

**Huntingdonshire Town and Parish Charter and Voluntary Sector Compact
(Report by the Head of Environmental and Community Health Services)**

1. PURPOSE

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide the Overview and Scrutiny (Social Wellbeing) with the opportunity to consider the final version of the Huntingdonshire Town and Parish Charter Appendix 'A' attached to this report.

2. INTRODUCTION

- 2.1 Following meetings of the "Joint District and County Council Localism working group" it was identified that if the objectives of the Localism Act 2012 are to be addressed it was essential that Town and Parish Councils and the Voluntary and Community sector be actively involved.
- 2.2 The Charter and Compact documents set out a framework to allow Cambridgeshire County Council, Huntingdonshire District Council, local Town & Parish Councils and Voluntary and Community Organisations to work in partnership to improve the economic, social and environmental well-being of Huntingdonshire. Through these documents the signatories agree to work in partnership for the benefit of the local community while recognising and respecting their individual rights as separate democratic and accountable bodies.

It is also intended that the Charter and Compact will reflect the following general principles:-

- **All levels of Local government and the Voluntary and Community Sector will undertake together to:-**
 - Establish forums for regular dialogue;
 - Respect and understanding of the role and remit of each other, including how and when decisions can be made and appropriate time scales; and
 - Focus on outcomes
- **The District Council & County Council undertake to:-**
 - Provide Town & Parish Council's and Voluntary and Community sector with a key contacts list for enquiries on key services;
 - Where possible, co-ordinate consultations to avoid consultation fatigue; and
 - Establish clear mechanisms for consultation and feedback

- **Town & Parish Council's and Voluntary and community Sector organisations will undertake to:-**
 - Engage with proposals/ideas put forward by either/both the District Council or County Council to ensure that actions can be taken forward;
 - Will develop a clear documented vision for their local community or service users;
 - Work with its local community and service users to take forward ideas/proposals; and
 - Proactively seek to co-ordinate or take on local services where the local council or voluntary sector organisations have the capacity and skill to do so.

The Charter and Compact documents will also provide details on how issues such as Neighbourhood Plans, Community Right to Buy, Community Right to Challenge, and Community Infrastructure Levy for example will be dealt with.

4. CONCLUSIONS

- 4.1 The attached documents are still subject to final agreement with Town Councils and Parish Councils in Huntingdonshire.

5. RECOMMENDATION

- 5.1 The Overview and Scrutiny Panel are requested to note the contents and provide comment on this report.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

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