

LONDON BOROUGH OF BRENT

MEETING OF EXECUTIVE - 11TH OCTOBER 2004

REPORT FROM THE DIRECTOR OF POLICY AND REGENERATION

FOR INFORMATION

ALL WARDS

BRENT'S VOLUNTARY SECTOR COMPACT

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 This report introduces Brent's voluntary sector compact produced by the boroughs local strategic partnership (LSP), Partners for Brent. The purpose of 'Our compact' is to support and promote effective working relationships across all sectors. It expresses the LSP's statement of commitment to partnership working across the voluntary, community, public and private sectors and a related list of actions.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

Council Members / Members of the Executive are recommended to:

- 2.1 Approve and become a signatory of 'Our compact'.
- 2.2 Agree to appoint a designated officer, within the Voluntary Sector Support Service, Education, Arts & Libraries as the Council's point of contact on matters concerning the compact.
- 2.3 A copy of 'Our compact' is sent to all members.

3. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 3.1 There are no legal implications arising from this report.

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 There are no financial implications arising from this report.

5. DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 'Our compact' contributes towards the delivery of the Council's Race Equality Scheme 2004-6 and related Action Plan. It aims to promote a set of shared principles and activities that promote the importance of racial equality at a strategic level and support the achievement of equality objectives through the implementation of LSP projects.

6. DETAILED CONSIDERATIONS

- 6.1 The Government published the national compact (agreement) on its relationships with the voluntary and community sectors in November 1998. It provides a framework to guide this relationship at all levels in Government.
- 6.2 An annual meeting is held between the national voluntary sector Compact Working Group and Government Ministers. It reviews national and local compact developments, produces a joint action plan and issues an Annual Report to Parliament.
- 6.3 During 2001, the Working Group on Government Relations Secretariat and Local Government Association published guidance on developing local compacts. During May 2004, 89% of local councils had approved and adopted a local compact.
- 6.4 During 2004, the Fifth Annual Report to Parliament set out the Government's commitment to developing local compacts. The Report's Joint Action Plan sets a deadline for local public bodies to become signatories and publish a local compact by 1st April 2005.
- 6.5 Brent's local strategic partnership, 'Partners for Brent' developed the local compact based on Government guidance and a series of consultations with organisations across Brent's voluntary, community, public and private sectors.
- 6.6 The compact was formally approved by Partners for Brent in December 03. It was published and launched during May 04 by the Leader of the Council, Mayor of Brent and the Home Office alongside the council's local voluntary and public sector partners.
- 6.7 Partners for Brent established an inter-agency working group, to oversee the development and raise awareness of the local compact. The compact provides a list of suggested actions for local organisations to promote partnership working. These actions are closely related to existing activities undertaken by the Council.
 - Promoting our compact across sectors
 - Communicating across sectors
 - Consulting across sectors
 - Sharing information across sectors
 - Dealing with conflicts across sectors
 - Evaluating the effect of our compact across sectors
- 6.8 Each LSP partner organisation has committed to discussing and recommending its approval to its appropriate management board.

- 6.9 Each LSP partner is required to appoint a designated person as the point of contact on matters that concern this compact. The Voluntary Sector Support Service (Education, Arts & Libraries) is best placed and agree to provide this role.

8 BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 8.1 The following documents were used in the preparation of this report:

Our Compact - A Commitment to working together through Brent's voluntary, community, public and private sectors (Partners for Brent, 2004)

Brent Council Race Equality Scheme 2004-6

Compact –getting it right together. Report to Parliament of the Fifth Annual Meeting to review the compact on relations between Government and the voluntary and community sector (Home Office, Compact Working Group and Active Communities, 2004)

The Local Compact Guidelines (Working Group on Government Relations Secretariat and Local Government Association, 2001)

- 7.2 The contact officer for this report is:

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