

# The Warwickshire Compact Commitments

## 2 An effective and transparent design and development of policies, plans and services

### Undertakings for public agencies:

- 2.1** Involve voluntary and community organisations in developing and delivering plans to address local priorities, from neighbourhood action planning through to County-wide strategies, and ensure voluntary sector interests are represented on significant partnerships.
- 2.2** Ensure information on policies, consultations, strategies and partnerships is easily accessible to all and provide notification of any planned changes at an early stage.
- 2.3** Consider the social impact that may result from policy and service development, including the implications for voluntary and community organisations, and the impact upon efforts to inspire social action and to empower communities.
- 2.4** Work with voluntary and community organisations from the earliest stage possible to plan any changes to services or policies and to assess the possible implications and impact of these changes. Ensure that those likely to have a view are involved from the start and aim to remove any barriers that may prevent organisations from contributing.
- 2.5** Aim to consult with relevant community interest groups prior to making any significant changes to policies or services.
- 2.6** Where possible give early notice of consultations, allowing enough time for voluntary and community organisations to involve their service users, beneficiaries, members, volunteers and trustees in preparing responses. Where it is appropriate and enables meaningful engagement, conduct 12 week formal written consultations with clear explanations and rationale for shorter time-frames or a more informal approach.
- 2.7** Aim to provide feedback to explain how respondents have influenced the design and development of policies and services, including where respondents' views have not been acted upon.

### Undertakings for voluntary and community organisations:

- 2.8** Aim to promote and respond to local consultations.
- 2.9** Seek the views of service users, clients, beneficiaries, members, volunteers and trustees when responding to consultations or making representation to public agencies and be clear about who is being represented, in what capacity and on what basis that representation is being made.
- 2.10** When putting forward ideas, focus on evidence-based solutions with clear proposals for positive outcomes.