

# Involvement In Development Policy

Involving the third sector in policy development is a continuous process right from the earliest stages of policy development. It includes a range of methods – from informal engagement to full scale public consultation. This will lead to more effective policies and programmes being developed

The Compact is consistent with the Government's '*Code of practice on consultation*' and the Cabinet Office's handbook '*Better together: improving consultation with the third sector*' and should be used together with these documents.

A large blue arrow pointing to the right, containing the text 'When to involve?'.

## When to involve?

### Commitments for the Public Sector

- Involve the third sector from the earliest stages of policy development on all relevant issues likely to affect it
- Inform the third sector of progress in developing policy
- Identify implications for the third sector when assessing the impact of new policies, legislation and guidance



## Who to involve?

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Identify and remove barriers which may prevent third sector organisations from contributing to policy development</li></ul>   |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Encourage and facilitate responses from a full range of third sector organisations</li></ul>  |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Support the development of third sector infrastructure, infrastructure bodies enable third sector organisations to help people and communities more effectively, through services such as capacity building representation and other forms of support</li></ul> |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Identify where there are costs to the third sector organisations as a result of partnership work with the public sector. This can be especially important bodies that are helping to organise and run consultations</li></ul>                                   |
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## How to involve?

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Avoid compromising or undermining the independence of third sector organisations</li></ul>   |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Give notice of forthcoming consultations so that organisations can plan ahead</li></ul>  |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Publicise consultation exercises widely and make sure they are accessible to the people they are intended to reach</li></ul>   |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Use a variety of different consultation methods and explain the reasons for selecting them</li></ul>   |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Explain which matters are open to change as a result of the consultation and which are not. Provide feedback to explain how respondents have influenced policy decision, including where respondents' views have not been acted upon</li></ul> |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Allow enough time for third sector organisations to involve their service users, beneficiaries, members, volunteers and trustees</li></ul>   |



## How to involve?

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Conduct a 12 week formal written consultation, with an explanation given for shorter time frames</li></ul>   |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Make third sector organisations aware of the consulting organisation's obligations under the Freedom of Information Act 2000. Where appropriate, protect the confidentiality of information that has been supplied by a third sector organisation for the consultation</li></ul> |
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## Commitments for the Third Sector



## Effective involvement?

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Involve service users, beneficiaries, members, volunteers and trustees when preparing responses to consultations</li></ul>  |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Give feedback to what information is presented to the public sector and what the outcomes are to everyone involved in responding to the consultation</li></ul>                                  |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Be clear about whose views are being represented and what those views are</li></ul>   |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Make sure all research and information that is presented is accurate and credible</li></ul>   |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Be aware of the consulting organisation's obligations under the Freedom of Information Act 2000. Where appropriate, respect the confidentiality of information that has been supplied</li></ul> |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Promote public sector consultations across the third sector where appropriate</li></ul>   |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Accept that, in rare cases, consultation may need to take place in shorter time frames than 12 weeks</li></ul>  |
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