

**AGENDA MANAGEMENT SHEET**

**Name of Committee**                      **Adult and Community Services Overview  
and Scrutiny Committee**  
**Date of Committee**                      **6 September 2005**

**Report Title**                                      **The Warwickshire Compact**

**Summary**                                      The Warwickshire Compact has been revised. The background to the Compact, recent developments and how it will relate to the Council's strategy for working with the Voluntary and Community Sector is described in the attached report to Cabinet on 6 October. The Committee is requested to inform Cabinet of its views on the Compact.

**For further information  
please contact:**                      John Lyons  
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Coordinator  
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No.

**Would the recommended  
decision be contrary to the  
Budget and Policy  
Framework?**

**Background papers**

**CONSULTATION ALREADY UNDERTAKEN:-**                      Details to be specified

- Other Committees                       Cabinet – 6 October 2005
- Local Member(s)
- Other Elected Members
- Cabinet Member                       Cllr Hayfield
- Chief Executive
- Legal                                       Alison Hallworth - agreed
- Finance
- Other Chief Officers                       Chief Officers' Management Team - 5<sup>th</sup>  
September 2005

District Councils  .....

Health Authority  .....

Police  .....

Other Bodies/Individuals  Social Inclusion Network

**FINAL DECISION YES**

**SUGGESTED NEXT STEPS:**

Details to be specified

Further consideration by  
this Committee

To Council

To Cabinet

To an O & S Committee  .....

To an Area Committee  .....

Further Consultation  .....

**Adult and Community Services Overview and Scrutiny  
Committee – 6 September 2005.**

**The Warwickshire Compact**

**Report of the County Solicitor and Assistant Chief  
Executive**

**Recommendation**

That the Committee considers the content and format of the revised Warwickshire Compact and forwards its views to Cabinet

The Warwickshire Compact is being revised. Attached is a copy of a proposed report to Cabinet on 6 October, describing the origins of the Cabinet, recent developments and how it will relate to the production of the Council's strategy for working with the Voluntary and Community Sector, progress on which was considered at the last meeting. The Committee is asked for its views on the revised Compact, which will be passed on to Cabinet on 8 September.

David Carter  
County Solicitor and Assistant Chief Executive  
Shire Hall, Warwick.

**AGENDA MANAGEMENT SHEET**

**Name of Committee**                      **The Cabinet**

**Date of Committee**                      **6 October 2005**

**Report Title**                                **The Warwickshire Compact**

**Summary**                                      The County Council signed up to the Warwickshire Compact in 2002. The Compact has now been updated and Cabinet is asked to comment on it and confirm its continuing support.

**For further information please contact:**                      John Lyons  
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**Would the recommended decision be contrary to the Budget and Policy Framework?**                      No.

**Background papers**

**CONSULTATION ALREADY UNDERTAKEN:-**                      Details to be specified

- |                       |                                     |   |
|-----------------------|-------------------------------------|---|
| Other Committees      | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Adult and Community Services OSC – 6 September 2005 |
| Local Member(s)       | <input type="checkbox"/>            |   |
| Other Elected Members | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |   |
| Cabinet Members       | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Cllr Hayfield and Cllr Stevens – comments requested |
| Chief Executive       | <input type="checkbox"/>            |   |
| Legal                 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | David Carter – Chief Officer                        |
| Finance               | <input type="checkbox"/>            |   |
| Other Chief Officers  | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | COMT – 5 September                                  |
| District Councils     | <input type="checkbox"/>            |   |

Health Authority

Police

Other Bodies/Individuals

**FINAL DECISION YES**

**SUGGESTED NEXT STEPS:**

Details to be specified

Further consideration by  
this Committee

To Council

To Cabinet

To an O & S Committee  .....

To an Area Committee  .....

Further Consultation  .....

## The Cabinet - 6 October 2005.

### The Warwickshire Compact

#### **Recommendation**

Cabinet is asked to comment on and confirm its continuing support for the revised Warwickshire Compact and authorise the County Solicitor and Assistant Chief Executive to finalise any changes in the content and format.

- 1 The Government signed up to a Compact with the Voluntary and Community Sector in 1998. It applies to all Government departments in their dealings with the sector. It is a general protocol to guide relationships and is supported by a number of more specific codes of practice, covering key areas such as funding, consultation, volunteering etc.
- 2 Government advocated that local government should develop similar Compacts with the sector and most areas are now covered. The County Council signed up to the Warwickshire Compact in 2002. The national Compact Working Group in its annual report to Parliament has commended our Compact. Some of its distinguishing features are that:
  - It was the first two tier Compact in the Country
  - It had the widest sign-up of any Compact in the Country
  - It included the concept of Compact champions within each of the public agencies signing up to it
  - It included mediation and monitoring provisions.
  - An independent Compact secretariat was established to help its development (funded by the County Council)
- 3 The Warwickshire Compact has now been updated and a copy is attached. The main difference is that the national codes of practice have been summarised and added into the document in order to give it more substance. The intention is that it should now be considered by partners with a view to being approved at the annual Warwickshire Compact meeting on 7 November (which is in national Compact Week). The Chief Executive has been invited to speak at the event.
4. The draft was discussed at the Social Inclusion Network (on 26 July), at Chief Officers Management Team (on 5 September) and Adult and Community Services OSC (on 6 September). Their main comments are given below:
  - SIN's view was that it was a useful reference document but is was not a "good read" and would not capture people's imaginations. SIN suggest it should be shortened or an executive summary produced.

Concern was expressed about some of the more specific requirements of the Compact (e.g. the 12 week standard consultation requirement) and it was felt it would be better to have appropriate arrangements that suit local circumstances. Other guidance (e.g. procurement) was thought to be sensible and useful.

- COMT.....
- Adult and Community Services OSC.....

- 5 Although the work we have done on the Warwickshire Compact has received external commendations, there is still much to do to make it understood and used effectively, although:
  - Departmental champions have met from time to time to coordinate progress.
  - The Social Services VCS contracting review (reported to the last meeting) is using Compact as a set of principles to guide its work
  - The VCS Strategy work that I am leading on (also reported to the last meeting) is seen as the way in which the Council will operationalise Compact more effectively
- 6 The Compact Secretariat is developing a “customer feedback” process for VCS partners to use in evaluating how well public agencies are working to Compact principles. This is still in its infancy but could be a useful document to measure progress, ensure accountability and potentially inform CPA about the strength of our relationship with the sector. My staff are currently examining the methodology of the process.
- 7 The effective implementation of Compact is a problem nationally. In order to tackle it, Government has recently consulted on a proposal to introduce Compact Plus, which is a shortened Compact consisting simply of a list of pledges that an organisation will sign up to, as an alternative to being in a Compact with others. Although it has the advantage of simplicity, the potential problems are that it will create a two-track system and the dialogue and partnership work needed to develop and sustain existing Compacts will be lost. Organisations will receive a Kitemark status not available under Compact. A decision on how this will be developed is expected towards the end of the year.
- 8 Cabinet is asked to confirm its continuing support to the Warwickshire Compact and to authorise me to suggest detailed changes in the content and layout of the final document.

DAVID CARTER  
County Solicitor and Assistant Chief Executive  
August 2005