

Midlothian Compact Agreement 2020-2025

Report by A Lang Strategic Service Redesign Manager (Services with Communities) and Rebecca McKinney (Third Sector Representative)

Report for Information**1 Recommendations**

- To note and support the priorities outlined in the Compact Agreement.
- To adhere to the TRACK values in our joint work with the third sector - Togetherness, Respect, Accountability, Creativity and Kindness

2 Purpose of Report/Executive Summary

The purpose of this report is to present the Midlothian Compact 2020 to 2025. The Midlothian Compact creates the foundation for positive working relationships between the Third Sector and Midlothian Council to support better outcomes for communities. It updates and builds upon the original Compact, which was created in 2008 based on Scottish Government Guidance. It sets out the values that will underpin our relationship, provides a clear overview of the legislative framework, the current social and economic environment, and identifies a series of actions and outcomes that we will seek to achieve through strengthened cross-sector collaboration.

Midlothian has been recognised for the strength of its cross-sector partnerships and relationships. There has been a long track-record of good collaboration between Midlothian Council and the Third Sector, and this gives us an excellent foundation for future partnership and innovation.

Due to the current challenges including the current Pandemic we consider it to be more important than ever to continue to maintain and strengthen our commitment to shared values and partnership working.

Date 1st September 2020**Report Contact:**

Annette Lang

07880279937

annette.lang@midlothian.gov.uk

3 Background

The Midlothian Compact establishes a set of core values that will shape and define the relationship between the Third Sector and the community planning partners. These values should form the basis of all strategic and day-to-day interactions and communications between the sectors. These are:

Togetherness: the sectors will work together to design and deliver services for the people of Midlothian. Public sector decisions affecting the operation and/or resourcing of Third Sector organisations will not be made without engagement with the sector. Similarly funding bids by Third Sector partners which affect the operation/ resourcing of public services will not be made without engagement with the relevant public sector partners.

Respect: we will offer each other mutual respect and parity of esteem, valuing the knowledge, skills and constraints within both sectors, at all levels.

Accountability: we will work with each other openly and mutually accountable.

Creativity: we will seek creative approaches to both opportunities and challenges.

Kindness: a commitment to putting kind, socially-inclusive interactions at the heart of all our work, trusting our partners to make meaningful connections, creating space for partners to come together, addressing people's needs holistically.

The TRACK values of this compact—Togetherness, Respect, Accountability, Creativity and Kindness—will ensure that the relationships between our sectors develop and evolve in ways which ensure the best outcomes for local communities, yet fostering respect, accountability and challenge.

The Compact also sets out what the Third Sector is and how it interacts with Midlothian Council and partners. The document also contains a logic model with areas for action. These include:

- Develop a communications strategy to promote the Compact among staff, volunteers, service users, community members and Elected Members
- Develop and disseminate a statement of key messages about the Third Sector, to raise awareness of the value of the sector in Midlothian
- Develop a training session for Elected Members about the Compact
- Promote codes of conduct and good governance for Elected Members, staff, volunteers and directors of Third Sector organisations

- Highlight and celebrate successes of the Third Sector and cross-sector partnerships
- Work in partnership to address emergency and or crisis situations.
- Work together to plan next round of Midlothian Council Third Sector grants
- Build closer collaboration between the Third Sector Interface (TSI) and Midlothian Council for supporting rights under the Community Empowerment Act
- Strengthen community capacity-building services across sector boundaries through:
Regular networking meet-ups between key teams from the TSI, Midlothian Council, NHS Lothian and other relevant agencies

Joint training and collaborative planning opportunities, and supporting cross-sector participation in existing training opportunities

Cross-sector development/training sessions for effective partnership working

- Explore opportunities for sharing resources, skills, processes and facilities across sector boundaries (buildings, IT, knowledge...)
- Develop Joint Participation Strategy for Midlothian (CPP), promoting community leadership, activism and organization in response to local needs
- Share/disseminate data and evidence about issues, needs, and outcomes affecting Midlothian
- Trial multi-disciplinary 'team' approach to creative problem-solving around complex issues
- Establish joint creative ideas forums
- Explore opportunities for Third Sector to be involved in core decision-making processes – co-planning, co-design, as well as widening use of Participatory Budgeting
- Explore opportunities for establishing local citizens' assemblies involving local volunteers
- Creating new networks and opportunities to bring community members, Third Sector and public sector together to address climate change

The full Midlothian Compact 2020 is contained in Appendix 1.

4 Report Implications (Resource, Digital, Risk and Equalities)

4.1 Resource

The Midlothian Compact is undertaken within current resources although through joint working it is hoped to attract funding and increase efficiencies.

4.2 Digital

Through the recent experiences of working on line through Covid19 the compact agreement will continue to explore opportunities to address digital solutions and address digital exclusion.

4.3 Risk

The Midlothian Compact 2020 sets out clear principles, values and areas of work therefore recognising the strength in partnership working which reduces the risks of duplication and conflict of interests.

4.4 Ensuring Equalities

Ensuring equalities is a key principle of partnership working with the third sector as reflected in the Midlothian Community Partnership Plan. Advice has been taken and as this is a partnership agreement which does not directly affect people at this stage a separate IAA is not required. However when projects are taken forward linked to the action plan separate individual IAA will be undertaken.

4.5 Additional Report Implications (See Appendix A)

The Midlothian Compact 2020 reaffirms our joint commitment to working in partnership with the third sector detailing values, principles and key areas for future work which can be fully viewed in Appendix A

Appendices

[Appendix A – Compact 2020 -2025](#) *(this is a live link to the appendix due to the format it cannot be attached to the report in word).*

APPENDIX A – Additional Report Implications

A.1 Key Priorities within the Single Midlothian Plan

The Compact Logic Action Plan reflects the 4 key outcomes of the Midlothian Community Partnership Plan. Specifically:

- Reducing the gap in learning outcomes.
- Reducing the gap in health outcomes.
- Reducing the gap in economic circumstances.
- Reducing the impact of climate change

A.2 Key Drivers for Change

Key drivers addressed in this report:

- ☒ Holistic Working
- ☒ Hub and Spoke
- ☒ Modern
- ☒ Sustainable
- ☒ Transformational
- ☒ Preventative
- ☒ Asset-based
- ☒ Continuous Improvement
- ☒ One size fits one
- ☐ None of the above

A.3 Key Delivery Streams

Key delivery streams addressed in this report:

- ☒ One Council Working with you, for you
- ☒ Preventative and Sustainable
- ☒ Efficient and Modern
- ☒ Innovative and Ambitious

A.4 Delivering Best Value

The Compact sets out the principles of partnership working which have Best Value at their core with the intention of reducing duplication, maximising attraction of resources to Midlothian, yet with appropriate support and challenge.

A.5 Involving Communities and Other Stakeholders

The Compact has been co designed with members of the Council and third sector.

A.6 Impact on Performance and Outcome

The Midlothian Compact supports performance and support in delivering positive outcomes for our communities through partnership working.

A.7 Adopting a Preventative Approach

Our partnership with the third sector across a number of key areas adopts preventative approaches from early years to work with older people.

A.8 Supporting Sustainable Development

Sustainable development work is also a key area of partnership work between the Council and third sector partners. With Climate change specifically identified as a key area of joint partnership working.