

STOCKTON-ON-TEES BOROUGH COUNCIL

CABINET RECOMMENDATIONS

PROFORMA

Cabinet Meeting17th March 2011

1. Title of Item/Report

Refresh of Compact between Stockton Renaissance and the Voluntary and Community Sector

2. Record of the Decision

Consideration was given to a report that provided an overview of the draft Compact, developed jointly with Catalyst, which covered the principles under which Stockton Renaissance and the voluntary and community sector (VCS) work together in the Borough. The existing Renaissance Compact (developed 2008) had been refreshed to reflect changes to the Compact with the voluntary and community sector at the national government level.

The main changes from the 2008 Compact were:-

- The document has been streamlined into chapters
- Includes a contact for any Compact compliance issues
- Specific chapter on advancing equality
- Commissioning chapter strengthened

Compacts cover the principles under which both the Local Strategic Partnership and Third Sector operate in their relationship with each other. It can cover a variety of factors including consultation, representation of the Third Sector, commissioning etc. Stockton Renaissance and the Third Sector have had a Compact in place for a number of years which had been refreshed regularly.

The former government undertook a major consultation on their Compact in 2009, which the Council responded to, and launched nationally a new document in December 2009. In light of the new document Stockton Renaissance, its partners and the VCS started the process of refreshing the local Compact document.

Subsequently the new Coalition Government released their own Compact for the Coalition Government and the civil society organisations in December 2010. The proposed draft Compact between Stockton Renaissance and the Voluntary and Community Sector reflected the

changes.

The draft Compact had been developed in collaboration with Catalyst and other public sector partners- the Police, Fire Brigade, Job Centre Plus and Primary Care Trust. Other VCS infrastructure bodies actively involved included Stockton Community Groups and Residents Association and Tees Valley Rural Community Council. The draft had developed and strengthened the old document including commissioning arrangements and a contact for compliance. The Council's Procurement and Diversity teams had been actively involved in drafting the relevant chapters. The draft consultation document was launched at the Catalyst event in September 2010 and closed at the end of December 2010. All comments received had informed the draft document which also reflected the principles within the new government compact.

Areas that the new Compact strengthens in particular were set out in the chapter on advancing equalities and in the chapter on commissioning. Examples of the main commitments were included within the report.

Review programmes and services with relevant VCS organisations to inform future practice.

It was proposed that the Compact would apply to the relationship and activities between Stockton Renaissance Partnership Board and the Voluntary and Community Sector. There would also be an opportunity within the document for public sector organisations to sign up to adhere to the principles in the document within their own organisations; recognising that some may have other arrangements in place. The Council had previously taken the opportunity to sign up to the Compact in this in this way.

The draft Compact would complement the work that was being undertaken around the VCS including the Third Sector Strategy that Catalyst had developed.

It was proposed to take the draft Compact to Stockton Renaissance Partnership Board on 14th June 2011 before a formal launch that month.

RESOLVED that:-

1. The report be received and its content be noted.
2. The draft Compact document between Stockton Renaissance and the voluntary and community sector be agreed.
3. Stockton Council sign up to the Compact and the draft Compact be

adopted.

4. The Compact be presented to Renaissance on 14th June 2011.

3. Reasons for the Decision

To ensure that there is an up to date Compact document in place for Stockton Renaissance and the Voluntary and Community Sector.

4. Alternative Options Considered and Rejected

None

5. Declared (Cabinet Member) Conflicts of Interest

Councillor Mrs McCoy declared a personal non prejudicial interest in the item entitled Refresh of Compact between Stockton Renaissance and the Voluntary and Community Sector as she served on the Stockton and District Advice and Information Service's Board.

6. Details of any Dispensations

Not applicable

7. Date and Time by which Call In must be executed

Midnight on 25 March 2011

Proper Officer
21 March 2011