

COMPACT AT WORK



Making the Compact work for you

Oldham: Embedding the Compact in a new Cooperative structure

Oldham Council has recently made the shift to being a Cooperative Borough, and they've ensured that the local voluntary and community sector is at the heart of their new structure. The momentum that is being created to develop Oldham as a Cooperative Borough has helped to meaningfully embed the local Compact into their day to day practices.

Impact

The Oldham Compact was launched in May 2009. Considerable work has taken place to help embed the Compact within existing Oldham Partnership structures, ensuring that the Compact is meaningful in practice.

In May 2011, Oldham Council launched its vision to create a Cooperative Borough. In order to do this, they established a Cooperative Commission.

The local voluntary sector infrastructure organisation, Voluntary Action Oldham, is a key partner in this Commission. Along with other statutory providers and members of the public, they helped to develop:

- A Cooperative Charter
- An ethical framework for commissioning
- A range of cooperative pilots to test new ways of delivering Council services.

Voluntary and community sector organisations in Oldham are recognised as being Community Cooperatives due to their governance, accountability to their membership and the added benefit they deliver to the communities of Oldham.

The principles contained within Oldham's Compact and Codes of Practices have been embedded in this new way of working and clearly demonstrate Oldham's commitment to working in a Compact compliant way.

The benefits to the Council of working with the voluntary and community sector - such as their accountability to their membership through their governance - are increasingly being recognised, and continue to strengthen the commitment demonstrated in Oldham's Code of Practice on Commissioning.

The leadership shown by the Council and its key partners to create a Cooperative Borough has created an exciting, dynamic environment - one in which the values and benefits of working with voluntary and community sector is recognised and will be embedded into mainstream practice.

Summary

The purpose of the Cooperative Charter is to communicate the ambitions and values of how the Council and its partners will work with its citizens and how it should aspire to do business.

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Compact Name:
Oldham Local
Compact

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Compact Principles

1. Partnership Working
2. Designing policies and services
3. Delivering programmes and services
5. Promoting Equality and Fairness

Tags

Engagement
Local Compacts
Commissioning

Continued...

These values include fairness, openness, responsibility, working together, accountability, respect and democracy. These values mirror those that underpin Oldham's Compact, which also focuses on cooperation, accountability, responsibility and fairness between statutory agencies and the voluntary and community sector.

The principles within Oldham's Engagement Code of Practice are also clearly evident within the new structure. The length of consultations, the depth and frequency of how partners are consulting with citizens across the borough on developing more cooperative ways of working are all included. This engagement is being branded as a 'Cooperative Conversation'.

The Council are also developing an Ethical Framework, which details how they will support their own staff (through establishing minimum standards such as the Living Wage) and the commitment they will show to Oldham's communities (through their employee supported volunteering scheme). This framework will also include their commissioning intentions that will detail who the Council will do business with and their expectations of their sub-contractors and how they will treat their workforce and deliver their services.



Relevant Compact Principles

1. A strong, diverse and independent civil society
2. Effective and transparent design and development of policies, programmes and public services
3. Responsive and high-quality programmes and services
5. An equal and fair society

Related links

- www.vaoldham.org.uk
- www.oldham.gov.uk
- [Compact In Action Report](#)