

Test Valley Compact

About the COMPACT

What is the COMPACT?

The Compact is a country-wide initiative to deliver mutual benefits from closer, more productive partnerships between voluntary and statutory organisations. It is a protocol to achieve improved joint working and common understanding between organisations.

How did the COMPACT come about?

The Government launched a national Compact in 1998. By 2004 public authorities were required to develop their own. In Test Valley, the process has been very constructive, using open meetings and working groups. Test Valley Compact was launched in November 2005.

How will success be judged?

Prevention of problems and measuring better understanding is difficult to assess, but a Compact should mean; earlier consultation on important community decisions, improved understanding of and access to funding, better use of combined experience and good practice, better value for money, better job satisfaction for volunteers and employees – and better services for the people of Test Valley. It's also good to have somewhere to go and sort things out – the mark of a good Compact is how problems are put right.

Who's paying for it?

Set-up and administration costs are paid for by Test Valley Borough Council and Hampshire County Council. Additionally, many individuals from voluntary groups are contributing time.

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Getting involved

Can my group get involved?

The Test Valley Compact exists for groups that provide a community benefit and want to ensure that the contribution of their volunteers is fully appreciated by public authorities and other groups. Your group doesn't have to be a registered charity to benefit from, or to contribute to, the Compact.

Can my group raise issues via the COMPACT?

If issues arise that indicate a misunderstanding of one another's perspectives then the matter can be raised initially through the Community Development Action Group. Additionally there is a Hampshire Compact challenge group and a national Compact Advocacy Group.

What groups are already involved?

On one side, all the key public authorities have signed up at either Test Valley or Hampshire level. On the other side more than 50 voluntary organisations were actively involved in the development of the Compact in Test Valley and many more were consulted as part of the process.

Codes of Good Practice

Three local Codes of Good Practice have been developed to support the work of organisations in Test Valley, focussing on:

- Funding
- Consultation
- Volunteering

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Recent success stories

From tiny acorns mighty oak trees grow.....

Two examples of where reference to a Compact way of working has helped achieve a better agreement.

Test Valley Borough Council Community Grants Programme

Following feedback from voluntary groups about the late decision date for community grant applications, the Executive now considers applications in March each year to provide early notice to applicants.

Joint training and information sharing

Two recent initiatives have helped to share the workload between the voluntary sector and the Council while also providing a better service to the public.

- A joint data gathering exercise reduced duplication of questionnaires.
- Initial trials of sharing training opportunities are being investigated, so that both voluntary and public sector workers can benefit more from the range of opportunities available.

These are two of the early examples of step on our continuing journey of success. If you know of any others please let us know!

TestValleyCompact OurFiveC's

Communication
-promoting gains and achievements

Consultation
-seeking views and ideas

Cooperation
-working on issues together

Commitment
-delivering on our promises

Compact
-bringing it all together

“It’s because we need to listen
to each other and understand
our different perspectives”

Compact
working together better together

TestValleyCompact How to find out more

Website

www.testvalley.gov.uk or www.tvcs.org.uk

Telephone and e-mail

Contact either the Chair or Coordinator of
the Community Development Action Group:

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Alarger print version of this leaflet
and voice formats are available on
request.

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TestValley's voluntary, community and public sectors

- Working together
- Being better together
- Getting it right together



Test Valley
PARTNERSHIP