



'Building the capacity of the Third Sector to engage in commissioning and tendering'

COMPACT

What is it?

The Compact is a national Government initiative designed to be a formal agreement between local governments, other non-governmental organisations and the third sector that sets out the principles guiding their relationship.

There are three partner organisations involved in the oversight of the Compact;

- Office of the Third Sector
- Commission for the Compact
- Compact Voice

Is it for my organisation?

Almost all local authority areas have a Local Compact. It is an organisation's individual choice whether they sign-up to the Compact or not.

It is recommended that an organisation understands and recognises the Compact and its objectives so that they can ensure compliance to it.

What does it do?

The Compact commits the partner organisations to "recognise and support the independence of the sector, including its right within the law, to campaign, to comment on government policy, and to challenge that policy, irrespective of any funding relationships that might exist, and to determine and manage its own affairs."

What are the benefits?

The Compact is designed to provide guidance for all Public Sector and Third Sector organisations that could be expected to form the basis for working together.

The Compact is also a flexible working document that can be altered and amended to meet local needs subject to the agreement of the partners.

The Compact also exists to 'provide basic frameworks setting out the main principles and commitments that these relationships should be based on'.

Taken from the compact website

Who does it apply to?

All Third Sector groups/organisations can participate in their local Compact.

How will it affect me?

If your organisation chooses to participate in a local Compact then you may be introduced to working with different partners from the Third Sector. It also provides your organisation with the opportunity to influence the shape of the Compact.

Why is it important?

The Compact is important because in principle it has the support of national government by way of the Commission for the Compact. The Commission for the Compact is independent from both government and the voluntary and community sector.

By having this level of support, all be it not legally binding, does provide guidance on important issues that will support organisations in their day to day activities. It is also a reminder of the agreed standards when quoted in negotiations with other organisations who have signed up to the Compact.

When?

Your organisation can sign-up to the Compact at anytime providing it meets its terms and conditions.

What else can I do?

Visit the compact website for more information and to find out about your Local Compact.

www.thecompact.org.uk

Delivered in partnership between

