



**Community
Transport
Association**

**Response to the
Cabinet Office – Office of the Third Sector &
Commission for the Compact
Consultation on
Refreshing the Compact**

Closing Date: 12th October 2009

The Community Transport Association

The CTA is a rapidly growing national charity giving voice and providing leadership, learning and enterprise support to member organisations, which are delivering innovative transport solutions to achieve social change. CTA UK promotes excellence through providing training, publications, advice and information on voluntary, accessible and community transport.

Voluntary and community transport exists to meet the travel and social needs of people to whom these would otherwise be denied, providing accessible and affordable transport to achieve social inclusion.

The CTA is the representative body for third sector passenger transport operators in the UK. CTA Member organisations are involved in the provision of transport, especially accessible services.

The CTA is the UK's largest provider of training, advice and information on accessible, voluntary and community transport provision. The CTA is part-funded by the Department for Transport, the Welsh Assembly Government and the Department for Regional Development (Northern Ireland).

CTA's Response to Consultation

The CTA welcomes the opportunity to contribute to Cabinet Office – Office of the Third Sector & Commission for the Compact's consultation process. After reading through the consultation we have decided to respond on those specific areas that we believe would have a marked effect on our sector.

Contact Details

Any queries regarding this response should be directed to:

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About you and your organisation

Your name

Brian Shawdale

Full name of the organisation you are responding on behalf of

Community Transport Association UK

Email address of respondent

brian@ctauk.org

Please mark the appropriate box(es) or write in your answer where appropriate. What sector are you from?

Local Authority
 Central Government Department
 Other Public Body - e.g. non-departmental public body
 Voluntary and Community Sector/Third Sector Front line service delivery
 Voluntary and Community Sector/Third Sector Infrastructure body
 Other

Are you responding as an individual or on behalf of your organisation?

This is my own opinion.
 This is our organisational response. The responses represent the views of the organisation.

Do the responses given here represent the views of the organisation AFTER consultation with external parties?

Yes
 No

If you have not consulted widely, please detail how this response represents the view?

We are the representative body for a wide range of third sector organisations, providing transport services as well as local authorities and other bodies that provide transport on behalf of their members. The CTA annually undertakes a nationwide series of road-shows where issues affecting the sector are raised.

Scope of the Sector

The Compact should be relevant and applicable to the wider third sector, however the level of engagement of individual organisations with the Compact depends on their relationship with public bodies.

Is the Compact relevant and applicable to the wide range of organisations who make up the third sector?

✓ **Yes**
No

What further steps need to be taken to ensure that the Compact is adopted and implemented by organisations in the public sector beyond central government, including organisation in the NHS, specifically Primary Care trusts, who will already be party to Local Compacts?

Guidance should be produced. Ombudsman like means of appeal to resolve breaches

The independence of the third sector

Does the Compact go far enough in safeguarding the independence of the third sector?

✓ **Yes it does**
No it doesn't

Accountability of the third sector

Does the Compact go far enough in making the third sector accountable?

✓ **Yes it does**
No it doesn't

The relationship between national and Local Compacts

Do you think the national Compact provides an effective framework for Local Compact negotiations?

✓ **Yes it does**
No it doesn't

How might the link between the national Compact and Local Compacts be strengthened?

Existing local compacts need to reviewed and refreshed in line with the revised guide lines. Local Compacts need to be published more widely and easily accessible to all concerned.

Prime / Subcontractor relationship

How can the subcontracting commitment (allocating resources and commissioning on page 31) be strengthened to ensure that the Compact applies to the entire supply chain?

Applying the principles of the Compact should be a condition within all prime contractors' agreements

Consultation

Are there circumstances in which a 12-week consultation would be unnecessary or undesirable?

Yes, there are circumstances when a 12-week consultation is unnecessary
 No, there are no circumstances when a 12-week consultation is unnecessary/undesirable.

Europe

The refreshed Compact contains a new commitment for the Government and public bodies to apply the Compact when distributing European funding. This commitment was added in response to concerns that Compact implementation in this area is sometimes problematic and that there is confusion about whether the Compact applies to European funding.

Do you agree that a specific commitment on European funding (allocating resources and commissioning on page 31) should be included in the Compact?

Yes I agree it should be
 No, I disagree - it is not necessary
 It is not relevant to me or my organisation

Are there other ways in which the Compact can address concerns about the distribution of European funding to third sector organisations?

Yes there are other ways of doing this
 No

Should the Compact go further than this, so that it covers working with the European Union more generally, beyond the distribution of funding?

Yes it should
 No there is no need

Personalised / individual budgeting

There is an increasing emphasis on personal budgets where individuals are given public money to buy their own services from the public, private or third sector

How and where might a refreshed Compact make reference to the relationships between holders of personal budgets and those from whom they buy services or facilities? Please indicate your choice by referencing the relevant paragraph numbers in the consultation document.

Individuals using their personal budget cannot be bound by the principles of the Compact. However, Government Agencies providing those individuals with information must do so in an unbiased, fair and reasonable way, including providing names of Compact compliant suppliers. Government Agencies providing information to individuals must take responsibility for any negative impacts on third sector organisations resulting from mis-information.

It is not clear where this addition should be made in the document

Content and length

Are there parts of the consultation document that could be worded more economically so as to shorten the document?

Yes there are
 No it is short enough as it is

Are there passages in the consultation document that are not required?

Yes
 No

Equalities strands

Does the Compact provide enough focus on the individual equalities strands and the needs of these groups?

✓ **Yes it does**
No it does not

If your organisation falls under an equality strand, please let us know the impact of the revised Compact on your organisation / beneficiaries (please reference which equalities strand you fall under and then the impact the Compact will have)

The CTA is a member based organisation and whilst many of our members are addressing disability issues, transport is a universal need that can, and does, arise across all the equality strands in the Compact.

Monitoring and analysis of funding arrangements

What further monitoring, analysis or funding arrangements could help ensure the promotion of equality and tackling discrimination?

Public bodies should be obligated to publicly report on their efforts in promoting equality and tackling discrimination, including their efforts to ensure that the third sector organisations they partner or contract have the capacity in terms of skills and time to engage in this process.

Further comments

Is there anything missing from the Compact that you would like to see included, or do you have any other comments on the consultation document?

The refreshed Compact is welcomed and fully supported by the CTA.

To date, the Compact has failed to engage completely with all third sector organisations and the respective public body must bear some responsibility for this. It should be an Audit Commission responsibility to report the extent to which public bodies have embraced the principles. We are aware that 'localism' is an important part of Government strategy but, unless public bodies become accountable in law – which we would not advocate, the use of "naming and shaming" is the only way to ensure the Compact fully covers all of the third sector.