



Report of the Cabinet Member for Supporting Communities

Cabinet - 19 November 2020

Third Sector Compact Agreement - Update

Purpose:	The report updates on Swansea's Third Sector Compact Agreement and the work to date of the Third Sector Liaison Group who were formed as part of the updated Swansea Compact Agreement with the Voluntary Sector in 2018.
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For Information	

1. Background

- 1.1 Swansea Council first agreed a Compact with the Voluntary Sector in 1999. The Compact has been renewed and refreshed a number of times in the intervening years.
- 1.2 The 2018 incarnation of the Compact established the Third Sector Liaison Group. The purpose, aims and objectives of the Third Sector Liaison Group are stated as:

“Monitoring and evaluation of the Compact Agreement between the Council and the Sector will be conducted through Third Sector Liaison Group, with the main purpose of the group being to share a general overview of strategic developments and a general exchange of information.

The group would:

- *Comprise of equal membership of Council and Third Sector representatives*
- *Meet bi-annually*
- *Third Sector representatives elected from a broad cross section of the Sector, Council representatives shall be drawn from across service areas with links to the Third Sector*

- *Ensure Third Sector Forum Groups and relevant Council Groups to feed into this Group.*

The purpose of the group is:

- *To promote the Compact Agreement and encourage ownership and support across both sectors*
- *To monitor the expected outcomes outlined in the Compact Agreement and review the objectives to ensure the document remains responsive to current trends*
- *To act as a mechanism to facilitate dialogue between the Council and the Third Sector on matters of shared interest*
- *To agree a joint work programme for each year to share and manage risk*
- *To monitor the progress of delivering the work programme”*

2. Work to date

- 2.1 The group is comprised of relevant Council Officers and representatives of the Third Sector who were elected by their peers via hustings events hosted by SCVS, and has met four times to date. There was a hiatus during COVID lockdown which meant there were no meetings between March and August 2020.
- 2.2 Areas of work undertaken or discussed by the Third Sector Liaison Group include:
- Formed a terms of reference for the group
 - Discussed the role of EIA's and the impact of decisions which may affect the Third Sector and how this can be considered
 - Dependent upon redevelopment plans for the city centre the possibility of Co-location of services in the longer term
 - Proposed a mapping and audit of the groups and partnerships that exist Locally and Regionally to ensure linkages and not duplicate
 - Proposals to develop a communication strategy to raise awareness of the Compact Agreement and Third Sector Liaison Group
 - Refreshed and reviewed Compact document for 2020, which included the addition of the sixth Environmental Wellbeing Objective. *This document is attached as Appendix A*
- 2.3 Following the Covid outbreak and lockdown in March 2020, the Third Sector has played an important and valuable part in responding to the pandemic in a quick and practical way, which has been captured as outlined below and *in Appendix B and C.*
- Swansea Council produced infographic in July 2020 around the work undertaken during the COVID outbreak which clearly demonstrates the work undertaken with partners in combatting the social and well-being issues affecting residents of the city. This infographic is included as *Appendix B.*

- The Third Sector Liaison Group requested that SCVS co-ordinate a questionnaire on the effect of COVID, and to formulate an infographic demonstrating the contribution of the sector as part of the COVID community response. The infographic is included as *Appendix C*.
- The results of the survey and infographic reveal that the questionnaire respondents supported 58,509 individuals between March and the end of September. This figure covered individual queries only, hence these contacts would represent issues raised on behalf of couples and/or of families so the figure quoted could be a lot higher in terms of number of individuals. This front line assistance with issues is consistent to a tier zero approach to community issues.
- Third Sector groups were asked to categorize the type of support provided under the theses of wellbeing, medication, food or other. Groups were able to select more than one category. Responses under 'other' included safety planning and benefits advice.
- 69% of respondent groups reported being concerned about the longer term future of their group post COVID.
- Respondents were also asked to score their level of concern as high medium or low against a number of key themes; Demand for services, funding sources, volunteer numbers and returning to face to face service delivery.

3. Future work

- 3.1 Working together with the Third Sector will form an essential part of the Council's COVID recovery strategy.
- 3.2 The Council has planned its initial re-mobilisation of the Council and the immediate priorities from the COVID-19 crisis, the longer term plan from recovery to transformation and the framework to replace Sustainable Swansea Strategy.
- 3.3 The Third Sector Liaison group will work with this strategic approach 'Swansea Achieving Better – Together' and will work in partnership to ensure all groups in Swansea work together to aid recovery in the short and longer term through the phases outlined in the strategy, Re-mobilise, Re-focus and Re-shape.
- 3.4 Future review of the Compact will include references to community resilience to ensure planning for any future situation similar to COVID is better prepared.

4. Equality and Engagement Implications

- 4.1 The Council is subject to the Public Sector Equality Duty (Wales) and must, in the exercise of their functions, have due regard to the need to:
 - Eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation and other conduct prohibited by the Act.

- Advance equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.
- Foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.

Our Equality Impact Assessment process ensures that we have paid due regard to the above.

4.2 The report is for information only, an EIA screening form indicates a full EIA is not required.

5. Legal Implications

5.1 There are no legal implications.

6. Financial Implications

6.1 There are no financial implications.

Background Papers: EIA Screening Form

Appendices:

Appendix A – Revised Swansea Compact Agreement 2020

Appendix B - Swansea Council COVID infographic July 2020

Appendix C – Third Sector COVID Infographic October 2020