



Leicester
City Council

WARDS AFFECTED: All

CABINET

5 SEPTEMBER 2005

DEVELOPMENT OF LEICESTER COMPACT: UPDATE

Report of the Assistant Chief Executive

1 Purpose of Report

1.1 This report:

- updates Cabinet on progress achieved since the report to the January meeting;
- summarises the key points raised at the Leicester Compact Consultative Conference held on 16 July at the Ramada Leicester hotel;
- seeks confirmation of the Council's commitment to develop a Leicester Compact with the voluntary and community sector in the City, seeking the involvement of other public sector partners as appropriate;
- seeks approval to the establishment of a Compact Consultative Forum;
- suggests that the final decision on whether to set up a Commission be delegated to the Assistant Chief Executive, following consultation with the Forum.

2 Summary

- 2.1 In January Cabinet approved the commissioning of a thinkpiece report and the setting up of a Commission to examine the relationship between the Council and the voluntary and community sector in the City. The University of West of England has subsequently produced the thinkpiece.
- 2.2 To support the process of establishing the Commission the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Leader of the Council, subsequently convened a conference to enable the Council to engage with the voluntary and community sector to move this agenda forward. This event, which was developed in consultation with Voluntary Action Leicester, was designed as an initial consultative conference to commence the process of agreeing a Leicester Compact. Over one hundred people from voluntary and community sector organisations attended it. The Leader and Deputy Leader, the Editor of the Leicester Mercury and Paul Barasi, Compact Development Officer at the National Council for Voluntary Organisations, all addressed the conference.
- 2.3 A copy of the Conference Report will be circulated to members at the meeting. Those attending identified a range of barriers which they felt impeded a positive

relationship between the Council and the sector, as well as making suggestions on how they felt these could be overcome. The Conference split into workshops which addressed a range of issues which the Council felt might need to be addressed during the process of agreeing a Compact. These were:

- Role and status of the voluntary and community sector in Leicester City Council;
- Consultation by the Council with voluntary and community sector Organisations;
- Funding of the voluntary and community sector;
- Contribution of the voluntary and community sector to equality and cohesion in Leicester;
- Specific needs of black and minority ethnic voluntary and community groups and organisations;
- Infrastructure support needs of voluntary and community sector organisations;
- Encouraging and managing volunteers.

2.4 A strong view was expressed by attendees at the conference that, rather than the Council taking a significant lead, any consideration of the relationship should be done in partnership with the sector and not independently. To this end a Compact Consultative Forum was suggested for which currently 53 representatives of voluntary and community sector organisations have put their names forward. It is intended that a letter will be sent to a wider range of organisations feeding back on the conference and asking whether they wish to be involved in the forum. The forum will consider what is the best process to develop a local compact that will encapsulate the partnership with the sector, including identifying which individuals from the sector should be involved in undertaking the detailed work of drafting the Compact document.

2.5 The Forum will also be asked for its views on the potential role of a Commission, and on how it would be best to engage other potential public sector partners.

2.6 The conference also expressed the wish that a compact champion be identified by each of the political groups on the Council and for them to engage in the process with the consultative forum. A verbal update on this will be given at the meeting. In terms of Council officer input, it is suggested that the Assistant Chief Executive lead this, with input from each department at appropriate officer level and other officer support as required. A Compact Officers group is already being established.

3 Recommendations

3.1 Cabinet is recommended to:

- a) welcome the input of representatives of voluntary and community sector organisations at the Compact Consultative Conference held on 16 July;
- b) confirm their agreement, in principle, to develop a Compact in partnership with the voluntary and community sector;
- c) confirm their agreement to the establishment of a Compact Consultative Forum and other supporting mechanisms to enable the development of a Compact;

- d) agree that the Council seek the involvement in the development of the Compact of other public sector partner organisations as appropriate;
- e) delegate any decision on whether or not to call a Commission, and its nature if called, to the Assistant Chief Executive, following consultation with the Consultative Forum.

4 Financial & Legal Implications

4.1 Financial Implications

4.1.1 The costs of the Consultative Forum and of any Commission during 2005/6 will be met from the existing Chief Executive Office budget.

4.1.2 Future costs cannot be quantified at this stage, as they depend on decisions yet to be taken. The implications (if any) for future years will be taken into account as part of the process for setting the budget for 2006/07 - 2008/09.

4.1.3 Andy Morley, Chief Accountant, ext 7404

4.2 Legal Implications

4.2.1 There are no direct legal implications arising from this report.

4.2.2 Peter Nicholls, Head of Legal Services, ext 6302

5. Other implications

OTHER IMPLICATIONS	Yes/No	Paragraph references
Equal Opportunities	Yes	Throughout
Policy	Yes	Throughout
Sustainable and Environmental	No	
Crime and Disorder	No	
Human Rights Act	No	
Older People /People on Low Income	No	

6. BACKGROUND PAPERS – LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972

6.1 None

7. CONSULTATIONS

7.1 None

8 Report Author

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DECISION STATUS

Key Decision	Yes
Reason	Significant in terms of its effect on communities living or working in an area comprising on or more ward
Appeared in Forward Plan	Yes
Executive or Council Decision	Executive (Cabinet)