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EXPLORING THE BENEFITS OF USING THE COMPACT

Research by the Commission for the Compact into the economic and social benefits for local authorities of applying Compact principles in their relationships with local third sector organisations is well underway.

All top tier local authority areas have a Local Compact agreement that sets out guidelines for how the local public and third sectors should work together to improve the lives of individuals and communities. Local Compacts are often based on principles in the national Compact but reflect distinctive local partnership working arrangements.

This research has been commissioned to evaluate the economic and social advantages to local authorities of applying Compact principles when working with the third sector. In addition to the development of a tool, which will allow individual local authorities to project the benefits of applying Compact principles themselves, the research will provide case studies from selected local authorities.

Richard Williams, Policy Adviser at the Commission for the Compact, said:

“Our previous research has demonstrated that where Compact principles are applied, partnership working improves. We now need to consider how we market the Compact to local authorities and improve its implementation, especially in a challenging economic environment. This research will look to quantify the economic and social benefits of consistently applying Compact principles. We hope this research and the tool will help councils to realise the benefits of a Compact way of working and increase implementation.”

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The Commission for the Compact has appointed financial and business adviser Grant Thornton UK LLP to conduct the research on its behalf.

David Shaw, Head of Government Consulting at Grant Thornton UK LLP, said:

“We are delighted to be working with the Commission for the Compact on this interesting and important project. As a firm we greatly value the third sector as important clients, trusted delivery partners and more generally as key contributors to the wider community. Effective engagement will become increasingly critical given the outlook for wider public services and the Compact is at the heart of this. We very much look forward to sharing our findings.”

The research report and tool will be published in early summer 2010.

For more information about the Compact, please visit:

www.thecompact.org.uk

Notes for Editors

- The Compact was established in England in November 1998 and was inspired by the Deakin Commission report on the Future of the Voluntary Sector. It is an agreement that provides an overall framework for promoting effective partnership working between the Government and the third sector. A refreshed version of the Compact was published in December 2009. This retains all the key points of the original but takes into account recent developments in law, policy and practice. It is divided into three key areas covering involvement in policy development, allocating resources and advancing equality.
- Grant Thornton is a leading provider of combined economics, accounting and consulting services to Government (local, central and regional) and its partners in the private and third sector. For further information, please visit, please visit **www.grant-thornton.co.uk**

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For media enquiries, please contact:

Catherine Byerley, Communications Officer
Commission for the Compact
Tel: 0121 237 5905
Email: catherine.byerley@thecompact.org.uk