



Report of the Cabinet Member for Well-being

Cabinet - 23 March 2023

Third Sector Compact Agreement Update

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| Purpose: | To provide an update on Swansea's Third Sector Compact Agreement and the work to date of the Compact Liaison Group who were formed as part of the updated Swansea Compact Agreement with the Voluntary Sector in 2018. |
| Policy Framework: | Swansea Third Sector Compact Agreement 2021 (attached as Appendix1) |
| Consultation: | Access to Services, Finance, Legal. |
| Recommendation(s): | It is recommended that: 1) The report is noted. |
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1. Background

- 1.1 Swansea Council first agreed a Compact with the Third Sector in 1999, the Compact has been renewed and refreshed a number of times in the intervening years.
- 1.2 The Compact is an agreement between the Swansea Council and the voluntary and community sector. It sets out key principles and establishes a way of working that improves their relationship for mutual advantage.
- 1.3 The renewed 2018 Compact Agreement established the Compact Liaison Group. The purpose, aims and objectives of the Compact Liaison Group are stated as:

“Monitoring and evaluation of the Compact Agreement between the Council and the Sector will be conducted through Compact 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 every two months (more frequently if required)*
- *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*
- *Charing of meetings will alternate between the Council and Third Sector, minute taking and administering the meeting will likewise alternate between partners.*
- *Ensure Third Sector Forum Groups and relevant council groups to feed in*

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”*

1.4 In line with the agreement, the Council are to be updated annually on the work of the Compact Liaison Group and any development or amendments to the Compact Agreement. The Compact Agreement was last reviewed in 2021 and presented to cabinet in the Compact Update Report 2022. The Current agreement is available to review @ [Third Sector Compact Agreement - Swansea](#)

2. Compact Liaison Group - 2021/22

2.1 The group is comprised of Council Officers and representatives of the Third Sector who were elected by their peers via hustings events hosted by SCVS.

2.2 The Compact Liaison Group met five times during 2022

2.3 In line with the purpose of the group to *act as a mechanism to facilitate dialogue between the Council and the Third Sector on matters of shared interest* areas of work undertaken or discussed by the Third Sector Liaison Group in the 21/22 year included:

- Covid Recovery (achieving better together)
- Climate Change
- Community (and third Sector) Resilience

- Swansea Poverty Strategy
- Human Rights City
- Rights in your Pocket Guide
- Kick Start Work Wise Project
- Loneliness and Isolation Funding
- Volunteering Policy
- Fuel Bank Foundation
- Development of Grant Giving Policy
- Compact with the Third Sector Review

2.4 The group has worked together to promote the Compact Agreement and encourage ownership and support across both sectors by adopting an inclusive agenda planning process, encouraging partners to suggest items and drive workplans. Also by agreeing to share the Chair and secretariat of the meetings ownership of the group is shared at all levels.

3. Budget Pressures and Future Work Programme

3.1 Budget Pressures and the Cost-of-Living Crisis are affecting all sectors. The Third sector are particularly concerned that despite evidencing their importance to communities and partners during the Covid Pandemic they will be the hardest hit. Not only will Grants be reduced but fundraising and income opportunities will be severely hit as traditional funders and donors restrict spending.

3.2 Swansea Council for Voluntary Service has undertaken a survey of the Third Sector entitled “Cost of Living crisis – What are the issues facing your group?” A summary of this report can be found in Appendix 1.

Some of the key questions and responses include:

Q Are there any other key impacts that the cost of living crisis is having on your organisation?

“We are simply swamped with clients, people in desperate need”

“Asylum seeker allowance declining in value, worsening poverty. We provide hot meals and take aways at drop ins. Demand increasing. Cost of food rising”

Q What actions are you taking, or planning, to mitigate these effects?

“Actively seeking Grant funds to plug additional (non budgeted) expenses even if small. Focusing on basics well to move from a position of strength not stretched”

“Less outreach sessions, some activities suspended”

“We are simplifying volunteer roles and creating more drop in / one off activities. this will mean that we can offer less intensive support services, particularly

to Children and disabled adults. We are no longer offering lead volunteers to our partner charities, they will now take direct referrals of potential student volunteers. We are considering a 4 day week or 9 day fortnight to support our staff, this will have some impact on our overall service delivery.”

“Reduce services is the main actions as recently we have been working on that and change some of the times of meeting and services.”

Q What support would be helpful from funders and decision makers, for example, uplift in grant funding, additional help to cover overheads, etc

“additional costs for overheads. Ensuring funds are delivered when awarded and not held so projects have to use their own funds in the meantime”

“Definitely additional support for overheads / ability to straightforwardly apply for additional funding”

“increased grant funding, acceptance that core costs e.g. overheads, are now huge, and understanding that the ratio of grant pounds: outcomes purchased has changed”

“consideration of contract arrangements, specialist grant pots for service delivery but importantly for covering organisational core costs”

3.3 It is anticipated that The Cost of Living Increase, Budget Pressures and Funding issues will be prominent in the Workplan for the Compact liaison Group for 2023, alongside any other new policy or projects that impact the Sector.

4. Third Sector Funding 2022 - Grants and Contracts

4.1 The Third sector play an integral part in Swansea Council meeting its statutory and philanthropic aims. In situations where the Third sector is the best provider of a service, function or facility they are afforded to opportunity of competing for Contracts via the council’s procurement process or Grants via individual grant programmes.

4.2 The Council has administered a significant number of Third Sector Grant Funding programmes over the year.

4.3 An infographic summarising the grants can be found as **Appendix 2** and a summary table is below which shows 503 Grants have been awarded amounting to a total of circa £1,735,718

| Funding stream | Number of third sector projects/organisations supported | Amount allocated |
|--|--|-------------------------|
| Household Support Fund | 71 grants awarded | £83,440 |
| Direct Food Support Fund | 52 grants awarded to date (round two closing 18/01/23) | £121,213 |
| Period Dignity Fund | 34 grants awarded | £64,204 |
| Men's Shed Fund | 9 grants awarded | £29,412.99 |
| Rural Development Fund Programme | 4 grants awarded | £55,744 |
| Summer of Fun for Children and Families | 97 grants awarded | £ 409,743.29 |
| Winter of Wellbeing for Children and Families | 93 grants awarded (21/22) | £471,946 |
| Winter of Wellbeing 50+ | 49 grants awarded | £189,073.53 |
| Youth Support Emotional Health & Wellbeing Grant | 20 grants awarded (21/22) | £210,000 |
| Swansea Spaces (warm spaces) Fund | 67 (1 of which still to be offered due to outstanding query) | £83,831 |
| Armed Forces Veterans Support Fund | 6 Grants Awarded (to 12/22) | £17,110 |

4.4 Third Sector organisations hold a number of Contracts with Swansea Council, These contracts are procured via the 'Sell to Wales' portal and are won via the Councils procurement process.

5. Integrated Assessment Implications

5.1 The Council is subject to the Equality Act (Public Sector Equality Duty and the socio-economic duty), the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 and the Welsh Language (Wales) Measure, 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 Acts.
- 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.
- Deliver better outcomes for those people who experience socio-economic disadvantage
- Consider opportunities for people to use the Welsh language
- Treat the Welsh language no less favourably than English.
- Ensure that the needs of the present are met without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.

5.2 The Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2005 mandates that public bodies in Wales must carry out sustainable development. Sustainable development means the process of improving the economic,

social, environmental and cultural well-being of Wales by taking action, in accordance with the sustainable development principle, aimed at achieving the 'well-being goals'.

- 5.3 Our Integrated Impact Assessment (IIA) process ensures we have paid due regard to the above. It also takes into account other key issues and priorities, such as poverty and social exclusion, community cohesion, carers, the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) and Welsh language.
- 5.4 The IIA screening undertaken can be found at **Appendix 3** demonstrated that there are no equality implications for Swansea Council. This is because the report updates on Swansea's Third Sector Compact Agreement and the work to date of the Compact Liaison Group who were formed as part of the updated Swansea Compact Agreement with the Voluntary Sector in 2018.

In line with the agreement, the Council are to be updated annually on the work of the Compact Liaison Group and any development or amendments to the Compact Agreement. The report fulfils this requirement and updates to Compact for 2022.

The Compact Liaison Group is comprised of relevant Council Officers and representatives of the Third Sector elected by their peers via hustings events hosted by SCVS. The Group is not a decision-making body but reviews and advises on policy issues affecting both the Statutory and Third sector. The Compact Liaison Group therefore plays an important part of the Councils Consultation process, and can feed into reviews of Strategies, policies and services via its regular meetings.

The Compact Agreement is a partnership commitment, it is not party to a decision making body but can impact upon the council services in strategic way. The report updates the Agreement and on its subsequent workplan outputs for 2022.

6. Legal Implications

- 6.1 There are no legal implications.

7. Financial Implications

- 7.1 There are no financial implications.

Background Papers: None

Appendices:

Appendix 1 – Cost of Living Crisis – SCVS questionnaire for the third sector (edited to remove sensitive information)

Appendix 2 - Infographic - Third Sector Grant Funds 2022

Appendix 3 – IIA Screening Form