

Harrow Strategic Partnership  
Board Meeting – 7<sup>th</sup> August 2008  
Compact Investigation Report



**The Board are asked to**

receive the Compact Investigation Report and, if appropriate, refer it to the Council for consideration and action.

**Background**

The Harrow Compact was developed and promoted under the auspices of Harrow Strategic Partnership. The Compact sets out principles to be followed in the relationships between public sector and voluntary and community sector organisations in Harrow. Specifically, the Compact has five Codes covering:

Funding;  
Consultation;  
Volunteering;  
Disability; and  
BMER organisations.

The Compact recognises that there may be instances where the principles it contains are not followed. While the Compact does not explicitly contain a resolution process where breaches of the principles are felt to have arisen, a practice has evolved for complaints to be sent to the Service Manager, Policy and Partnerships for investigation and, if possible, resolution.

This report covers such an investigation relating to decisions of the Harrow Council's Grants Panel taken at a meeting held on 5<sup>th</sup> March 2008. The complaint is set out in a Compact Monitoring Form attached as Appendix A and the Investigation is attached as Appendix B.

In addition to this material, it is worth noting that proposed updates of 4 of the 5 Compact Codes are with voluntary and community sector organisations for comments with the update of the fifth Code delayed until the conclusion of the current Scrutiny Review of relationships with the Voluntary and Community Sector. The consultation also seeks views on establishing a defined disputes resolution process. The outcomes of this consultation will be reported to the Partnership in the autumn.

Tom Whiting  
Assistant Chief Executive