

WYRE FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL

CABINET MEETING
29th JUNE 2006

Worcestershire Partnership Compact – ‘Let’s Do It Smarter’

OPEN	
COMMUNITY STRATEGY THEME	Greater Learning and Participation
CORPORATE PLAN THEME:	Providing Community Leadership
KEY PRIORITY:	Effective Partnership Working
CABINET MEMBER:	Cllr. Stephen Clee
RESPONSIBLE OFFICER:	Chief Executive
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APPENDICES	A Copy of the Worcestershire Compact – ‘ <i>Lets Do It Smarter</i> ’ is available electronically (see front cover for details)

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To report on progress made by the Worcestershire Partnership in developing a Compact for Worcestershire.

2. RECOMMENDATION

The Cabinet is asked to **RECOMMEND** to Council that:

- 2.1 The Worcestershire Partnership Compact ‘Let’s Do It Smarter’ April 2006 be formally adopted.
- 2.2 The Worcestershire Partnership Compact ‘Let’s Do It Smarter’ April 2006 will supersede, with immediate effect, the Council’s Interim Compact with Community Action Wyre Forest, February 2005.

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 In February 2005, Members will recall that the District Council adopted an interim Wyre Forest District Compact in partnership with Community Action Wyre Forest.
- 3.2 A Compact is a common set of principles between the voluntary, community, statutory and private sectors, which provide a framework for the delivery of high quality, cost effective services and support to the community.
- 3.3 In the summer of 2005, the Worcestershire Partnership Board expressed its commitment to supporting the development of a Compact for Worcestershire and

requested that the Wyre Forest District Compact be used as the framework for the Worcestershire document.

3.4 The Worcestershire Partnership Board tasked the Engaging Worcestershire Steering Group (EWSG) with progressing the Compact on its behalf. The EWSG membership currently includes:

- a) 5 Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS) infrastructure organisations
- b) District Councils (represented by Worcester City Council)
- c) Redditch and Bromsgrove and South Worcestershire PCTs
- d) Worcestershire County Council

3.5 On 10th October 2005, the Worcestershire Partnership Board approved the common principles for the Worcestershire Compact as follows:

- a) Partnership working
- b) Diversity and community cohesion
- c) Mutual respect
- d) Recognition of the independent role of the VCS
- e) Joint contribution to the planning of public services
- f) Transparency of funding and procurement arrangements
- g) Meaningful consultation
- h) Commitment

4. PROGRESS TO DATE

4.1 On 10th November 2005, the EWSG held an event to raise awareness of the Compact and to discuss the specific implications for partner organisations. The event was well attended by a variety of representatives from statutory, private and voluntary sector organisations.

4.2 In response to feedback from partner organisations, the EWSG finalised the draft Worcestershire Partnership Compact. A copy of this document has been placed in Members' Group Rooms. The Worcestershire Partnership Board formally endorsed the draft Compact on 4th April 2006.

4.3 The Wyre Forest Matters Strategic Board endorsed the Compact at its meeting on 7th June 2006.

5. NEXT STEPS

5.1 Draft common codes of practice will shortly be developed by the EWSG for the following areas:

- a) Procurement and Funding (to be completed by September 2006)
- b) Consultation (to be completed by September 2006)
- c) Community Groups (to be completed by January 2007)
- d) Volunteering (to be completed by January 2007)

- 5.2 Partner organisations, wherever possible are asked to formally endorse the principles of the Compact, and to ensure the EWSG is notified of the process by which this will be done, and by when.

6. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 There are no financial implications in connection with this report.

7. LEGAL AND POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 This Worcestershire Partnership Compact 'Let's Do It Smarter' will supersede the Council's Interim Compact with Community Action Wyre Forest.

8. RISK MANAGEMENT

- 8.1 There are no risk management implications in connection with this report.

9. CONCLUSION

- 9.1 The Worcestershire Compact recognises the great contribution the Voluntary Sector makes to Worcestershire, and the great diversity that exists in both individual organisations and the relationships between them. Therefore our aim as a Council will be to further build our relationships with the Voluntary Sector in this District.

10. CONSULTEES

- Leader of the Council
- CMT

11. BACKGROUND PAPERS

- Cabinet Report 16th December 2004
- Interim Compact with Community Action Wyre Forest – February 2005
- Worcestershire Partnership Compact 'Let's Do It Smarter' April 2006
- Worcestershire Partnership Board Meeting Minutes – 4th April 2006
- Wyre Forest Matters Strategic Board Meeting Minutes – 7th June 2006

2nd June 2006