

# **DRAFT**

## **COMPACT BETWEEN STOCKTON RENAISSANCE AND THE VOLUNTARY & COMMUNITY SECTOR**

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### **Forward**

*We welcome this Compact as a guide to how all sectors can work together to improve the lives of the residents of the borough and contribute to Stockton's Sustainable Community Strategy 2008-2021 ambitions.*

*The relationship between Stockton Renaissance, the Local Strategic Partnership for the borough, and the Third Sector has grown over a number of years. The Compact was developed jointly and included consultation with all parties involved.*

*All parties recognise the contribution that the Voluntary and Community Sector makes to the borough of Stockton on Tees.*

*We look forward to working together in the future*

Ken Lupton  
Stockton Renaissance Chair

Stephen Bray  
Catalyst Chair

### **What is a Compact?**

Compact is simply another term for an agreement or contract. This Compact is the agreement between Stockton Renaissance and the Voluntary and Community Sector in Stockton Borough. Organisations from both sectors can sign up to the Compact and in doing so commit themselves to complying to a set of shared principles and joint commitments to achieve acceptable standards of working.

The objective of this Compact is to develop good working relationships, trust and mutual accountability so as to enhance the partnership between Stockton Renaissance and the Voluntary and Community Sector to achieve best value from their work for the benefit of all local people.

Both Stockton Renaissance and the Voluntary & Community sector acknowledge the importance of promoting equality of opportunity for all people, regardless of race, age, disability, gender, sexual orientation or religious belief, and will work together to develop mechanisms, which not only accommodate specialist independent groups, but actively promote the inclusion of such groups.

## **Definitions**

### **What is the Public Sector?**

Public sector organisations operate by statute or law and are regulated by central Government. Organisations that form the public sector include local Councils, the Police, Fire Brigade, Primary Care Trusts, Jobcentre Plus and the Learning and Skills Council.

### **What is the Voluntary and Community Sector/ the third Sector?**

Groups/organisation whose activities are carried out not for profit and which are not public or local authorities. These organisations would normally be formally constituted and may employ professional staff and may use volunteers. A range of autonomous collective activity undertaken by neighbourhoods or communities of interest, to improve life and conditions. Whatever the size or purpose they all have the following characteristics in common –

- They are independent and autonomous
- They exist for public or community benefit
- They are not for individual gain
- They are not allied to a political party
- They are governed by a constitution or set of rules
- They are overseen by unpaid board or committee members
- They are accountable to their members
- They include faith groups/ organisations, Social Enterprises, Credit Unions etc

### **How was the Stockton Renaissance and VCS Compact developed?**

A Compact Working Group was established to refresh the last version of the Compact. The Group used the Local Compact Implementation Workbook guidance as a starting point to ensure all aspects were covered, however in drafting the Compact, the group also ensured it complemented the agreed Regional Compact for the North East.

The draft Compact was presented to the Community Empowerment Network for comments before being submitted to Stockton Renaissance for adoption.

### **Organisations signed up to the Compact**

Stockton Renaissance (Ken Lupton, Renaissance Chair)

Cleveland Police (Superintendent David Brunskill, District Commander)

Cleveland Fire Brigade

North Tees Primary Care Trust

Learning and Skills Council (Val Goodrum, Partnership Director)

Job Centre Plus (Steve Davidson, District Manager)

Catalyst (Stephen Bray, Catalyst Chair)

Stockton Residents and Community Groups Association (Julie Derbyshire, Chief Executive)

Stockton Borough Council (George Garlick, Chief Executive)

Stockton Youth Assembly  
Tees Valley Rural Community Council

**The Shared Principles** that underpin the Compact are listed below: -

1. Voluntary and Community action is an essential component of a democratic society
2. An independent and diverse voluntary and community sector is fundamental to the well being of society and opportunities for all
3. Established mutual respect between all partners
4. All parties recognise and value the independence of the Voluntary and Community Sector and the role it plays i.e. consultees, service deliverers
5. To respect the confidentiality of any information provided by each sector when given access to it
6. Stockton Renaissance and the Voluntary and Community Sector have distinct but complementary roles but both have regard to delivering the Community Cohesion agenda
7. Stockton Renaissance recognises that the Voluntary and Community sector have different forms of accountability and are answerable to a different range of stakeholders. Common to both is the need for integrity, objectivity, accountability, openness, honesty, equality and leadership
8. Stockton Renaissance plays a role, amongst other things, as a funder of some Voluntary and Community organisations. Funding can be an important element of the relationship between Renaissance and the Voluntary and Community Sectors

#### **Undertaking by Stockton Renaissance**

1. To recognise and support the independence of the Voluntary and Community sector and their lawful campaigning and challenging role irrespective of any funding relationship that might exist
2. To pay particular regard to the concept of strategic funding, ensuring the capacity of Voluntary and Community organisations to respond to Government and Renaissance initiatives
3. To make contract opportunities available to the Voluntary and Community organisations and to apply proportional evaluation and monitoring subject to organisations meeting agreed criteria and where applicable, the Stockton Borough Governance Code of Practice. Also

ensure all commissioning of services is in line with the Councils Procurement Principals

4. Stockton on Tees Borough Council, one of the partners of Stockton Renaissance, coordinates the Stockton Borough Governance Code of Practice and is looking to review the procedure with the mandated umbrella organisations
5. Where a policy decision is likely to have a significant effect on the third sector Catalyst must be involved at the earliest opportunity, allowing a minimum of 12 weeks, where possible. Explanations where appropriate to be provided where this minimum cannot be adhered to
6. To encourage full cost recovery principles in preparing project budgets and funding applications
7. Stockton Renaissance to look at longer term funding arrangements for the Voluntary and Community Sector and involve the Sector in any reviews of funding through their mandated umbrella organisations
8. To recognise the infrastructure of the Voluntary and Community sector, Volunteering and, where appropriate, support its development at a national, regional, sub-regional and local level
9. To involve the Voluntary and Community sector in the development of policy and to work with the sector to identify and address likely implications of such policies
10. To acknowledge and utilise the contribution of the Voluntary and Community groups in the furtherance of Stockton Renaissance's strategic developments
11. To recognise and accept the voice of the Voluntary and Community sectors as the voice of their communities of interest
12. To promote effective working relationships, consistency of approach and good practice between national Government, Stockton Renaissance and the Voluntary and Community sector, particularly where cross-organisation and departmental boundaries are concerned
13. To adhere to the principles of open government (which seeks to ensure that whenever possible discussions take place in public and reports, findings and decisions are made public)

**Undertakings by the Voluntary and Community Sector:**

1. To recognise the respective roles of the umbrella organisations particularly the Community Empowerment Network with regard to them obtaining representatives to Renaissance and its sub groups

2. To recognise and support the public sector bodies that sit on Stockton Renaissance in their statutory duties
3. To maintain high standards of governance with due regard to the Councils "Governance – Code of Practice" for the Voluntary and Community Sector. Catalyst and SRCGA will take responsibility for promoting this amongst the sector
4. To respect and be accountable to the law, and in the case of charities observe the appropriate guidance from the Charities Commission, including that on political activities and campaigning
5. Catalyst and SRCGA will take responsibility for the dissemination of information thus enabling voluntary and community groups to participate in wider strategic funding opportunities
6. The Voluntary and Community sectors recognise a responsibility to attract investment and shall endeavour wherever possible to become less reliant on core funding from Stockton-On-Tees Borough Council
7. To ensure that stakeholders are kept informed and consulted, where appropriate, on development proposals and other matters involving Stockton Renaissance and those views are accurately communicated; Catalyst and SRCGA will ensure that such consultation is as wide as possible and where appropriate effective representation of the sector takes place, where appropriate
8. To develop and maintain a democratic structure that will enable representatives to participate in partnerships and subgroups where required
9. To promote effective working relationships with Stockton Renaissance and other agencies and ensure effective networking across the Voluntary and Community sector
10. To involve users, wherever possible, in the development and management of activities and services
11. To put in to place and adhere to policies for promoting best practice and equality of opportunity in all matters related to volunteers and service provision

### **Conflict Resolution**

Whilst Stockton Renaissance has a conflict Resolution within its Terms of Reference the Compact has the following process in place specifically to resolve conflicts on the Compact:

## Appendix 4

- Step one: Conflict notified to the Compact Contact in the respective organisation(s) to resolve
- Step two: If the Compact Contact cannot resolve the issue then the LSP Manager, Stockton Renaissance Chair and the Chair of Catalyst should be notified to resolve the conflict
- Step three: Failing this measure an independent third party will be brought into mediate, as agreed by the Stockton Renaissance Chair and the Chair of Catalyst
- Step four: If still not resolved by these measures then the issue will be reported to the Compact Mediation scheme and the relevant public sector regulatory body

### Taking the Compact Forward

The Compact, as a framework document, is a starting point not a conclusion. Stockton Renaissance and the Voluntary and Community sectors are committed to working together to develop its application and effectiveness

As part of the process of making the Compact work, there will be an annual review of the document. A joint report will be drawn up by the LSP Manager and the Chair of the mandated umbrella organisation and submitted to Renaissance, Catalyst and the CEN. It will also be circulated to Compact contacts and appropriate Voluntary and Community Sector groups, as agreed by the LSP Manager and the Chair of the mandated umbrella organisation.

### Compact Contacts:

Organisation	Name	Number	Email
Stockton Renaissance	Dawn Welsh	01642 526011	<a href="mailto:Dawn.welsh@stockton.gov.uk">Dawn.welsh@stockton.gov.uk</a>
Cleveland Police	Superintendent David Brunskill	01642 302200	<a href="mailto:David.Brunskill@cleveland.pnn.police.uk">David.Brunskill@cleveland.pnn.police.uk</a>
Cleveland Fire Brigade			
North Tees Primary Care Trust			
Learning and Skills Council	Helen Crawford	01642 744522	<a href="mailto:Helen.Crawford@lsc.gov.uk">Helen.Crawford@lsc.gov.uk</a>
Job Centre Plus	Trevor Mortlock	01642 398918	<a href="mailto:trevor.mortlock@jobcentrepplus.gsi.gov.uk">trevor.mortlock@jobcentrepplus.gsi.gov.uk</a>
Catalyst	Paul McGee	01642 614126	<a href="mailto:paul_mcgee@bopenworld.com">paul_mcgee@bopenworld.com</a>
Stockton Residents and Community Groups Association	Kelly Brown	01642 733904	<a href="mailto:kelly.brown@srcga.com">kelly.brown@srcga.com</a>
Stockton Borough Council	Simon Lee	01642 524581	<a href="mailto:Simon.lee@stockton.gov.uk">Simon.lee@stockton.gov.uk</a>

## **Linked Documents**

Stockton Renaissance Terms of Reference  
Sustainable Community Strategy  
Stockton Boroughs Governance Code of Practice  
Single Equality Scheme  
Community Cohesion Strategy

## **Websites**

<http://www.stockton.gov.uk>

<http://www.stockton.gov.uk/renaissance/>

<http://www.srcga.com>



**ACTION PLAN**

<b>ACTION</b>	<b>TIMESCALE</b>	<b>RESPONSIBLE ORGANISATION/ S</b>
Ensure all partners are signed up to the Compact		All
Dissemination of the Compact to partners		
Publicity of the Compact		
Include regular Compact updates in newsletters		
Have a Compact section on local websites		
Ensure the Compact is on the National Register		Stockton Renaissance
Ensure all partners have a Contact for more information or on problems when using the compact		
Agree a Communications Strategy between Renaissance and the Third Sector		
The Voluntary and Community Sector to be involved in Stockton Borough's Governance Code of Practise Reviews		
Annual Review and Equality Impact Assessment Review	October 2008	All

**PERFORMANCE INDICATORS**

<b>Performance Indicator</b>	<b>RESPONSIBLE ORGANISATION</b>
A good awareness of the Compact to be measured by the annual partnership and CEN surveys	
Compact Contacts are in place in all the organisation	
% of agreed local consultations complying with the minimum consultation standards set out in the Compact I	