



City of Westminster



*Westminster*



westminster  
community  
network



Volunteer *Centre*  
Westminster

# Working Together

## The Westminster Compact 2011

Consultation Questions

## **Tell us your views!**

Westminster's local compact is the agreed framework to strengthen working relations between the public, voluntary and community sectors.

The first Westminster Compact was agreed in 2004. In 2011, the landscape has changed significantly. The City Council and NHS Westminster are now primarily commissioning organisations. This has changed the funding relationship with the voluntary sector in conjunction with a significant review of voluntary sector funding in 2010. There is also significantly less funding available as the City Council and NHS work to make the necessary savings asked by central government. The Coalition government has also brought the voluntary and community sector into the frame as a central player as it strives to achieve its vision for a Big Society. In Westminster we recognise that our civic society has been *big* for some time and we will continue to take steps to build it.

All of these drivers, in addition to a new national Compact released in November 2010, make it a timely opportunity to refresh the Westminster Compact to ensure it is still fit for purpose. It is hoped that the refreshed Compact will help lay the foundation for a stable and successful partnership that delivers better outcomes for people and communities in Westminster.

We want your views about whether this draft Compact does meet this objective. We also want to hear about what issues or barriers you would like the partners of this agreement to address in the next few years. This will help us form a Compact Action Plan so that real and measurable steps can be taken to help the voluntary sector in Westminster do its best for the communities they serve.

## Consultation questions

1. Do you think there is value in having this type of agreement between the sectors?
2.
  - a) Are the partners to the Compact, as listed on page 16 of the consultation draft, representative of the sectors involved?
  - b) Which other organisations, if any, do you think should be involved in the Compact?
  - c) Should other statutory bodies in Westminster be included in the Compact and, if so, which ones?
3. Do you agree with the shared principles set out on pages 4 and 5?
4. Do you agree with the commitments set out in the Section 1 *Strong, diverse and independent civil society*? Please explain.
5. Do you agree with the commitments set out in Section 2 *Effective partnership working to enable well managed services and high-quality programmes that meet the needs of Westminster's diverse communities*? Please explain.
6. Do you agree with the commitments set out in Section 3 *Volunteering*? Please explain.
7. Do you agree with the commitments set out in Section 4 *An Equal & Fair Society*? Please explain.
8. What barriers, issues or red tape do you think statutory bodies in Westminster should try to address to make it easier for the VCS to undertake their activities? Please explain.
9. Is there anything that voluntary sector infrastructure providers such as Voluntary Action Westminster or Volunteer Centre Westminster can do to improve the way they support local charities to undertake their activities? Please explain.
10. How can we ensure that the contents of this document are fully implemented by its partners, and that the document serves its purpose?
11. Do you have any further comments about the draft Westminster Compact?

## **About you**

1. Are you replying on behalf of an organisation or as an individual? Please provide details.
2. If you are an organisation, do you work mainly for the benefit of Westminster? Please provide details.
3. Would your organisation be willing to sign up to the Westminster Compact?

**Please send your responses to [civiccommunity@westminster.gov.uk](mailto:civiccommunity@westminster.gov.uk) by 23 February 2012.**

**For further information please contact:**

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