7.5 KENT COMPACT CODE OF GOOD PRACTICE FOR BLACK, MINORITY AND ETHNIC (BME) VOLUNTARY COMMUNITY SECTOR (VCS) GROUPS

Definition and Context:
In the understanding and implementation of Kent Compact, The BME VCS in Kent includes traveller, refugee and asylum seeker groups and related faith groups. As a diverse range of independent, not for profit organisations, run by, for and located within BME communities, the sector brings distinctive value to society. In particular it enables BME individuals to contribute to public life and supports opportunities for voluntary action. The sector empowers users through involvement in the design and delivery of services, advocating for community needs, alleviating poverty, improving quality of life and actively involves some of the most socially excluded people and communities in Kent.

Aim:

7.5.1 To make a positive impact on the relationship between KCC and the BME VCS in Kent.

Shared Values:

All partners recognise that:

7.5.2 The BME VCS in Kent has an important role to play in helping to deliver better public services

7.5.3 An effective partnership between KCC and the BME VCS is an essential part of ensuring that the BME VCS is able to develop to its full potential.

Joint Undertakings:

All partners agree:

7.5.4 To work together, in line with the Change Up agenda to build BME capacity, primarily in the form of the BME Support Network

7.5.5 To develop a partnership approach to carry forward KCC’s Race Equality Scheme, including promoting and sharing best practice and celebrating success

7.5.6 To work in partnership with other agencies to promote joint working initiatives aimed at improving outcomes for BME groups, particularly those aimed at promoting race equality and community regeneration

7.5.7 To encourage, develop and support volunteering by and within BME communities, in line with the Kent Compact Code of Good Practice on Volunteering
7.5.8 make suitable mention of Kent Compact and this Code of Practice in all KCC documentation and VCS publications relating to BME groups

Voluntary and Community Sector Undertakings:

The BME VCS agrees:

7.5.9 To play a full and active part in the wider VCS in line with the principles of Kent Compact

7.5.10 To support, share information with and participate in the development and work of the BME Support Network as Kent’s principle voice for the BME VCS

7.5.11 To develop transparent, accountable and dynamic organisations providing opportunities for voluntary action by a diverse range of individuals, with a commitment to race and other equality issues

7.5.12 To work to develop organisations that are governed properly, with clear responsibilities for volunteers, staff and trustees in the use of public and charitable funds. These organisations should adopt quality standards and apply good practice guidelines in their management and day-to-day operation

7.5.13 To support the ethos and aims of KCC’s Equality and Diversity Policy Statement

Kent County Council Undertakings:

Kent County Council agrees:

7.5.14 To recognise and support the independence of the BME VCS. As a result, recognise its right within law to challenge institutions, policy and practice irrespective of any funding relationship that might exist and its right to determine and manage its own affairs

7.5.15 To operate effective and transparent equal opportunity monitoring and evaluation systems that ensure BME VCS organisations are treated fairly in all interactions with KCC

7.5.16 To build consultation with BME VCS organisations, primarily through the BME Support Network into plans for policy development

7.5.17 To establish equality strategies within the corporate planning processes of all KCC departments with clear targets set from KCC’s Race Equality Scheme, Best Value Performance Indicators (BVPI’s) and the Equality Standard for Local Government

7.5.18 To ensure via monitoring and analysis that BME VCS organisations have fair and equal access to KCC funding streams and support where
possible BME VCS organisations in acquiring funding to build capacity and prepare and deliver projects

7.5.19 To require all partnership bids to KCC funding streams to demonstrate where appropriate, meaningful consultation with and involvement of BME VCS organisations and communities.