



Representation Protocol – 2013

What is meant by representation?

For the purpose of this protocol *representation* is taken to mean any engagement with external agencies or partnerships where we are seen to be a representative of the wider voluntary and community sector and which is outside of any direct business/service relationship.

When would we undertake representation?

Representation will only be undertaken if such engagement can be clearly shown to contribute to achieving the strategic goals of Community Impact Bucks, namely:

- To be the conduit for information between public, private and voluntary sectors,
- To be recognised as leading the Bucks voluntary and community sector
- To inform influence or shape development of strategies and services

Criteria for deciding whether on not to engage in representation

When requested to attend meetings/partnerships or otherwise engage in representation the following questions should be asked:

- Will this help us to meet one of the strategic goals? ie information conduit, recognition as leading the sector, influencing and shaping?
- Are we being funded / resourced to do this?
- If we do not undertake this then will it undermine our position as leading the Bucks VCS?
- What benefit will our involvement bring to CIB or to the Bucks voluntary and community sector?
- Would our participation compromise our independence?

If we are not resourced to do undertake this activity then we would only answer yes if all of the below apply:

- The whole sector is affected rather than a sub-sector, or a small geographical area
- Our involvement clearly meets one of CIB's strategic goals
- By not undertaking this we would undermine our position as leading the sector
- Participation would clearly bring benefit to CIB or the Bucks VCS sector rather than being in the interests of the external agency/partnership

Proactive approach

Rather than becoming members of a plethora of partnerships, CIB will:

- identify activities we want to undertake each year to meet each of the strategic objectives
- proactively approach external agencies and partnerships to request time on their agendas to present our evidence, views and recommendations