

# Slough Compact Protocols

## Community Development and Capacity Building

**By community development and capacity building, we refer to a set of approaches and initiatives that have the overlapping objectives of:**

- Helping local people to grow in confidence and skills so as to be able to work together to find their own solutions to local problems.
- Strengthening community networks for information sharing and mutual support, and widening who they include.
- Developing effective business and community organisations that become self-sustaining.
- Promoting resilient communities.

### **There is Common Agreement that:**

Working together effectively to achieve these objectives requires:

- a willingness on all sides to start from where people and organisations are and develop shared understandings of what different players can realistically contribute.
- wide use both of different local languages and different modes of communication so as to engage a wide cross-section of local people.

Given the diverse and changing population of the Borough and the challenges facing public agencies in delivering the local community strategy that a strong commitment to community development and capacity building on all sides of the community, voluntary and public sector partnership is required.



## **To support this all parties agree:**

- to show tolerance and flexibility and to negotiate their mutual relationships, taking account of changing capacities and support needs
- to develop an inclusive community that thrives on diversity
- the necessity to start from where people and organisations currently are
- to develop a shared understanding of what different players can realistically contribute

**Voluntary and Community Sector organisations** that seek to play a part in local life undertake to accept the responsibility for developing effectiveness in delivering their chosen goals and working towards self-sufficiency in their activities.

## **The Public Sector**

Slough Borough Council agrees that it has a lead role and will work towards a position where it is able to:

- strengthen its own capacity for working within a community development framework
- support other public agencies in using these approaches.
- make an effort to ensure that initiatives from different agencies are mutually informed and well-co-ordinated.

While community capacity-building should be part of many peoples' roles in partner agencies, it also requires skilled and dedicated professional support to be effective.