

## Policy Briefing: The Compact

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Original Document:

[https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/61169/The\\_20Compact.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/61169/The_20Compact.pdf)

### Purpose of document

The Compact is a government-led agreement between the Government and the voluntary and community sector (civil society organisations) to achieve improved working partnerships, and to ensure better outcomes for the benefit of communities and citizens in England. It was introduced in 1998 and renewed in 2010 to make it easier to understand, provide a more effective set of accountability measures, and to fit in with the Coalition Government's 'Big Society' agenda. The report has a supporting Accountability and Transparency Guide and was published in partnership with Compact Voice - the voice of the voluntary sector.

### Summary of contents

The Compact sets out 5 shared principles for improved and effective working relationships between the Government and the civil society for mutual benefit. Each principle has separate undertakings for both parties that they must commit to. The principles include: diverse and independent civil society; effective design and development of policies, programmes and public services; high-quality programmes and services; managing changes to programmes and services; and achieving an equal and fair society. The report also considers other key areas such as funding arrangements and allocation of resources.

### Summary of outcomes

The Compact is important in helping to build stronger working partnerships between central government and the voluntary and community sector. By encouraging effective partnerships they can work better to support the communities that they serve. On a national level, the Compact recognises that civil society organisations are fundamental to the delivery of public services, have a crucial role to play in putting into effect, planned reforms to public services, and should be included a lot more in government decisions and processes as they provide informative and useful reviews across a range of issues.

### Summary of recommendations

- Protect the independence of all civil society organisations regardless of their size, without neglecting partnership working.
- Create ways to ensure that organisations participate in the design and delivering of services and policies.
- Establish effective funding arrangements so that resources are allocated in the fairest way possible.

### Further information and resources

Compact Voice & Accountability and Transparency Guide

<http://www.compactvoice.org.uk/>

[http://www.compactvoice.org.uk/sites/default/files/the\\_compact\\_accountability\\_guide.pdf](http://www.compactvoice.org.uk/sites/default/files/the_compact_accountability_guide.pdf)

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