

Leicester
City Council

WARDS AFFECTED
City Wide

FORWARD TIMETABLE OF CONSULTATION AND MEETINGS:

Cabinet Meeting

12th March 2007

Community Cohesion Programme Review Report

Report of the Corporate Director Regeneration & Culture

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 This report is to draw Cabinet's attention to the Community Cohesion Programme Review Report and to highlight some of the achievements that have been delivered through the Community Cohesion Programme.

2. Summary

- 2.1 The Community Cohesion Programme Review was commissioned to describe the activities that were supported as part of the Community Cohesion Programme and highlight areas that represent good practice and offer opportunities for future learning.

3. Recommendations

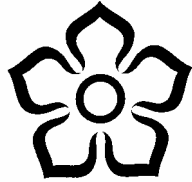
- 3.1 Cabinet is asked to note the findings of the report.

4. Headline Financial and legal Implications - None

5. Report Author/Officer to contact:

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Key Decision	No
Reason	N/A
Appeared in Forward Plan	N/A
Executive or Council Decision	Executive (Cabinet)



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Community Cohesion Programme Review Report

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

1. Report

- 1.1 The Community Cohesion Programme (CCP) Review Report was commissioned to review the activities and management of the three years of the Community Cohesion Programme.
- 1.2 The Review Report set out to:
 - Review the Community Cohesion Programme, both the management of the programme and the activities supported
 - Showcase all the activities supported through the programme
 - Highlight good practice and learn lessons from project implementation
- 1.3 The Review Report also sought to place the Community Cohesion Fund within the evolving policy context and how the community cohesion agenda might develop in the future.

Review of the Community Cohesion Programme

- 1.4 The Review Report describes the structure of the Community Cohesion Programme and the funding mechanism developed. It highlighted that the original call for submissions was oversubscribed and that £800,000 was allocated.
- 1.5 It was noted that over 5,000 participants were involved in 19 separate projects.

- 1.6 The Review Report recognises and commends the work of the City Council over the years in its commitment to positive integration and successful race relations. The report sets the Community Cohesion Fund in this historical context.
- 1.7 The report also draws attention to the innovative nature of the fund in that it was the first of its kind in the country and the innovation of the projects and activities.

Showcase of Community Cohesion Activities

- 1.8 The main body of the Review Report is given over to describing the activities supported through the fund.

Good Practice Highlights and Lessons Learned

- 1.9 Activities supported were recognised as ground breaking and that projects devoted considerable time and effort to achieving the aims and objectives of the particular activity. This is seen as testament to the commitment by organisations to community cohesion.
- 1.10 In referencing the oversubscription to the programme the report draws attention to the fact that this offers “fertile ground” for future development of community cohesion activities.
- 1.11 The positive marketing of the programme and the use of a corporate message to build awareness of cohesion across the city were highlighted as helping create a sense of mutual collaboration between projects, participants, and the City Council.
- 1.12 The use of the contingency fund within the programme was recognised as being a positive response to supporting community cohesion and tackling situations as they arose.
- 1.13 The report noted the active creation of linkages between the Community Cohesion Programme and other programmes with specific reference to the work of the Good Neighbours Project in Beaumont Leys and the national Good Neighbourhood Programme.
- 1.14 A number of projects developed materials that can be used beyond the life of the project particularly Somali & African European Media Project and the Beyond Barriers projects.
- 1.15 Interagency partnerships are also highlighted in the report as providing examples of good practice and programme sustainability. Sacred Hearts Youth Project, Faiths Regeneration Network, and Pakistani Community Cohesion are all likely to lead to further joint working and positive benefits.
- 1.16 The Report also notes that the programme reflected the Governments objective of twinning schools and presents the Schools Development Support Agency as an excellent example of this.
- 1.17 The future for community cohesion from a policy and strategic context is also addressed in the report, with particular attention paid to the challenge of developing appropriate

measurement tools and notes that an annual review of cohesion issues linked to the Local Area Agreement is under consideration.

- 1.18 The report also notes that activities that impact upon Community Cohesion would be greatly enhanced through the co-ordination of policy linkages through the Local Area Agreement, the Community Engagement Strategy, the New Arrivals Strategy, and the Safer & Stronger Communities Partnership.

2. **FINANCIAL, LEGAL AND OTHER IMPLICATIONS**

2.1. **Financial Implications**

A £700k one off community cohesion budget was approved in 2004/05 with an ongoing £100k approved budget for 2005/06 onwards. Of the £700k £64k remains in an earmarked reserve as at February 2007.

Martin Judson extension 7390

2.2 **Legal Implications – None – Peter Nicholls Head of Legal Services, Ext: 29 6302**

3. **Other Implications**

OTHER IMPLICATIONS	YES/NO	Paragraph Within Supporting information
Equal Opportunities	No	This report is for information purposes and therefore has no direct and actual implications for Equal Opportunities
Policy	No	As above.
Sustainable and Environmental	No	
Crime and Disorder	No	
Human Rights Act	No	
Elderly/People on Low Income	No	

4 **Background Papers**

Community Cohesion Programme Review
Fiche Resourcing
January 2007

5. **Report Author**

Diarmuid Cullinane

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