels.
- Greater awareness of the Compact across the whole of government and the third sector.
- Greater use of the Compact to realise the benefits of partnership working for communities and citizens.
- Maintenance of the relevance of the Compact – ensuring that it keeps up with changes in legislation and policy.

3. Perspective of central Government – Communities and Local Government

3.1 Baroness Andrews, Parliamentary Under Secretary, Communities and Local Government, responded to Helen Baker by committing Communities and Local Government to the future of the Compact.

3.2 Communities and Local Government has a broad and deep relationship with the third sector. It is broad because the department covers the whole gamut of relationships from local government, housing, planning and liveability – engaging with the third sector at all levels from very large to very small. They also engage deeply, from the large Registered Social Landlords to the very small in the New Deal for Communities.

- 3.3** Communities and Local Government are committed to giving away power beyond local government – promoting an enormous diversity of partnerships within a robust framework and encouraging the third sector to innovate.
- 3.4** The Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 has changed the landscape, and brought new opportunities and challenges for the relationship between the third sector and local government. Opportunities and challenges include: work with strategic partners from the third sector and through Community Anchors; the statutory basis for Local Area Agreements; statutory partnerships with Health organisations; a statutory duty to consult and involve; Councillors Call for Action; Community Assets; the Quirk Review and the Councillors Commission; and statutory guidance.
- 3.5** The reduction of targets in the new performance regime from 1,200 to 198, which include two performance indicators specifically relating to the third sector, and indicators below those targets, will enable the voluntary and community sector to measure how they flourish. Local government now has a three-year settlement, and Communities and Local Government has made it clear that it expects that stability to be passed on to the third sector.
- 3.6** Communities and Local Government has launched a discussion document on principles of representation that sets out the opportunities for third sector organisations to be more effectively represented in Local Strategic Partnerships and thematic groups. Baroness Andrews noted that there would be fundamental changes in relationships and there may be difficulties in transition, but that there is a range of opportunities, including through the department’s new third sector strategy and stakeholder group, Community Anchors, Local Strategic Partnerships and Local Area Agreements, to work collectively.

4. Perspective of local government

- 4.1** Sir Simon Milton, Chair of the Local Government Association (LGA) offered an overview. The LGA identifies the third sector as a key strategic partner in dealing with local issues in priority areas, for example community cohesion and community health and well-being. The LGA encourages and supports local councils to draw on the third sector to achieve better outcomes for communities. The planning, provision and evaluation of services means that the development of an effective and sustainable relationship with the third sector is essential. The LGA is committed to strengthening and improving the relationship between local government and the third sector, and to effective Local Compacts that help to achieve this.
- 4.2** The LGA has jointly published (with Communities and Local Government) a Community Empowerment action plan which includes measures to strengthen local democracy and increase sustainability within the third sector, building on the experience of best practice in local councils.
- 4.3** The LGA welcomes the universal coverage of Local Compacts, with councils showing a strong commitment to Local Compacts as a way to improve

relationships, working practice and local outcomes. Local authorities report that Local Compacts have improved their understanding of the third sector. However, it is important to now move to implementation of the Compact. The best way to do this is to embed Compact principles in Local Area Agreements.

- 4.4** In the past year the LGA has worked with colleagues to make progress on last year's Joint Compact Action Plan. There has been steady progress, but more action is required on the financial relationship at a local level. The LGA would like to see a sound approach to outcome-based commissioning, which promotes sustainability within the sector and encourages appropriate contestability in local markets.
- 4.5** The LGA is working with the Improvement and Development Agency (IDeA) on the development and implementation of the National Programme for Third Sector Commissioning, which will roll out over the next year. The programme will identify gaps in commissioning knowledge and expertise; there will be a hearts and minds campaign focused on the benefits of commissioning from the third sector and the programme will also aim to enhance the bidding capacity of third sector organisations.
- 4.6** The LGA will also be supporting IDeA in building better relationships with the sector through senior-level engagement in the Partnership Improvement Programme.

5. Perspectives of the voluntary and community sector

Perspective of Compact Voice

- 5.1** Sir Christopher Kelly, Chair of Compact Voice, reflected on the impressive list of Compact achievements since 1998. However, some of the optimism present in 1998 has subsided and there is cynicism in the third sector, which experiences a gap between the rhetoric and the reality. Increasingly the Compact is used as a legal instrument and not a statement of how partners should conduct their relationship. The reason for this is the gap between aspiration and delivery: what is wanted and the actual experience of partnership of third sector organisations on the ground.
- 5.2** Sir Christopher Kelly believes the Commission for the Compact is at a watershed. If the Joint Compact Action Plan is delivered, both in spirit and letter, real progress will be made. But tough questions must be asked: What are the real priorities to move this relationship on? Are those at the centre of the relationship doing enough for those at the front line? What can we each do to embed the Compact in the warp and weft of the way business is done?

Perspective of front-line organisations and Local Compacts

- 5.3** Rachel Nussey, from the Haringey Association of Voluntary and Community Organisations, and Stephanie Rowland, from Haringey Council's Monitoring and Project Office, Corporate Voluntary Sector Team, delivered a presentation on the importance of Local Compacts. They stressed the importance of funding Local Compacts and in particular Compact project officers.

- 5.4** A commitment to resourcing is central to the delivery of effective Local Compacts. Compact project officers raise the profile and awareness of, and support the implementation and monitoring of a Compact. Currently there are only 20 Compact project officers working in England's voluntary and community sector.
- 5.5** Haringey Council recognises the importance of a fully resourced Compact and, as a consequence, a fixed budget heading remains, making it easier to allocate funds in subsequent years. *“Securing funding increases the commitment and buy-in to the Compact; as the Compact increases in importance, so the funding continues.”*
- 5.6** A fully resourced Compact has given Haringey the opportunity to increase and sustain Compact awareness and keep the Compact on the agenda; nationally, government and other public bodies have a key role in steering the impetus for adequately resourced Local Compacts.
- 5.7** The speakers stressed the importance of Compact implementation and the key role that government and other public bodies have in promoting adequately resourced Local Compacts. The national agenda must be seen to inform, support and enhance the local agenda – clear and emphatic encouragement is needed to place resourcing at the heart of all Local Compact discussions.

6. Debate

Sir Christopher Kelly invited debate from the floor, focusing on priorities for action.

Sir Jeremy Beecham, Vice Chairman of the LGA and Leader of the LGA Labour Group, made a number of points of process. The event was very London-centric and the net needs to be cast more widely in terms of representation. He called for the previous year's Compact report to Parliament to be circulated at the meeting. Future meetings should be more participatory, including workshops that examine in detail some of the key issues. As in previous years, he raised the issue of the role of scrutiny and the involvement of the third sector at a local level. He suggested that the LGA work with the Commission for the Compact to address this. He noted the need for clarity about the role the third sector will play in Comprehensive Area Assessments, and the fact that this could be supported by third sector involvement in the peer review process of councils by councils. Equally there is scope to develop peer review within the sector.

He also noted the concerns expressed about the presence of too many councillors on the boards of voluntary organisations, but felt this also brought advantages and suggested that the LGA work with the Commission for the Compact to draw up guidance.

Sir Jeremy made a repeat offer to feature the work of the Commission for the Compact or individual projects in *First* magazine.

Other comments included:

- The Learning and Skills Council is conducting a review of Compact compliance across all offices to learn where they are doing well and where they need to improve. They are also working with IDeA to contribute their experience of tendering with the third sector, with a view to learning from and being developed by the programme.
- A call for Primary Care Trusts to be engaged in the Compact and specifically their legal and finance departments.
- The potential for the Compact to apply between third sector organisations, or between two government bodies, for instance in two-tier authorities, to ensure all partners are working to the same principles.
- What work would be done on the impact of the Compact on EU funding? Helen Baker, Commissioner for the Compact, acknowledged that EU funding was an area of considerable difficulty for the voluntary sector, where commissioning and contracting are constrained by formal requirements which are beyond the remit of the Compact.
- A call for a more expansive understanding within Communities and Local Government of community empowerment that recognises the independence and autonomy of communities.
- Disappointment was expressed in the lack of support for Community Empowerment Networks mentioned in the publication document on community empowerment.
- A call for Business Link to extend their support to the private sector's involvement in public service delivery to the third sector. The Rt Hon Stephen Timms MP agreed that Business Link would need to offer support to social enterprises and the third sector.
- The need to examine how devolution was affecting organisations on the ground, where local authorities claim responsibility rests with central Government and central Government Departments claim responsibility rests with the local authority.
- There was a call for expert Compact guidance to be issued immediately to front-line organisations as they could not wait for the clarification of the legal status of the Compact.
- Kevin Brennan MP, Department for Children, Schools and Families, asked if it was time to re-think the 12-week limit for consultation given the changes in technology in the last decade. It was a very different world then – is it necessary and appropriate now?

7. Joint Compact Action Plan for implementation in 2008–09

Phil Hope welcomed the LGA's offer to work with the Commission for the Compact on some of the issues. A more detailed implementation plan will be developed to deliver it, which will take account of the discussion at the meeting. Phil Hope then closed the meeting by calling on the signatories to agree the Joint Compact Action Plan and to begin the process of evaluating and updating the Codes in the next year.

Annex A – Attendance list

Government Ministers

Baroness Andrews OBE, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State, Communities and Local Government

Kevin Brennan MP, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Children, Young People and Families, Department for Children, Schools and Families

Rt Hon Caroline Flint MP, Minister of State for Employment and Welfare Reform, Department for Work and Pensions

Rt Hon David Hanson MP, Minister of State for Justice

Phil Hope MP, Minister for the Third Sector

Rt Hon Stephen Timms MP, Minister of State for Competitiveness, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform

Local Government

Sir Jeremy Beecham, Vice Chairman, LGA, and Leader, LGA Labour Group

Sally Cooke, LGA

Helen Hughes, IDeA

Sir Simon Milton, Chairman, LGA

Cllr Keith Ross, Leader, LGA Independent Group

Voluntary and Community Sector

Paul Baggaley, National Federation of Anglers

Simon Blake, Brook

Mike Blaney, The Scarman Trust

Murphy Brown, Northampton Compact

Andrew Burt, Hertfordshire County Council

Robin Chawner, Fareham Partners' Group

Jeremy Crook, Black Training and Enterprise Group

Martha Cummings, Wolverhampton City Council

Tina Dinch, Universal Beneficent Society

Sophie Eden, Springboard Project

Stuart Etherington, National Council for Voluntary Organisations (NCVO)

Chris Frost, Merton Voluntary Service Council

Lesley Goble, Eastbourne Association for Voluntary Services

Trevor Hazelgrove, Community Action Wessex

Charles Holmes, Nuneaton and Bedworth Council for Voluntary Service

Julie Humphrey, Preston Community Network

Julie Johnson, Bebington Centre for Voluntary Service

Helen Liles, RNID, NHS Confederation's Third Sector Members Forum

Karen Livesey, Bebington Centre for Voluntary Service

Voluntary and Community Sector (continued)

Liz Louch, Ipswich Council for Voluntary Services

Renu Mandal, Ipswich Local Strategic Partnership

Tracey Morel, Northampton Compact

Barbara Musgrave, Surrey Compact

Sue Neville, London Borough of Merton

Rachel Nussey, Haringey Association of Voluntary and Community Organisations

Barbara Parkinson, National Association for Voluntary and Community Action (NAVCA)

Saffi Price, Wolverhampton Voluntary Sector Council

Paul Rideout, East Sussex County Council

Madeline Rose, Manchester City Council

Stephanie Rowlands, Haringey Council

Mike Scott, Hull Community and Voluntary Services

Bryan Teixeira, Naz Project

Hugh Thornbery, National Children's Homes (NCH)

David Tyler, Community Matters

Commission for the Compact

Rob Bailey, Interim Recruitment Consultant

Helen Baker, Interim Commissioner for the Compact

Karen Capps, PA to Chief Executive and the Board

Richard Corden, Interim Chief Executive

David Cutler, Non-Executive Director

Naomi Diamond, Interim Policy Manager

Nick Drew, Policy Adviser

Ruth Etkind, Policy Adviser

Andy Forster, Head of Policy

Issan Ghazni, Interim Policy Manager

Fred Heddell, Non-Executive Director

Sarah Phillips, Interim Policy Manager

Richard Stone, Interim Communications Manager

Tamsila Tauqir, Research Assistant

Angela Taylor, Head of Finance and Resources

Stephanie Vickers, Website and Database Officer

Richard Williams, Policy Adviser

Compact Voice

Carl Allen, Chair of Local Compact Voice

Ingela Andersson, National Compact Advocacy

Paul Barasi, Local Compact Voice Officer

Jess Crocker, Local Compact Advocacy

Compact Voice (continued)

Saskia Daggett, Compact Team Manager
Sir Christopher Kelly, Chair of Compact Voice
Stefan Simanowitz, National Compact Voice Officer

Government Officials

Carol Bristow, HM Revenue and Customs
Simon Broadley, Department for Culture, Media and Sport
Richard Clarke, Home Office
Margaret Coleman, Learning and Skills Council
Mark Davies, Department of Health
Hannah Davis, Department for Culture, Media and Sport
Ian Dodds, Government Office for the North East
Tamara Finkelstein, HM Treasury
Amanda Finlay, Ministry of Justice
Mark Frost, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform
David Hale, Charity Commission
Carolyn Heaney, Department of Health
Marion Kerr, Department for Children Families and Schools
Carl Laughna, Communities and Local Government
Marilyn Lister, Audit Commission
Amanda Little, London Development Agency
Janet Moore, Department for Children, Schools and Families
Maria Nyberg, Office of the Third Sector
Akhil Patel, National Audit Office
Tim Pope, Communities and Local Government
Jonathan Portes, Department for Work and Pensions
Rob Prideaux, National Audit Office
Ellen Reynolds, Crown Prosecution Service
Campbell Robb, Office of the Third Sector
Jill Rutter, Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs
Pat Samuel, Office of the Third Sector
Tracey Sisley, Office of the Third Sector
Major General Matthew Sykes, Ministry of Defence
Derek Tilstone, HM Revenue and Customs
Teresa Vokes, Communities and Local Government

Press

Herpreet Grewal, *Regeneration and Renewal Magazine*
Andy Ricketts, *Third Sector Magazine*
Gemma Ware, *Professional Fundraising Magazine*

Annex B – Commendations for excellence in Compact work

Commendations recognise the rise in innovation and performance through Local Compact implementation and excellence in national Compact work. Over 80 commendations have been awarded since 2004 and the results of the 2007 commendations for excellence in Compact work were announced at the Annual Meeting. Four areas were awarded with a prestigious Gold Commendation.

Category: Compact way of working

- **Department of Health** – For being the first Government Department to work together with the third sector at a strategic policy level through a sounding board and sector representation on the departmental delivery board, with significant sector input into the new third sector strategy.
- **Merton Compact** – For increasing its influence and building Compact assessment and proofing into the early stages of strategy development and within the Local Strategic Partnership thematic partnerships, so Compact breaches can be raised directly with the partnership board. Compact issues are now monitored through targets such as volunteering, and the sector is commissioned to deliver services to meet Local Area Agreement outcomes on worklessness.
- **Surrey Compact and Ian Mackenzie Associates** – For establishing a network of over 80 Compact Champions, who work together using methods such as a dedicated website. Also, for developing and delivering Champions training in partnership with the private sector.
- **Wolverhampton Compact [GOLD]** – For its work to embed the Compact in its Local Strategic Partnership and other partnerships, including the development of a partnership toolkit for the Children and Young People’s Service, joint commissioning of Compact work, and capacity building for groups receiving council funding.

Category: Innovation and impact

- **East Sussex Compact** – For developing a Matrix Game using scenarios to train people from both the voluntary and community sector and public bodies on how to apply their Local Compact Codes to planning and tackling relational issues.
- **Ipswich Local Strategic Partnership and the Compact in Suffolk** – For partnership work which has resulted in the Local Strategic Partnership Manager being hosted and managed by the Ipswich Council for Voluntary Service (CVS), leading to engagement with the voluntary and community sector at the outset, resulting in work to engage the sector in the Local Strategic Partnership and in developing the sustainable community strategy.
- **Kingston upon Hull Compact [GOLD]** – For developing a city-wide volunteering strategy with Hull City Council and the voluntary and community sector, collaborating to manage the city's response to the summer flooding. For aligning Local Compact with Investors in People right across the council. Also, for creating innovative projects to empower young people across Hull and to promote race equality and community cohesion, all building on a strong Compact partnership.

Category: Voice and independence

- **Communities and Local Government (CLG)** – For conducting extensive Compact compliant consultation on a new third sector strategy, incorporating a range of mechanisms for listening and learning from the third sector and involving the sector in developing statutory guidance relating to the Local Government White Paper as well as facilitating a sector working group to develop a discussion paper on principles for stronger third sector representation on Local Strategic Partnerships.
- **Coventry and Warwickshire NHS Partnership Trust and the Warwickshire Primary Care Trust** – For implementing an exemplary Compact-compliant consultation over the future of adult mental health services, with a 14-week consultation period, public and stakeholder meetings and a clear document setting out the issues. This has set a new benchmark in the county.
- **Hertfordshire Compact** – For facilitating voluntary and community sector involvement in setting priorities for Primary Care Trusts through the council's Health Scrutiny Group.
- **Northamptonshire Compact** – For producing a DVD outlining the five Codes of the Compact, and supporting a Black and Minority Ethnic community organisation to use the Compact to access funding, encourage involvement in consultations and get their voice heard. Also, for developing Compact/Local Area Agreement grassroots engagement.

Category: Communicating our Compact

- **Congleton Compact** – For organising a series of local partnership events to showcase the work of the voluntary and community sector across the rural district and to encourage sign up to the Compact.
- **Fareham Compact Partners' Group** – For holding a successful annual meeting with guest speakers and interactive activities involving drama and music. Outcomes included the development of a referral process through the website and a referral group to help the organisations communicate with relevant statutory bodies.
- **Manchester Compact** – For running a series of workshops for Manchester City Council and voluntary and community sector staff, looking at how the Compact is applied to their everyday work, and for producing a booklet containing examples of how applying the Compact has made a difference in Manchester.
- **Preston Community Network** – For running a series of workshops which led to engaging discussions about the future of the Compact and how it could be used more effectively.
- **Wirral Voluntary and Community Sectors' Network** – For holding a flagship Compact Week event at grassroots level, which secured 22 volunteers as Compact Champions to drive Local Compact implementation in the area.

Category: Monitoring and evaluation

- **Government Office for the West Midlands [GOLD]** – For conducting two research projects supporting the self-assessment of 14 Local Compacts across the region, using interviews and focus groups facilitated and supported by Government Office Localities Teams together with a Neighbourhood Renewal Advisor. Also, for developing discussions with the sector around Local Area Agreements and how to engage the sector in contributing to the debate on developing new ones in 2008.

Category: Better funding relationships

- **Harrogate Compact** – For developing a new council funding strategy for the voluntary and community sector through a multi-agency project team, setting up a Community Chest small grants fund and for committing to a Compact-compliant move towards three-year funding agreements.
- **Plymouth City Council [GOLD]** – For its work in developing a commissioning framework for Plymouth Children and Young People's Trust with three-year contracts, full-cost recovery and training for voluntary organisations in tendering for services.

Category: Compact Champions

- **Andrew Burt, Funding and Partnerships Manager, Hertfordshire County Council**
Andrew is one of the heroes of the Local Compact movement on the local government side. He has consistently developed the Hertfordshire Compact, and has contributed to the Local Compact movement by speaking at national events as well as organising the Transforming Local Public Services Together conference in April 2007.
- **Fiona Fleming, Commissioning Manager for Children's Services, Plymouth City Council**
Fiona has been the driving force behind Plymouth's commissioning strategy for Children and Young People's Services. She has helped to modernise current processes by bringing together key people. This has been a major change for Plymouth that has broken down barriers and bureaucracy for the voluntary and community sector.
- **Councillor Elias Mattu, Wolverhampton Compact Champion, and Cabinet Member for Neighbourhoods and Community Safety, Wolverhampton County Council**
Elias is a dedicated supporter of the Compact, undertaking many activities and supporting voluntary and community sector funding and capacity building.
- **Stephanie Rowland, Project and Grants Officer, Haringey Borough Council**
Stephanie has been involved with the Haringey Compact right from the start. Her continuous, enthusiastic and energetic driving of the Local Compact within the council has moved the Compact forward. Working in partnership with the local sector's Compact Officer, she has secured resources and support needed for implementation.

Further information

This publication is available on the Compact website at **www.thecompact.org.uk**

The Annual Meeting papers included a progress report against the Joint Compact Action Plan 2006–08, a progress report entitled *The Compact in the Regions – Making it Real*, highlighting issues for the future, and the 2007 *Annual Sector Report* produced by Compact Voice, which reflects voluntary and community sector perspectives on the Compact.

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