

REPORT TO CABINET

18 September 2019

Subject:	Sandwell Compact and the Voluntary and Community Sector Funding Protocol
Presenting Cabinet Member:	Cllr Maria Crompton Cabinet Member for Safer Communities
Director:	Dr Alison Knight, Executive Director - Neighbourhoods
Contribution towards Vision 2030:	
Key Decision:	Yes
Cabinet Member Approval and Date:	Yes 21/08/2019
Director Approval:	Yes
Reason for Urgency:	Urgency provisions do not apply
Exempt Information Ref:	Exemption provisions do not apply
Ward Councillor (s) Consulted (if applicable):	This is a boroughwide initiative
Scrutiny Consultation Considered?	Scrutiny has not been consulted
Contact Officer(s):	Heather Chinner heather_chinner@sandwell.gov.uk 0121 569 3020

DECISION RECOMMENDATIONS

That Cabinet:

1. approve the 2019 Compact, Funding Code of Practice, Volunteering Code of Practice and Capacity Building Code of Practice (Appendix 1)
2. approve the 2019 Voluntary and Community Sector Funding Protocol (Appendix 2).

1 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 The Third Sector Funding Strategy was last updated in November 2012 and the Sandwell Compact was reviewed in July 2011. It was agreed to update these documents and to take a light touch approach to the review process, working closely with Sandwell Council of Voluntary Organisations (SCVO).
- 1.2 Refreshing the Sandwell Compact and the Funding Protocol enables the council to re-state its support for the voluntary and community sector at a significant point in time, giving a clear message from the new leadership.
- 1.3 Changes have been largely about terminology; for example, the Third Sector Funding Strategy has been re-named the Voluntary and Community Sector Funding Protocol, reflecting more accurately how the sector sees itself. Efforts have been made to make the documents shorter and more readable. There have been no substantive changes to policy.

2 IMPLICATION FOR VISION 2030

- 2.1 A strong relationship between the voluntary and community sector and the council will help to contribute to Vision 2030

3 BACKGROUND AND MAIN CONSIDERATIONS

- 3.1 The Sandwell Compact is an agreement that sets out the principles that govern the relationship between the council and the voluntary and community sector. Sandwell has had a Compact since 1999.
- 3.2 The Voluntary and Community Sector Funding Protocol (formerly known as the Third Sector Funding Strategy) provides an agreed framework within which the council will conduct our funding relationships with voluntary and community organisations.
- 3.3 Benefits of a visible refreshed Compact include:
 - a visible demonstration of the council's continuing commitment to effective, dynamic and productive relationships with voluntary and community partners
 - a channel to discuss and resolve disagreements
 - a way of recognising good practice and challenging practice both in the council and in the voluntary and community sector, where this falls short of Compact standards
 - supports Vision 2030

4 THE CURRENT POSITION

- 4.1 The current Compact was agreed in July 2011 and the Third Sector Funding Strategy was agreed in November 2012.

5 CONSULTATION (CUSTOMERS AND OTHER STAKEHOLDERS)

- 5.1 SCVO have been fully involved in the drafting of the new Compact and Funding Protocol.

6 ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS

- 6.1 Do nothing, in which case the current Compact and Funding Strategy remain in force.

7 STRATEGIC RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 The Compact and the Funding Protocol are policy documents with no direct resource implications.

8 LEGAL AND GOVERNANCE CONSIDERATIONS

- 8.1 The Compact is an agreement between Sandwell's voluntary and community sector and the council, rather than a legally binding document. It sets out the principles that underpin the relationship between us.

9 EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

- 9.1 The Compact includes a commitment from both partners to equality: "All partners will treat their customers, employees and volunteers fairly to ensure that they do not receive less favourable treatment on any grounds, which cannot be shown to be justified".

10 DATA PROTECTION IMPACT ASSESSMENT

- 10.1 There are no data protection implications.

11 CRIME AND DISORDER AND RISK ASSESSMENT

- 11.1 A number of our voluntary and community organisations help to reduce crime and provide support to victims. Examples include: Cranstoun, Black Country Women's Aid, Cedar Counselling, Victim Support Sandwell.

12 SUSTAINABILITY OF PROPOSALS

12.1 A strong relationship with the voluntary and community sector leads to much more sustainable services delivered in the community.

13 HEALTH AND WELLBEING IMPLICATIONS (INCLUDING SOCIAL VALUE)

13.1 Voluntary and community groups deliver a very wide of services that improve the health and well-being of residents. These are listed on [Route2WellBeing](#) and [SandwellFamilyLife](#).

13.2 The social value of a vibrant vcs includes volunteering, leverage of external funding, services delivered by residents for residents.

14 IMPACT ON ANY COUNCIL MANAGED PROPERTY OR LAND

14.1 There is no impact on council managed property or land.

15 CONCLUSIONS AND SUMMARY OF REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDATIONS

15.1 The benefits of a visible refreshed Compact include;

- a visible demonstration of the council's continuing commitment to effective, dynamic and productive relationships with voluntary and community partners
- a channel to discuss and resolve disagreements
- a way of recognising good practice and challenging practice both in the council and in the voluntary and community sector, where this falls short of Compact standards
- supports Vision 2030

16 BACKGROUND PAPERS

16.1 The [Sandwell Compact](#) 2011 and the Third Sector Funding Strategy 2012

17 APPENDICES:

Sandwell Compact, Funding Code of Practice, Volunteering Code of Practice and Capacity Building Code of Practice (appendix 1)

Voluntary and Community Sector Funding Protocol (appendix 2)

Dr Alison Knight
Executive Director - Neighbourhoods