



Voluntary, Community and Social Enterprise Sector Pledge for Local Authorities

- a. We recognise and value the critical role of the voluntary, community and social enterprise (VCSE) sector in the local community, including but not limited to providing an important array of local services to our residents.
- b. We share many aims for improving the lives of local people, with the VCSE sector and as such commit to working together where possible, to achieve those joint aims.
- c. We recognise the role of VCSE organisations in providing insight and connecting us to communities of place, interest and identity with whom we may wish to consult and collaborate. We will do our best to engage the sector in a fair and timely manner.
- d. Where we seek formal representation from the sector we will do so in a fair, transparent and accountable manner.
- e. We recognise that in some cases, from time to time, some VCSEs may disagree with particular public policies or the ways in which we decide to deliver services. We recognise their independence from statutory and political structures and their right to disagree. Where possible we will continue to work with such organisations in a mutually constructive way, bearing in mind the wider aims which we may share.
- f. We recognise that many charities, larger community organisations and social enterprises are professional organisations delivering high quality services and should be thought of as businesses and employers as well as 'voluntary sector', especially in terms of local economic planning.
- g. Where we commission, procure or contract with the VCSE sector, we will do so in a fair, proportionate and transparent way. Where relevant we will include in our procurement proper measures of social value in addition to value for money, including where appropriate 'buying local'. Where appropriate we will use innovative forms of procurement rather than relying upon the standard competitive tender alone.
- h. As a large and complex 'sector' we recognise the value of working closely with relevant umbrella bodies from Team Staffordshire, to maximise our ability to have a wide and open dialogue with as much of the VCSE sector as possible.

Garry Jones
Chief Executive
Support Staffordshire

Cllr Jeremy Oates
Leader of the Council
Tamworth Borough Council

Dated: 7 April 2022



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