

# Peterborough Compact

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## COMPACT REFRESH 2014

Peterborough Compact is an agreement between Peterborough City Council and the Peterborough Voluntary, Community and Social Enterprise sector on working together.

This partnership works to support the people of Peterborough



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## What is a Compact?

Compacts are partnership agreements between public bodies and the Voluntary Community and Social Enterprise (VCSE) to improve their relationships and provide a framework within which the sectors can understand what to expect from each other, thereby enhancing their contribution to the local community.

In summary it is:

- A document about the relationship between voluntary and statutory agencies:
- An agreement about some key principles we will all sign up to
- A description of how we will work together
- A statement of the expectations we have of each other
- An action plan for improving how we work together over time

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## Peterborough Compact

The Peterborough Compact is a partnership agreement between the Voluntary, Community and Social Enterprise Sector and Peterborough City Council. Originally signed in 2005, this refreshed document builds on the excellent partnerships that have long been established between the City Council and the VCSE. This refresh aims to develop and sustain the strong and vibrant partnerships by establishing principles and actions to which all parties are committed. At this time of financial challenge it is even more important that local organizations work together to address the needs of Peterborough's residents that we serve. Whilst this document will incorporate the changes in legislation, through the Social Value Act and Localism Act, the Compact will not override any legal or statutory responsibilities.

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## Definition of Voluntary, Community and Social Enterprise in Peterborough

“The Voluntary, Community and Social Enterprise Sector, also referred to as 'the Third Sector', is made up of groups that are independent of government and constitutionally self-governing, usually with an unpaid voluntary management committee. They exist for the good of the community, to promote social, economic, environmental or cultural objectives in order to benefit society as a whole, or particular groups within it.”

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# Local first: Localism in Peterborough

## Localism Act

**The Localism Act was introduced in November 2011.**

The aim of the act was to devolve more decision making powers from central government back into the hands of individuals, communities and councils. The act covers a wide range of issues related to local public services, with a particularly focus on the general power of competence, community rights, neighbourhood planning and housing. The key measures of the act were grouped under four main headings;

- new freedoms and flexibilities for local government
- new rights and powers for communities and individuals
- reform to make the planning system more democratic and more effective
- reform to ensure decisions about housing are taken locally.

## Community rights

The Localism Act enshrined in law a new set of rights for communities. These are:

- Community right to challenge.
- Community right to bid.
- Community right to build.

### Community right to challenge

The Community right to challenge came into force in June 2012. This allows voluntary and community groups, parish councils or two or more members of local authority staff to express an interest in running a service currently commissioned or delivered by a local authority. Where the expressions of interest are accepted, the local authority must run a competitive procurement.

### Community right to bid

The Community right to bid came into force in September 2012. The Community right-to-bid allows communities to nominate buildings and land that they consider to be of value to the community, to be included on a local authority maintained list. If any of the assets on the register are put up for sale, the community is given a window of opportunity to express an interest in purchasing the asset, and another window of opportunity to bid.

### Neighbourhood planning and community right to build

The Localism Act introduced statutory neighbourhood planning in England.

### Neighbourhood Plans

The Localism Act sets out how communities will be able to get more involved in planning for their areas – specifically around creating plans and policies to guide new development and in some cases granting planning permission for certain types of development.

### Community Right to Build

The Community right to build allows local communities to undertake small-scale, site-specific, community-led developments.

The new powers aim to give communities the freedom to build new homes, shops, businesses or facilities where they want them, without going through the normal planning application process.

The Localism Act:

- makes the local compact more important for relationships between local authorities and voluntary organisations
- introduces new rights which give community groups a chance to bid for 'community assets' if they are up for sale or threatened with closure or demolition
- introduces the 'Right to Challenge' which allows communities and groups – including voluntary organisations – to submit an 'expression of interest' if they wish to provide, or assist in providing, a service.

Local VCSE organisations in Peterborough are well placed to help Peterborough Council with the localism agenda by:

- bringing people with shared interests, beliefs and experiences together
- supporting and building communities'
- giving a 'voice' to the disadvantaged and under-represented.

Commitments:

- Consider and prioritise local VCSE organisations in Peterborough in designing the procurement options and contractual arrangements in commissioning processes.
- Rights of groups to campaign and challenge public bodies without risking funding
- Public bodies will involve citizens and work with local VCSE groups.
- Partners will encourage local groups to campaign responsibly and fearlessly for their causes and challenge bad practice.
- The VCSE commits to raising the profile of effective campaigning.

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# The aim of the Compact in Peterborough

1. Improve communication, understanding, co-operation and trust between the statutory sector and the Peterborough Voluntary Community and Social Enterprise sector.
2. Set up principles and a framework for consultation and partnership working.
3. Agree definitions, shared values and mutual undertakings.

## Our shared values and principles

The Public Sector and Voluntary Community and Social Enterprise (VCSE) sector have agreed to share common principles, which are at the heart of what they are trying to achieve. These principles provide a way of working effectively in partnership that can help deliver real outcomes and improvements for the people of Peterborough and their communities.

The shared principles of Peterborough Compact are:

**Respect:** To act with transparency and integrity. Effective partnerships are built on mutual understanding and an appreciation of the differences between partners of the Compact.

**Honesty:** Full and frank discussions should be the basis for resolving difficulties.

**Independence:** To ensure that the independence of the VCSE sector is recognised and supported. This includes its right within the law to campaign, to comment on and to challenge the policies of public sector organisations (regardless of any funding or other relationship which may exist with such bodies). VCSE sector organisations are free to determine and manage their own affairs.

**Diversity:** To value a thriving civil society that brings innovation and choice through a multitude of voices.

**Equality:** Work together to achieve equality, respecting diversity & fairness for everyone, regardless of their background.

**Volunteering:** The contribution of Volunteers in Peterborough is recognised by all Compact partners. Volunteers play a vital part in service delivery for both the statutory and voluntary sector, the impact of their involvement is universally acknowledged. Compact partners agree the four principles that are fundamental to volunteering; Choice, Diversity, Mutual Benefit and Recognition.

**Citizen empowerment:** Working together, to deliver change that is built around communities and people, meeting their needs and reflecting their choices.

**The Public sector and Voluntary, Community and Social Enterprise sector are committed to these principles.**

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# Compact Outcomes

An effective partnership between the Government and the VCSE sector will help achieve the following outcomes:

1. A strong, diverse and independent civil society
2. Effective and transparent design and development of policies, programmes and public services
3. Responsive and high-quality programmes and services
4. Clear arrangements for managing changes to programmes and services
5. An equal and fair society

In order to achieve these outcomes, there are a number of undertakings required from both the public and voluntary sectors.

## **Outcome 1: A strong, diverse and independent voluntary sector**

### **Undertakings for the public sector:**

- 1.1** Respect the independence of the local VCSE sector.
- 1.2** Recognise that volunteering adds value to public services and brings about positive benefits to local people and service users. Encourage volunteering to be undertaken by a high proportion of people across diverse backgrounds.
- 1.3** Ensure greater transparency by making data and information more accessible, helping the voluntary sector to challenge existing provision of services, access new markets and hold the public agencies to account.
- 1.4** Consider a range of ways to support local VCSE organisations, such as enabling greater access to public sector premises and resources.
- 1.5** Ensure that where organisations are engaging volunteers requiring Criminal Record Bureau (CRB) checks, the organisation covers the charge, not the volunteers, and work together to streamline processes for CRB checks to encourage volunteering.

### **Undertakings for the voluntary sector:**

- 1.6** When campaigning or advocating, ensure that robust evidence is provided, including information about the source and range of people and communities represented.
- 1.7** Ensure independence is upheld, focusing on the cause represented, regardless of any relationship they have with the public sector, financial or otherwise.
- 1.8** Recognise that volunteering adds value to public services and brings about positive benefits to local people and service users. Encourage volunteering to be undertaken by a high proportion of people across diverse backgrounds.
- 1.9** Ensure that where organisations are engaging volunteers requiring Criminal Record Bureau (CRB) checks, the organisation covers the charge, not the volunteers, and work together to streamline processes for CRB checks to encourage volunteering.



## **Outcome 2: Effective and transparent design and development of policies, programmes and public services in Peterborough**

### **Undertakings for the public sector:**

- 3.1** Recognise that the local VCSE sector makes a valuable contribution to the economic, environmental and social development of Peterborough.
- 3.2** Consider the social impact that may result from policy and programme development and, in particular, consider how these would impact local efforts to inspire and encourage social action and to empower communities.
- 3.3** Work with the local VCSE from the earliest possible stage to design policies, programmes and services. Ensure those likely to have a view are involved from the start and remove barriers that may prevent organisations contributing.
- 3.4** Give early notice of forthcoming consultations, where possible, allowing enough time for local VCSE sector organisations to involve their service users, beneficiaries, members, volunteers and trustees in preparing responses. Where it is appropriate, and enables meaningful engagement, conduct 12-week formal written consultations, with clear explanations and rationale for shorter time-frames or a more informal approach.
- 3.5** Consider providing feedback to explain how respondents have influenced the design and development of policies, programmes and public services, including where respondents' views have not been acted upon.
- 3.6** Assess the implications for the sector of new policies, legislation and guidance, aiming to reduce the bureaucratic burden, particularly on small organisations.

### **Undertakings for the voluntary sector:**

- 3.7** Promote and respond to public sector consultations where appropriate.
- 3.8** Seek the views of service users, clients, beneficiaries, members, volunteers and trustees when making representation to the public sector. Be clear on who is being represented, in what capacity, and on what basis that representation is being made.
- 3.9** When putting forward ideas, focus on evidence-based solutions, with clear proposals for positive outcomes.

## **Outcome 3: Responsive and high-quality programmes and services**

### **Undertakings for the public sector:**

- 4.1** Ensure that the local VCSE sector organisations have a greater role and more opportunities in delivering public services by opening up new markets in accordance with wider public service reform measures and reforming the commissioning environment in existing markets.
- 4.2** Consider a wide range of ways to fund or resource local VCSE sector organisations, including grants, contracts, loan finance, the use of premises and so on. Work to remove barriers that may prevent voluntary sector organisations accessing government funding, thereby enabling smaller organisations to become involved in delivering services where they are best placed to achieve the desired outcomes.
- 4.3** Ensure transparency by providing a clear rationale for all funding decisions.
- 4.4** Commit to multi-year funding where appropriate and where it adds value for money. The funding term should reflect the time it will take to deliver the outcome. If multi-year funding is not considered to be the best way of delivering the objective, explain the reasons for the decision.
- 4.5** Ensure well managed and transparent application and tendering processes, which are proportionate to the desired objectives and outcomes of the programmes. Ensure that notification of funding decisions and that transfer of funds to successful organisations are within agreed timescales.
- 4.6** Agree with local VCSE sector organisations how outcomes will be monitored before a contract or funding agreement is made. Ensure that monitoring and reporting is relevant and proportionate to the nature and size of the opportunity.
- 4.7** Ensure equal treatment across sectors, including reporting and monitoring arrangements, when tendering for contracts.
- 4.8** Recognise that when local VCSE sector organisations apply for a grant, they can include appropriate and relevant overheads, including the costs associated with training and volunteer involvement.
- 4.9** Ensure delivery terms and risks are proportionate to the nature and value of the service.
- 4.10** Ensure that the widest possible range of organisations can be involved in the provision of services through appropriate funding and financing models.
- 4.11** Ensure all bodies distributing funds on behalf of the public sector adhere to the commitments in this Compact.
- 4.12** Encourage feedback from a wide range of sources on the effectiveness of the partnership between the public sector and voluntary sector organisations and how successful it has been in delivering their objectives.

- 4.13** Seek out opportunities to explore joint funding bids with the local VCSE sector to maximise investment into the city.

**Undertakings for the voluntary sector:**

- 4.14** Ensure eligibility for funding before applying and be explicit about how outcomes will be achieved.
- 4.15** Ensure robust governance arrangements so that organisations can best manage any risk associated with service delivery and financing models, including giving funders early notice of significant changes in circumstances.
- 4.16** Be open and transparent about reporting, recognising that monitoring, whether internal or external, is an aspect of good management practice.
- 4.17** Demonstrate the social, environmental or economic value of the programmes and services provided, where appropriate.
- 4.18** Help facilitate feedback from users and communities to the public sector to help improve delivery of programmes and services.
- 4.19** Recognise that the public sector can legitimately expect voluntary sector organisations to give public recognition of its funding.
- 4.20** Seek out opportunities to explore joint funding bids with the voluntary sector to maximise investment into the borough.

## **Outcome 4: Clear arrangements for managing changes to programmes and services**

### **Undertakings for the public sector:**

- 5.1** If a programme or service being delivered by a local VCSE sector organisation is encountering problems, agree with the organisation a timetable of actions to improve performance before making a decision to end a financial relationship.
- 5.2** Assess the impact on beneficiaries, service users and volunteers before deciding to reduce or end funding. Assess the need to re-allocate funds to another organisation serving the same group.
- 5.3** Where there are restrictions or changes to future resources, discuss with local VCSE sector organisations the potential implications as early as possible, give organisations the opportunity to respond, and consider the response fully, respecting sector expertise, before making a final decision.
- 5.4** Give a minimum of three months notice in writing when changing or ending a funding relationships or other support, apart from in exceptional circumstances, and provide a clear rationale for why the decisions has been taken.

### **Undertakings for the voluntary sector:**

- 5.5** Plan for the end of funding to reduce any potential negative impact on beneficiaries and the organisation.
- 5.6** Contribute positively to reviews of programmes and funding practice.
- 5.7** Advise funders on the social, environmental or economic impact(s) of funding changes, particularly to minimise their effects on people in vulnerable situations
- 5.8** Advise funders if voluntary sector organisations are facing funding difficulties.

## **Outcome 5: An equal and fair society**

### **Undertakings for the public sector:**

- 2.1** Work with local VCSE sector organisations that represent, support or provide services to people specifically protected by legislation and other under-represented and disadvantaged groups. Understand the specific needs of these groups by actively seeking the views of service users and clients. Take these views into account, including assessing impact, when designing and implementing policies, programmes and services.
- 2.2** Acknowledge that organisations representing specific disadvantaged or under-represented groups can help promote social and community cohesion and should have equal access to funding.
- 2.3** Take practical action to eliminate unlawful discrimination, advance equality and to ensure a voice for under-represented and disadvantaged groups.

### **Undertakings for the voluntary sector:**

- 2.4** Show how the value of the work can help the public sector deliver its duties on promoting equality and tackling discrimination.
- 2.5** Take practical action to eliminate unlawful discrimination, advance equality of opportunity and build stronger communities.

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# Grant and Commissioning Procedures

Peterborough Compact's commitments to applications and bidding for grants, and participation in commissioning of services.

## All public sector organisations undertake to:

- Ensure that VCSE sector organisations have equal opportunity to deliver services in accordance with wider public service reform measures and reforming the commissioning in existing markets.
- Consider a wide range of ways to fund or resource the VCSE sector to deliver services / projects on their behalf including grants, contracts, loan finance use of premises and so on. Work to remove barriers that prevent
- VCSE sector organisations accessing funding thereby enabling smaller organisations to become involved in delivering services where they are best placed to achieve the desired outcomes.
- Ensure that application documents are: Publicised widely and Proportionate to the nature of the risk and the amount of funding being allocated. Contain enough information to allow organisations to make informed decisions.
- Ensure that grant giving and commissioning processes are consistent with overarching Office of Government Commerce (OGC) guidance on public procurement.
- Allow enough time for organisations of all sizes to apply, as well as for consortia and partnership working bids.
- Be clear & transparent about how bids will be assessed.
- Ensure well managed and transparent application and tendering processes which are proportionate to the desired outcomes of programmes.
- Agree how outcomes including social environmental or economic value will be monitored before a contract or funding agreement is made. Ensure that monitoring and reporting is relevant and proportionate to the nature and size of the opportunity. Be clear about what information is being asked for and why and how it will be used.
- Make decisions on the basis of value including social value for money. This may include taking into account the wider community benefits at the award stage or when identifying procurement needs.
- Recognise that it is appropriate to include relevant overhead and administrative costs in applications.
- Accept the recovery of costs associated with volunteering, such as managing volunteers and reimbursing expenses.
  
- Be consistent and proportionate across sectors when requesting cost breakdowns from organisations.

- Commit funding to multi-year funding wherever possible. If this is not the best way to deliver the best value for money, the public sector organisations should explain clearly what alternative funding arrangements could deliver the same outcomes?
- Make funding decisions and inform organisations at least three months in advance of the expected start date. Any departure from that time-scale should be justified and explained.
- Provide constructive feedback to unsuccessful organisations.
- Discuss the risks to the project and agree delivery terms before a financial agreement is signed.
- Allocate risks to the organisation(s) best equipped to manage them. Ensure that delivery terms and risks are proportionate to the nature and value of the opportunity.
- Agree a process for managing performance and risk and responding to changing circumstances before signing a financial agreement including the notice period for conclusion of the agreement.
- Payment in advance of expenditure should be considered on a case by case basis where this represents value for money. This may be particularly relevant for grants.
- Review programmes and services with relevant VCSE sector organisations to inform future practice. Make payments within 30 calendar days of receipt of an undisputed invoice.
- Agree at time of award, particularly for grants, how underspend and/or underperformance with financial implications will be managed.

**The Voluntary, Community and Social Enterprise Sector undertake to:**

- Be clear on their reasons for bidding or applying to deliver programmes or services.
  - Show that they understand how new funding will impact on their organisation, relate to its mission, and contribute to its income mix.
  - Ensure they have a robust and clear understanding of the relevant overhead and associated costs to include when applying for resources
  - Provide information as required to demonstrate value for money and efficiency to the funding organisation.
  - Comply with the relevant performance and risk management frameworks.
  - Be clear which organisation is the accountable body in partnership or consortia working arrangements.
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- Apply Compact principles when sub-contracting to other VCSE sector organisations.

- Be clear about the risks associated with delivering programmes and services, and agree delivery terms before a contract or funding agreement is signed.
- Have appropriate governance arrangements in place and ensure that everyone involved understands and agrees to delivery terms.
- Be clear about payment terms and, if appropriate, demonstrate why payment in advance is required.
- Have appropriate systems in place to manage and account for finances.
- Provide public recognition as required by funders of their contribution either through grant or commissioning
- Plan for the end of funding to reduce any potential impact on beneficiaries, the organisation and the funding organisation.
- Contribute positively to reviews of programmes or services to inform future practice.
- Recognise that it is legitimate for funders to ask for public recognition of their funding.
- Have appropriate systems in place to manage and account for finances and recognise that funders have a right to request information on how their funding has been accounted



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# Concluding a financial relationship

## All Public Sector Organisations undertake to:

- Assess the impact on beneficiaries, service users and volunteers before deciding to reduce or end funding.
- Where there are restrictions on future resources, discuss the potential implications as early as possible with VCSE sector organisations.
- Give a minimum of three months' notice in writing when ending a funding relationship or other support, and provide a clear rationale for why the decision has been taken.
- Give organisations an opportunity to respond to the ending of funding and consider the response before making a final decision.
- Review programmes and services with relevant VCSE sector organisations to inform future practice.

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# How do we implement the Compact?

The Peterborough Compact sets out a general framework for enhancing the relationship between all public sector organisations and the local VCSE sector organisations working in Peterborough and all parties are committed to working together to develop its use.

Peterborough Council for Voluntary Service (PCVS) will steer the work in partnership with Peterborough City Council

## Resolving Compact disputes positively together

Public bodies and groups have the right to raise concerns individually, collectively or through a representative organisation. Doing it protects relationships, accountability and good practice.

Unfortunately, sometimes things go wrong in relationships between public sector organisations and VCSE sector organisations. The best thing to do is try to resolve any issues or concerns as early, and in the most amicable way possible. This means discussing the situation openly and honestly and trying to come up with solutions that work for both parties. Very often challenging bad practice amicably leads to better relationships and outcomes.

## Helpful Hints

Before entering the dispute process, please consider the following:

- **Reflect on the relationship; build up a timeline of key moments and events**
- **Decide what you want to achieve from the challenge**  
Having a clear idea of the decision, bad practice or impact you want to have will help focus your actions. This can provide the basis of measuring how successful you are and will also help you decide if it is achievable.
- **Who should you contact?**  
Peterborough CVS is the lead voluntary and community sector organisation within the city for the implementation of Compact.
- **Remember:**  
The Peterborough Compact should be used as a framework to ensure effective working relationships, not just referred to when things go wrong. Sector partners will embed its principles and create positive results that are mutually beneficial to our city.

## The Dispute Process

The complainant should complain in writing, stating:

- What the problem is
- How the complaint has been dealt with by the party responsible and why the complaint has not been resolved.
- What would be a good outcome (The complainant should be clear about what they want to gain out of the complaint)

### **Contact for VCSE organisations:**

Peterborough Council for Voluntary Service  
3 Lincoln Court  
Lincoln Road  
Peterborough  
PE1 2RP  
01733 342683  
Email: [leonie.mccarthypcvs.co.uk](mailto:leonie.mccarthypcvs.co.uk)

## **Further Actions for Resolution**

### **Local Government Ombudsman**

If you are unhappy about the result of your complaint you can contact the Independent Local Government Ombudsman who will decide whether there are grounds for an investigation. The involvement of a Member of Parliament is not required when complaining to the Local Government Ombudsmen.

The Local Government Ombudsman  
PO BOX 4771  
Coventry  
CV4 0E  
Help Line 0300 061 0614  
Fax 024 7682 0001  
Email [aadvice@lgo.org.uk](mailto:aadvice@lgo.org.uk)  
Website [www.lgo.org.uk](http://www.lgo.org.uk)

You can also contact the following for support and advice:

- 1. Contact Compact Voice** directly, who cannot take on individual cases but can offer information, advice and signposting.  
Compact Voice  
Society Building

8 All Saints Street  
London N1 9RL  
Email: [compact@compactvoice.org.uk](mailto:compact@compactvoice.org.uk)  
Website: [www.compactvoice.org.uk](http://www.compactvoice.org.uk)  
Twitter: @compactvoice  
Telephone: 0207 520 2451

2. **The Compact Accountability and Transparency Guide** is also available in the 'About Compact' section of the Compact Voice website at [www.compactvoice.org.uk](http://www.compactvoice.org.uk), and outlines steps to follow at a national level.
3. **Public Law Advice Line:** If you are from an organisation that is a member of NAVCA, you can contact them – information can be found at [www.navca.org.uk/services/learningopps/evs/adviceline](http://www.navca.org.uk/services/learningopps/evs/adviceline).
4. **Public Law Project:** [www.publiclawproject.org.uk/contact-us](http://www.publiclawproject.org.uk/contact-us).

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## Why sign up to Peterborough Compact?

By having a shared 'set of principles' Peterborough Compact partners have an agreed way of working that meets the need of everyone involved.

- **Peterborough City Council:** Partnership work improves service quality, inspection ratings, relationships, effectiveness, involvement in achieving top priorities and increased ability to access external resources.
- **Voluntary and Community and Social Enterprise sector groups (VCSE):** will be involved in work that ensures the local statutory sector values the difference you make in Peterborough, recognises your local expertise and understands how you work. You will be a partner in local success for Peterborough.

### Becoming a Peterborough Compact Partner

If you would like to sign up to become a Compact partner please contact PCVS at [Pcvs@pcvs.co.uk](mailto:Pcvs@pcvs.co.uk).

#### Key contacts:

Peterborough City Council  
Commissioning Directorate  
Bayard Place  
Peterborough  
01733 747474  
Email: [adrianchapman@peterborough.gov.uk](mailto:adrianchapman@peterborough.gov.uk)

Peterborough Council for Voluntary Service  
3 Lincoln Court  
Lincoln Road  
Peterborough  
PE1 2RP  
01733 342683  
Email: [Leonie.mccarthypcvs.co.uk](mailto:Leonie.mccarthypcvs.co.uk)

# Glossary

<b>Best Value</b>	The duty to deliver services to clear standards – Covering both cost and quality – by the most economic, efficient and effective means available.
<b>Capacity</b>	An organisations ability to deliver the demands of a contract or service. Capacity building - the need to equip VCS organisations with the skills and competencies to bid for and secure contracts to deliver public services
<b>Commissioning</b>	Commissioning is the systematic process of specifying, securing and monitoring services to meet identified and prioritised needs, including immediate and anticipated needs.
<b>Community Involvement</b>	Creating opportunities for dialogue and involvement in decision making.
<b>Compact</b>	Compacts are partnership agreements between public bodies and the voluntary sector to improve their relationships and provide a framework within which the sectors can understand what to expect from each other. In Peterborough, the local Chamber of Commerce has also signed up to the Compact to help to promote Compact principles among the business community.
<b>Compact commitments</b>	Provides a framework to reflect on distinctive local issues and partnership agreement
<b>Compact principles</b>	Helps public bodies and the voluntary and community sector to work effectively in partnership
<b>Compact way of working</b>	The 'Compact way of working' is the term used to refer to working in line with the principles and undertakings set out in the Compact.
<b>Civil Society</b>	The part of society that consists of organisations and institutions that are run for the benefit of people, are not for profit and are independent of government. The Office for Civil Society holds responsibility for charities, social enterprises and voluntary organisations in the Cabinet Office.
<b>Consultation</b>	Providing effective ways for local people, service users and stakeholders to understand and influence decisions and policies that affect them.
<b>Co-production</b>	The partnerships that government bodies form with citizens, users and voluntary and community sector organisations in order to innovate and deliver improved public service outcomes.
<b>Community Right to Challenge</b>	Part of the 2011 Localism Act giving local organisations the opportunity to challenge local authorities to open up service delivery to competition.
<b>Consortia</b>	Collaborative working between VCS organisations in order to access public service procurement opportunities
<b>Contracts</b>	Legally binding agreement specifying the services to be provided and the payment made for providing them.

<b>Decommissioning</b>	Applying commissioning principles to cut back or cease services which are no longer necessary or affordable.
<b>Dispute</b>	Misunderstanding or a disagreement between partners, or public and the voluntary sector.
<b>Full cost recovery</b>	Organisations overhead costs are shared among different projects
<b>Funding</b>	Offers financial assistance to non-for-profit organisations
<b>Grant</b>	Non-repayable sum of money given to a voluntary and community organisation. May be given by public body to fund a specific project or service which the voluntary and community organisation will be required to monitor and report on.
<b>Independence</b>	The voluntary and community sector have the right within the law to campaign, to comment on and to challenge government policy and to determine and manage their own affairs.
<b>PbR</b>	Payment by Results - the practice of paying providers for delivering services after agreed results have been achieved.
<b>PQQ</b>	Pre-Qualification Questionnaire - used to identify potential suppliers that are most capable of performing a contract.
<b>Public Bodies</b>	Public Bodies deliver important and essential public services and help Government carry out some of its policies at arm's length for ministers.
<b>Public Sector</b>	The term 'public sector' refers to the public agencies that operate in Peterborough, for example Peterborough Council, Police, Health, Fire.
<b>Procurement Pledge</b>	A government document setting out an agreed understanding with potential providers and their representative bodies. The Local Government Association has produced its own version.
<b>Social Value</b>	The Public Services (Social Value) Act 2012 requires commissioning authorities to demonstrate how the service to be procured will 'improve the social, environmental and economic well-being of the relevant area'.
<b>Volunteering</b>	Volunteering is unpaid and entered into freely for the benefit of others and the environment. People get involved through a process of community engagement. It is not work experience, enforced or entered into in the expectation of reward.

## Further information

For a copy of the National Compact between central government and civil society organisations, visit

[www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/sites/default/files/resources/The%20Compact.pdf](http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/sites/default/files/resources/The%20Compact.pdf)

The Compact Voice website also provides interesting examples of good practice nationwide at [www.compactvoice.org.uk](http://www.compactvoice.org.uk).

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# The Peterborough Compact Agreement

My organisation: \_\_\_\_\_

- Supports the principles and undertakings of the Peterborough Compact and its supporting documents
- Will use them as a framework for reflecting on and adapting it's practices and behaviours
- Aims to create a more open, equal and constructive working relationship between the public sector and the Voluntary Community and Social Enterprise (VCSE) sector in Peterborough
- Will promote Compact principles and develop better communication between the Voluntary Community and Social Enterprise (VCSE) sector and the Public sector in Peterborough

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

PRINT Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Position in organisation on behalf of Organisation: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**committed to**  
**the Compact**