



Moray Community Planning Partnership

A voluntary agreement setting out how we intend

Working Together

with community groups, voluntary organisations & social enterprises

The public sector and the third sector – which includes community groups, voluntary organisations, charities and social enterprises – have different approaches, different cultures, and face different challenges. However, we all have a shared interest in the wellbeing and sustainable development of Moray.

Both sectors should be recognised and appreciated for their contribution to our communities, and our relationship should be effective, supportive, based on parity of esteem and aimed at delivering real benefits to the people of Moray.

There will be times when we will have different views, and we need to respect the right of public sector organisations to make decisions others will not agree with, as well as the right of third sector organisations to disagree with, and even campaign against, those decisions.

The effective participation of representatives of the third sector in key groups and partnerships, at all levels within the Moray Community Planning Partnership, is essential. Third sector participation is not an end in itself, but a way of providing crucial links between the public sector, the third sector and the communities of Moray. To this end we will collaborate to ensure the third sector has the opportunity and the means to participate in and engage with key groups and partnerships.

The third sector makes a significant contribution to the economy, resilience, sustainability and wellbeing of Moray, and plays a growing role in the design, development and delivery of services to meet the needs and aspirations of our communities, and we will collaborate to ensure this happens.

We are inspired by the success of Community Asset Transfers which have already taken place in Moray, and look forward to supporting many more. We also look forward to increased third sector and wider community participation through approaches like Participatory Budgeting – already well established in Moray – and Participation Requests.

We recognise the value of working together, and we will strive to facilitate effective communication, engagement and collaboration with each other.

Working Together

We expect colleagues from both sectors to:

- Encourage and support partnership working in the interest of the communities of Moray
- Recognise and promote the value and benefits of volunteering, as well as celebrate the significant contribution made by volunteers to the quality of life in Moray
- Develop best practice in the recruitment, management and support of volunteers
- Target resources effectively to address local needs and aspirations
- Maximise the impact of training, support and development programmes by promoting them widely and making them accessible to others whenever practicable
- Champion and promote good financial management and practice

We expect public sector colleagues to foster effective working relationships with the third sector by:

- Recognising and respecting the value and independence of the third sector
- Promoting a fuller understanding and appreciation of the third sector in all its rich diversity, and of the differences between the third sector and the public sector
- Acknowledging and listening to the views of third sector representatives
- Recognising the role of umbrella bodies in representing the interests of the third sector as well as the right of individual organisations to represent their own views
- Ensuring that potential impacts on the third sector are taken into account when considering changes to policies and procedures
- Being aware of the time, resource and cost implications associated with the effective participation and engagement of the third sector
- Implementing measures to support effective third sector participation in community planning
- Providing a first entry point and named contacts for third sector advice and support within each partner organisation
- Adopting, as far as practicable within operational requirements, a consistent approach to the administration of grants and contracts, including committing to full cost recovery, settlements spanning a minimum of three years, avoiding short-term contracts, and committing to prompt payment of agreed funds

We expect third sector colleagues to foster effective working relationships with the public sector by:

- Recognising and respecting the role of public sector partners and that some of their priorities are set by others
- Acknowledging and listening to the views of public sector representatives
- Promoting acknowledgement and respect for the contribution made by each of the partners to the work of Moray Community Planning Partnership
- Recognising that partnership working brings responsibilities to participate in joint meetings and support representatives to convey views of individual organisations
- Recognising the role of umbrella bodies in representing the interests of the third sector as well as the right of individual organisations to represent their own views
- Ensuring that third sector representatives and liaisons are properly informed and supported to participate fully in partnership meetings
- Recognising that public resources are limited and that public funding is provided on the basis of value for money, identified need and its contribution to policy priorities