

# Salford VCSE and Salford City Council Charter 2026

# Our Joint Commitment

**Salford City Council and organisations across the Salford Voluntary, Community and Social Enterprise (VCSE) sector have a long and proud tradition of working together to support communities across Salford, to promote the city, and to work towards social justice and inclusion.**

This Charter is a statement of our mutual commitment to continue to work together in support of those aims. Together we want to build a fairer Salford – socially, economically and environmentally, for existing and future generations.

Our relationship is built on collaboration – where the norm is that we will respect each other's expertise, where we arrive at solutions together, based on principles of co-thinking, coproduction and codesign. We may not always agree – but we commit to ongoing conversations to better appreciate each other's challenges and opportunities, and to work together on mutual solutions wherever possible. Our relationship will continue to embrace the principles now set out in the (new) Civil Society Covenant Framework:

- ★ **Recognition** – We are jointly committed to valuing the roles and expertise we each have in providing solutions to create a fairer, greener, healthier and more inclusive Salford for all
- ★ **Partnership** – A shared commitment to effective policy making and service delivery, underpinned by shared learning from best practice
- ★ **Participation** – Ensuring local people and communities are heard and can make a difference to services, organisations and decision-making
- ★ **Transparency** – Commitment to ongoing conversations to better appreciate each other's challenges and opportunities

This Charter builds on, and is consistent with, the principles already set out in the Salford Compact, the Salford VCSE Manifesto and Strategy, and Greater Manchester VCSE Accord. It also reaffirms our joint commitment to these shared agreements.





## Working together we will:

- **Recognise the value of working together** to access and generate additional funding for the city, maximising opportunities to work collaboratively through establishing working groups via the Vocal Leaders Forum
- **Maximise existing resources** including volunteering to collectively alleviate the challenges that the communities of Salford face
- **Work to ensure transparent and effective lines of communication** between and within the different sectors
- **Work together to influence NHS Greater Manchester Integrated Care Board** to prioritise prevention in its service design and financial decisions
- **Jointly lobby National Government** for a fair deal for local government and the VCSE sector—for example, mirroring the approach on National Insurance changes
- **Respond to collective financial pressures and increasing demand** by seeking to both be efficient and identify opportunities to increase resources.
- **Promote joint innovation, collaboration and coproduction** to alleviate and effectively tackle the challenges that our communities face

## To support these shared commitments, Salford City Council will:

- **Explore the sustainability of City Council funding** (commissioning, contracts and grants) with the VCSE to ensure that funding is sustainable with realistic delivery, efficiency and performance expectations for non-profit driven providers. This will be done in the context of a Spring 2025 Spending Review and (expected) new funding arrangements for local government.



- **Ensure fulfilment of the socio-economic and equality duty**, with Community and Equality Impact Assessments being consistently implemented whenever changes or developments are in scope, especially to commissioning, de-commissioning or insourcing, are made to services.
- **Work collaboratively with VCSE sector organisations** when considering insourcing in a fair, consistent and transparent way
- **Recognise and respect the role of Salford CVS** as the VCSE sector's support body, recognising their role in representation, mediation and conflict resolution
- **Ensure proportionality and fairness** in contract management of the VCSE sector-commissioned organisations
- **Support distributive leadership** by ensuring and resourcing spaces at decision-making tables for a wide range of VCSE sector leaders
- **Recognise the lack of equity** in the resources of VCSE sector organisations compared to public sector partners and therefore set expectations accordingly
- **Create more social value** for the benefit of VCSE organisations through procurement and contracting activities
- **Create more social value** through sharing of internal skills, knowledge and expertise with VCSE sector organisations
- **Prioritise the time of Senior leaders and heads of service** to spend time with the VCSE Sector leaders to build and maintain relationships, understanding the sector locally and following through on agreed actions in a timely manner
- **Have a reciprocal relationship of trust** and will share data and insight to benefit the communities of Salford



## To support these shared commitments, Vocal VCSE Leaders will:

- **Share information and analysis** with Salford City Mayor and Salford City Council about national policies, decisions or strategies that affect the VCSE sector, people and communities in Salford to enable joint lobbying
- **Utilise their distributive leadership opportunities** within Salford and influence decision-making
- **Participate in and contribute to joint working groups** relating to the implementation of this charter and its action plan
- **Commit to working together** to harness additional funding opportunities for the benefit of Salford residents
- **Support the implementation of Salford's Volunteering Strategy** by increasing our volunteer involvement in our organisations, increasing volunteer skills and provide good quality volunteering opportunities
- **Reach out to communities of interest**, identity and in neighbourhoods to maximise their influence through being informed, consulted and involved as much as possible.
- **Working to work collaboratively to provide solutions to problems within the city**
- **Commit to continuous/ongoing engagement, support, challenge and reflection** within our sector, our communities and service users to maintain and increase our position of expertise, knowledge and insight
- **Utilise their Vocal Representative roles on NHS Greater Manchester Integrated Care Boards and subgroups** to influence the prioritisation of wellbeing and prevention in its service design and decisions

**Working together we will harness, protect and celebrate the passion, resources, and expertise of all our organisations to achieve our shared ambitions for Salford and the communities that we serve.**