



THE EDINBURGH PARTNERSHIP

From Desirable to Essential – the Third Sector as a Partner in Edinburgh

The Edinburgh Compact Partnership will be Ten Next Year

- 1 The Edinburgh Compact Partnership held its first meeting on 28 January 2005. This was the culmination of a process which began in 2002, with a multi-agency Compact Working Group convened in early 2003. This Working Group led a process of engagement and consultation with the city's Third Sector and with Public Sector partners, which led to the formal establishment of the Edinburgh Compact Partnership. **In 2005 the Edinburgh Compact Partnership was the first city-level Compact Partnership in Scotland. It is still recognised as an exemplar of good practice.**
- 2 At the Edinburgh Compact Partnership meeting last month Partners agreed to support a year-long programme of events during 2014/15 with three key aims
 - 2.1 to support the Third Sector to engage more effectively with the breadth of partnership activity in Edinburgh – in particular Edinburgh's City Community Plan (SOA4);
 - 2.2 to itself engage more effectively with the Public Sector, so that understanding of and appreciation for the Third Sector and its values grows; and
 - 2.3 to celebrate the Compact Partnership's achievements over the past ten years, and look forward to the next ten years of progress in cross-sector relationships.
- 3 Following discussion at the Edinburgh Partnership Executive on Friday 06 September, this paper puts forward some detail for Partners' consideration and support. A request for funding has been submitted to the Edinburgh Partnership, and is being considered via the appropriate channels.

What a difference ten years makes

- 4 The Third Sector has clearly made very considerable progress on the journey from groups which do good works and seek funding for those activities to a coherent Third Sector engaged variously to achieve our shared common purpose.
- 5 The Third Sector is now seldom the passive partner, grateful for a hand-out, and is more often than not an actively engaged equal, seeking jointly to shape programmes and outcomes on behalf of the people all sectors serve.
- 6 It would similarly be unwise to suggest that everywhere the Third Sector is engaged we find equal and respectful relationships. Change does not come about overnight, and even a decade has not brought progress across the board.

- 7 Let's recognise that the Third Sector now engages and influences, and is – in turn – influenced by its participation as a Community Planning Partner. Partners will agree, also, that the direction of travel over the last decade has been positive.
- 8 Some examples might help bring this home:
 - 8.1 [The Agreement](#) between Scottish Government, COSLA, and the National Community Planning Group says, 'CPPs should build on the third sector's breadth of experience and insight into working directly with individuals, communities and their assets to help them... co-produce better outcomes;
 - 8.2 We have become used to the Third Sector being engaged across the Edinburgh Partnership family – including the breadth of Strategic Partnerships as well as every Neighbourhood Partnership. Elsewhere in Scotland, the capital is still recognised as an exemplar in engagement with the Third Sector;
 - 8.3 Commissioning Plans are now routinely developed with the Third Sector meaningfully engaged from start to finish. In fact, the Third Sector often plays a leadership role, chairing a range of Checkpoint Groups – providing balance, bringing the people's perspective to the task;
 - 8.4 Volunteering and Social Enterprise development has been embedded in partnership actions and outcomes through Compact strategies;
 - 8.5 Relationships at a Neighbourhood level are, generally, positive. The local Third Sector has a seat on every Neighbourhood Partnership and is often active on action groups and in developing Local Community Plans.
- 9 It is a common experience that such relationships in Edinburgh are often the envy of Third Sector colleagues across Scotland.
- 10 The Edinburgh Compact Partnership – with its strap-line of 'In Equal Respect' – continues to be an enabler of positive Third Sector partnership work.

Summary

- 11 Edinburgh is proud of its Compact Partnership, and of its relationship with the city's Third Sector. The Compact's tenth anniversary is an apt time to publicly recognise the contribution that the Third Sector brings to the capital, and particularly to Community Planning activities and relationships at a city-level and at Neighbourhood-level. Partners are invited to share their views on the plans to mark this anniversary, and on contribution to Community Planning the Third Sector makes.

Recommendations

- 12 The Edinburgh Partnership Board is, therefore, invited to:
 - i. Consider how partners can – jointly and severally – support the work of the Edinburgh Compact Partnership;

- ii. Share its views on the role of the Third Sector within Community Planning in Edinburgh, and how the Third Sector's engagement with Community Planning has matured over the last ten years; and
- iii. Refer this paper and its appendices – with the Board's decision – to relevant Partner bodies and particularly to other Strategic Partnerships and the city's Neighbourhood Partnerships.

Harriet Eadie
Chair, Edinburgh Compact Partnership
And
Chief Executive, Volunteer Centre Edinburgh

Contact details

Name Milind Kolhatkar
Designation Compact Secretariat, c/o EVOC
Telephone No 0131 555 9100
Email Address Milind.Kolhatkar@evoc.org.uk

Appendix One: [Paper to Edinburgh Compact Partnership](#) – 16 August 13

Appendix Two: [Paper to Edinburgh Partnership Executive](#) – 06 September 13

Background Paper: Report on the [development of the Edinburgh Compact Partnership](#), Steve Kent, EVOC