



The Wiltshire Compact Board Chair  
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**An open letter to all Town and Parish Councils in Wiltshire:**

January 2012

A timely opportunity has arisen with the publication of advice on The Compact by the National Association of Local Councils. This letter is kindly being circulated by the Wiltshire Association of Local Councils along with the national guidance to provide the local context and introductions to which the guidance refers.

You may recall some publicity to our consultation document in the summer of 2011, in which The Wiltshire Compact Board set out a proposed new local Compact for the county. That consultation produced a number of responses from local councils which encouraged us to consider how the needs of this tier of the public sector could be better met in our work. I am delighted to say that WALC accepted the Board's invitation to nominate a representative of its Executive Committee to join us, on your behalf, and an initial meeting has already been held. The Board is also strengthened by Wiltshire Council's decision to nominate the Portfolio Holder for Community Areas and it is this link, which will influence relationships with the Area Boards, which sets the scene for our work in supporting local councils in the new era of localism.

The NALC guidance refers to 'local compacts' and their value to local relationships, especially those with local voluntary and community groups. The vision for Wiltshire is to 'build strong and resilient communities' and there is no doubt the localism programme now being developed is intended to support that aim. That resilience will rest on the quality of relationships, both between public and voluntary sectors, and within the same sectors, and so The Wiltshire Compact is well placed to encourage, support, and monitor emerging developments on your behalf.

*The Wiltshire Compact: 2011 and beyond...* was adopted by the Wiltshire Assembly, having already met with approval from the Voluntary Sector Assembly and after wide consultation, on 1 December 2011. You can learn more about The Compact from our website (as below) including a full list of Board members and their representation. If you would like hard copies do please let me know.

WALC's Executive Committee has nominated Cllr Tony Field (of Warminster Town Council) to be its representative and I welcome him to his new role. You can write to Tony at [office@wiltshire-alc.org.uk](mailto:office@wiltshire-alc.org.uk) and my details are below.

With very best wishes for 2012,

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Peter Baxter', is written over a light blue horizontal line.

Peter Baxter  
Chair.

Working together, better together

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