

The Covenant for Engagement

An Enduring Covenant Between

The Local Authorities within Northamptonshire

– and –

Faith based organisations who serve the people of Northamptonshire

Section 1: Principles of the Covenant for Engagement

This Covenant is a joint commitment between faith communities and local authorities within Northamptonshire and it is built on the following principles:

- Faith communities are free to practise their beliefs and religious observances without restriction, and to raise their voice in public debate and to be respected, within the framework of UK law.
- Public services and faith based social action should respect service users from all backgrounds, with no discrimination on the grounds of religion, gender, marital status, race, ethnic origin, age, sexual orientation, mental capability or long term condition.
- The voice, participation and solutions that faith communities bring are important, and consultation should enable them to be brought to bear for the benefit of the wider community.
- Organisations and services are stronger when they work for the common good and have a shared purpose. People who help themselves and communities that help one another are safer, healthier, more resilient and economically robust.

Section 2: Demonstrating our Commitment

Local authorities commit to welcome the involvement of faith groups in the design, delivery and review of services and social action initiatives on an equal basis with other groups.

Therefore they will:

- Actively build trust and sustain productive relationships and with faith based organisations
- Ensure faith based organisations are included in consultation and civic engagement events
- Enable and equip faith based organisations to take up commissioning and engagement opportunities

- Promote the faith friendly work with do in our local communities to the public, to partners and to potential funders
- Include faith based organisations in relevant pre-market engagement and consultation opportunities
- Jointly host local and cultural civic engagement events with faith groups to increase the active involvement of faith based organisations in our community endeavours
- Ensure our investment into infrastructure includes provision for faith based organisations
- Help faith based organisations to raise their standards, improve their practice and collaborate with us

Faith based organisations commit to work actively with local authorities in the design and delivery and evaluation of public services. Therefore they will:

- Seek opportunities to bring people together to serve the community, particularly its poorest, vulnerable and most isolated members;
- Serving all local residents seeking to access non-religious services equally, without proselytising, irrespective of their religion, gender, marital status, race, ethnic origin, age, sexual orientation, mental capability or long term condition;
- Share and pool where feasible our assets and resources with other groups who are also serving the local community
- Ensure excellence in all our health and safeguarding policies and procedures and where feasible we are working to recognised standards for our services
- Respond to invitations to engage in public consultations helping the local authority to identify and address community needs, issues and concerns
- Sharing training and learning opportunities with other faith communities and the local authority.
- Be open, fair, transparent, accountable and inclusive in our dealings with one another and the local authority

We, the undersigned, commit to honour this Covenant and in doing so, we recognise the important social, environmental, economic contribution that faith based organisations make to the lives of people in Northamptonshire. We will endeavour to work constructively together as public servants alongside faithful servants for the “common good” of this county.

Signed on behalf of Northamptonshire Police and Crime Commission

Signed:

Name: Adam Simmonds

Position Held: Police and Crime Commissioner



Date: 11th March 2015

Signed on behalf of Northampton Borough Council



**NORTHAMPTON
BOROUGH COUNCIL**

Signed:

Name:

Position Held:

Date: 11th March 2015