



Cabinet

Tuesday, 14 September 2021

Nottingham and Nottinghamshire Compact

Report of the Director – Neighbourhoods

**Cabinet Portfolio Holder for Communities and Climate Change,
Councillor A Brennan**

1. Purpose of report

- 1.1. This report presents the new Nottingham and Nottinghamshire Compact (Appendix 1), which has been developed by the Local Resilience Forum and Nottinghamshire County Council, for adoption by relevant public authorities to build on the successful response by the voluntary and community sector during the Covid-19 pandemic.
- 1.2. The report seeks approval to sign up to the Compact, and its principles, which will demonstrate the Council's ongoing commitment to the voluntary and community sector in the Borough.

2. Recommendation

It is RECOMMENDED that Cabinet approves the adoption of the Nottingham and Nottinghamshire Compact.

3. Reasons for Recommendation

- 3.1. Nottinghamshire County Council approved the adoption of the Compact on 10 June 2021, and the Chairman of Nottinghamshire County Council's Communities Committee and Adrian Smith, who is Chair of the Local Resilience Forum Humanitarian Assistance Group (LRF HAG) have now jointly written to the Council to seek support for the adoption of the Nottingham and Nottinghamshire Compact.
- 3.2. The principles of the Compact correlate well with the Council's strong track record for supporting and working with the voluntary and community sector in the Borough.

4. Supporting Information

- 4.1. The Compact has been developed by partners in the voluntary, community and public sectors, and was presented to and approved by the LRF HAG on 20 April 2021.

- 4.2. The Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS) has been at the heart of the humanitarian response across the City and County throughout the Covid pandemic, helping public bodies meet the expectations placed on them by the Government.
- 4.3. The VCS has always made a huge contribution to the lives of local people. The impact of Covid-19, and the response of the VCS to it, has further highlighted and amplified the sector's critical role. The sector very quickly mobilised to provide support to our most vulnerable residents at the time they needed it most. The development of the Compact has been borne out of the new relationships forged during the pandemic and is designed to provide a strong foundation for close collaborative working.
- 4.4. The Compact asks public sector partners and the VCS to commit to a set of shared values and principles, which support the long-term development of effective partnership working. To implement the Compact effectively key public bodies have been contacted by the County Council to request formal adoption of the Compact, and thereby agreement to follow its principles. This will help to support the development and sustainability of the VCS, whilst publicly demonstrating the value partners place in continuing the collaboration that has been collectively developed.
- 4.5. To facilitate more effective partnership working going forward, an output from the Compact will be the formation of an alliance of partners who will aim to better understand how the VSC contributes to, and can leverage its resources towards, an integrated 'systems approach'. It will embed good practice and use community action to address any inequalities affecting our communities and create the opportunity for innovation across the County.
- 4.6. During the pandemic, many community groups emerged across a large proportion of our towns and villages in the Borough to provide support to our most vulnerable residents such as older people, disabled people, those with specific health conditions, the homeless, and those economically disadvantaged. This situation augmented the Council's well-established role in facilitating and supporting the VCS and looking forward towards recovery this support will be just as important. Some specific examples of how the Council supports the VCS are summarised in the following list:
 - Annual Rushcliffe Borough Council (RBC) Service Level Agreement with Rushcliffe Community Voluntary Service (RCVS), which provides specialist support for voluntary organisations and the promotion of good practice in volunteering e.g. establishment of the Rushcliffe Volunteer Network, co-ordination of new volunteer placement opportunities, skills training and promotion of an annual volunteer recruitment fair.
 - Annual RBC Service Level Agreement with Rural Community Action Nottinghamshire (RCAN), which provides specialist rural knowledge and intelligence to influence and advocate on behalf of a network of local voluntary organisations and community groups in Nottinghamshire's rural communities.

- Establishing and supporting the Friends of Rushcliffe Country Park (FORCP) and Friends of Bridgford Park volunteer groups. As well as carrying out valuable conservation work such as hedge laying and tree planting, the FORCP has created a number of educational trails around the Rushcliffe Country Park. In recognition of their commitment and hard work on the park, the Friends were awarded the Queens Award for Voluntary Services in 2012.
- Developing the innovative Reach Rushcliffe grants programme which has benefited a wide range of voluntary groups such as:

Example 1 – £2000 for South Notts Befriending Service, a volunteer community befriending service led by RCVS which has a network of over 70 volunteers across the Borough supporting vulnerable residents with weekly befriending telephone calls, welfare checks and referrals for specialist support.

Example 2 – £1000 for Cotgrave Super Kitchen to create a volunteer led, community garden accessible for all, providing access to green space to learn about horticulture, growing and eating healthy foods.

Example 3 – £1000 for Meet, Greet and Eat to support individuals with additional needs into volunteering, provide work experience and/or paid employment.

- Working through the Rushcliffe Event Safety Advisory Group to provide specialist guidance and advice to enable volunteer community groups to deliver safe events within the local area – e.g., Bingham Community Events Group, East Leake Traders Association and Ruddington Village Market.
 - Supporting community and voluntary organisations in Keyworth to deliver place-based targeted physical activity interventions such as Keyworth United Sports Club and Keyworth Community Events Group.
 - Supported delivery of the Live and Local Rural Arts touring scheme in Rushcliffe for over 25 years, working with a network of over 12 volunteer promoter groups across the Borough to host professional touring arts performances in rural communities.
- 4.7. In light of this strong track record, it is felt that the principles contained in the Compact will, subject to approval, be an important signal to reinforce the positive relationships that already exists with the VCS in the Borough.

5. Alternative options considered and reasons for rejection

The Council could decide to not support the Compact.

6. Risks and Uncertainties

The viability and sustainability of the VCS can by its very nature be fragile and transient therefore the principles of the Compact will help to strengthen the important contribution that this sector makes.

7. Implications

7.1. Financial Implications

The Council's existing commitment to the VCS is contained within the budget framework: RCVS £15k, RCAN £18.5k and Reach £15k (only included in the budget provision until 2022/23). The signing of the Compact itself will not generate any new financial impacts for the Council.

7.2. Legal Implications

There are no direct legal implications from signing the Nottingham and Nottinghamshire Compact.

7.3. Equalities Implications

There are no direct or significant equalities implications arising from the Nottingham and Nottinghamshire Compact.

7.4. Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 Implications

The VCS plays an important role in a wide range of community safety measures such as Neighbourhood Watch and volunteer speed patrols.

8. Link to Corporate Priorities

Quality of Life	The VCS underpins and contributes to many aspects of what defines a great quality of life across the Borough
Efficient Services	The VCS makes an important contribution to compliment and augment the Council's existing statutory and discretionary service delivery
Sustainable Growth	Not applicable
The Environment	The VCS makes a strong and varied contribution to the environmental quality of the Borough from Country Park volunteers through to Tree Wardens

9. Recommendation

It is RECOMMENDED that Cabinet approves the adoption of the Nottingham and Nottinghamshire Compact.

For more information contact:	David Banks Director - Neighbourhoods 0115 914 8438 dbanks@rushcliffe.gov.uk
Background papers available for Inspection:	None.
List of appendices:	Appendix 1 - Nottingham and Nottinghamshire Compact