

# THE CITY TOGETHER COMPACT AGREEMENT

## FOREWORD

On behalf of The City Together – the City’s local strategic partnership – I am delighted to introduce our new Compact.

The City Together (TCT) aims to improve the co-ordination of service delivery in the City of London and ensure that services reflect the needs and aspirations of the City’s diverse communities. The range of Board and Associate Members of TCT reflects the significant contributions of the public, private and third sectors to improving the quality of life in the City.

TCT has developed a strong partnership: the partners to TCT have consistently been able to work together to achieve significant outcomes for the City of London. The ability to work in such a successful way has been due to the open and accountable approach to partnership working that each of the partners brings to TCT.

The Compact helps build on this partnership approach. It is an agreement that will further guide how local public service providers in the City and the third sector work together for mutual benefit and the benefit of our communities within the City. The Compact provides a clear statement of commitments and service standards that set out what we can all expect from another.

The following partners in TCT have jointly developed this Compact: the City’s third sector (voluntary, community and faith organisations, charitable trusts, livery companies and social enterprises based in the City and its fringes) the City of London Corporation, the City of London Police, the City and Hackney Teaching Primary Care Trust, Barts and the London NHS Trust, East London NHS Foundation Trust and City.comm (the City’s Council for Voluntary and Community Service).

The development of the City’s Compact at this time builds on the progress we have made in strengthening the City’s third sector – a key commitment in the City’s Community Strategy ‘A vision for a world class City’. This includes the establishment of City.comm, which provides a support network for voluntary and community groups in the City.

The Compact will further secure the involvement of the third sector in policy planning and service improvement. The Compact will also help bring partners together and establish a clear understanding of how we will engage and work in partnership. It will also provide funding and procurement principles for commissioning - helping to provide focus for delivering services - and will promote better engagement with the City’s voluntary and community groups and the communities they represent.

To this end, we will ensure that the Compact and its Action Plan are effectively implemented, monitored and developed through TCT. In addition,

the headline commitments in the Compact Action Plan will be reflected in the City's revised Sustainable Community Strategy, 2008-2014.

I should like to thank everyone who has been involved in developing the City's Compact and look forward to working with you to achieve our Shared Vision and Principles.

***Michael Snyder***  
***Chairman, The City Together***  
***April 2008***

## INTRODUCTION

### What is a Compact?

A Compact is a voluntary agreement<sup>1</sup> between the statutory public sector organisations and the third sector, which sets out how they will work together in partnership for mutual benefit and the securing of better outcomes for communities. Central Government launched its Compact in 1998 and this has been followed by the development of local Compacts in each local authority area.

The City Together Compact has been developed through a steering group representative of the City of London Corporation and the third sector and, in consultation with all stakeholders. The City Together Board and third sector representatives signed up to the Compact in April 2008.

The City Together Compact has three key parts:

1. This document, our Compact Agreement, which includes
  - A Shared Vision – setting out the improvements that will result from the Compact
  - Shared Principles – guiding how partners to the Compact will work together.
  - Implementation Commitments – a summary of how we will ensure the Compact agreement works, including how it will be implemented, monitored and reviewed.
2. Our Codes of Good Practice<sup>2</sup> which are practical guidelines to support out partnership working in five key areas
  - Commissioning
  - Communication
  - Consultation and engagement
  - Inclusive City
  - Volunteering
3. An Annual Action Plan<sup>2</sup> of key activities, which seek to further build the effectiveness of our partnership working.

### The City of London

The public sector provides services to businesses, residents, workers, visitors and organisations based within the geographical boundaries of the City of London. The City of London Corporation is committed to enhancing the City's

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<sup>1</sup> As a voluntary agreement, The City Together Compact is not legally binding.

<sup>2</sup> If you would like copies of the The City Together Compact Codes of Practice or Action Plan please download copies from (insert website and details for paper copies or further information)

status as the world's leading financial and business centre. Within the 'Square Mile', the Corporation, through the Court of Common Council, acts as both the local authority and police authority and in these roles works with its other strategic partners in 'The City Together'. However whilst the City of London Corporation has responsibility for providing local government services within this location, its responsibilities extend far beyond the City boundaries.

In addition to the usual services provided by a local authority (such as housing, libraries, education, social services, environmental health, refuse collection and town planning), the City of London Corporation performs a number of special functions. These functions involve it in maintaining and providing facilities and services that benefit the whole of London and indeed the nation. These functions are also varied, for example it is a Police Authority, it runs the Guildhall School of Music and Drama and as the Port Authority it is responsible for the whole of the Thames tidal estuary. Many of these services are funded from the City of London Corporation's own investments at no cost to the public.

The third sector within the City of London contains over 300 groups and is also unique. Its voluntary and community groups vary in size, from small self help groups to larger funded organisations covering both the City and Hackney areas. They also vary in the type of services they offer from heritage to ensuring access for disabled people, from the arts to a representative voice for residents and from play facilities to educational opportunities. It includes the City's vibrant faith sector that provides space for a range of activities to support residents and business workers, from crèches to open spaces, from youth clubs to First Aid classes and from support groups to a space for different faiths and denominations to meet. It includes Livery companies<sup>3</sup>; which are charitable organisations that operate across the Country but do not provide traditional voluntary sector services. It also includes social enterprises which are organisations with objectives that benefit the community and reinvest any surplus they have to further those objectives. The City is home to a number of charities (for example City Parochial, City Bridge Trust and a trust established by the City of London Police) that provide grants for organisations across London. The City of London area also contains the headquarters for voluntary organisations that provide national services. The third and public sectors operating within the City of London already work well together, indeed with the support of the Corporation of London the third sector has built its co-ordination and capacity.

### **Compact Scope**

Given the nature and breadth of its specialist functions, it is necessary to specify which of the City of London Corporation activities and which third sector organisations are included within the scope of this Compact

The Compact relates to the local government services provided by the City of London Corporation. Its geographical area is defined by the City of London

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<sup>3</sup> Livery Companies - Trade and craft associations which promote their trade in a wide context, serving the community and embracing modern skills and professions.

local authority boundaries. This scope is recognised as a first stage; rolling out the Compact to wider functions beyond the Square Mile will be considered as we evaluate its impact. The Compact also encompasses all community, faith and voluntary organisations that provide services to workers, residents and organisations within the City of London local authority boundaries.

## **SHARED AMBITION**

The signatories to the Compact have agreed the following shared ambitions and values, which set out why and how we will work effectively together.

### **Shared Vision**

*To ensure a cohesive and vibrant relationship between the public and third sectors in the City of London - a relationship that will promote our role as a world class city and maximise high quality, accessible and responsive services for our worker, residential, and business communities.*

### **Shared Principles**

- 1) We embrace the added value that comes from working in partnership towards our shared ambitions.
- 2) We recognise and respect the unique, independent and fundamental contribution of the third sector to the City of London and will work together to maximise this contribution.
- 3) We recognise that the public, private and third sectors have distinct but complementary roles.
- 4) We acknowledge the need to be clear about our differing roles, capacity, resources, risks and accountabilities and will tailor our expectations accordingly.
- 5) We celebrate the fact that we are the world's leading business city and, wherever possible, will seek to support the business sector's involvement with the third sector.
- 6) We recognise the third sector's right to provide constructive comment to public sector partners and to campaign within the law for the benefit of their organisations and those that they represent.
- 7) We are committed to ensuring that the commissioning of services is based on clear policy and consistent criteria and that commissioned services provide high standards of governance, quality, openness and accountability.
- 8) We will work together to create a socially inclusive and cohesive City. As part of this work we will undertake meaningful consultation and effectively engage with all residents and communities.

- 9) We value the distinct contribution made by volunteers. We are committed to supporting effective volunteering and to building the capacity and engagement of organisations that provide volunteering opportunities.
- 10) We accept mutual responsibility for the success of the Compact and will ensure success by developing clear methods of communication, promoting the benefits of the Compact and evaluating its impact.

## **IMPLEMENTATION AND REVIEW**

In order to ensure success, signatories to the Compact have agreed the following commitments:

- 1) To apply the Compact in the planning and development of services, consultations and policy and in our joint work with each other.
- 2) To nominate a Compact Champion<sup>4</sup> within each public sector organisation who will act as the point of contact and promote the use of the Compact.
- 3) To establish CITY.COMM as the key contact within the third sector on Compact issues and to encourage the nomination of a Compact Champion within each capacity-building and large voluntary organisation.
- 4) To agree annual joint programmes of action that take forward The City Together Compact and to incorporate these actions into The City Together's Sustainable Community Strategy.
- 5) To recognise that there is a financial cost associated with the delivery of The City Together Compact and to consider setting a budget as part of our annual planning exercises.
- 6) To agree that a sub group of the City Together Board, the Inclusive and Outward Looking City Sub-Group<sup>5</sup>, is responsible for monitoring the Compact's annual action plan.
- 7) To establish and ensure regular attendance by senior representatives of Compact signatories at internal and external Compact-related meetings.
- 8) To undertake and publish a yearly review of the Compact's effectiveness.
- 9) To encourage other organisations formally to adopt The City Together's Compact.
- 10) To develop the Compact and new Codes of Practices as required.

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<sup>4</sup> Compact Champions – Are named individuals - within their organisation or Department - who act as the main point of contact about the Compact, offering advice, circulating information and promoting a Compact way of working.

<sup>5</sup> As a result of the Community Strategy review being undertaken in 2008, the name of the Inclusive and Outward Looking City sub group may be subject to change. Any resulting change in the name will be updated in the Compact at an appropriate time.

11) To follow an effective, efficient and fair process, that enables learning from and resolves disagreements that are specifically concerned with the guidance within The City Together Compact.

## **GLOSSARY**

### **Capacity-building organisations**

Third sector organisations that support the voluntary sector to function more effectively through training, information-sharing, consultation and acting as a representative voice. Also known as umbrella, infrastructure or second-tier organisations,

### **Commissioning**

The process by which services are purchased by public bodies based on an evidenced understanding of need, agreement to priorities, the defining of the service to be purchased within a service specification, a competitive tender process and the monitoring of the delivery.

### **Corporate Responsibility**

Whereby businesses consider the interests of society by taking responsibility for the impact of their activities on the community, economy and environment.

### **Full Cost Recovery**

Recognition of all costs involved in the delivering of a service

### **Livery Companies**

Trade and craft associations which promote their trade in a wide context, support their members and serve the community.

### **Public sector**

With the scope this Compact, the public sector includes Barts and the London NHS Foundation Trust, City of London Corporation's local government services, City and Hackney Teaching Primary Care Trust, the City of London Police and the East London NHS Foundation Trust,

### **Third sector**

With the scope this Compact, the third sector includes all community, faith and voluntary organisations and social enterprises that provide services to residents, workers and organisations within the City of London local authority boundaries. This encompasses a wide range of organisations from small un-constituted self help groups to larger organisations that operate across the borders of City and Hackney.