

Leicester
City Council

WARDS AFFECTED
All Wards

FORWARD TIMETABLE OF CONSULTATION AND MEETINGS:

Cabinet

15 March 2004

Leicester Partnership

17 March 2004

Community Cohesion Strategy Development

Report of the Chief Executive

1.0 Purpose of Report

1.1 To present:

- a short summary of Phase 1: Research and Consultation on Community Cohesion
- the Outline Strategy: Major Themes (Appendix 1) for endorsement
- to outline the next steps for the development of a detailed Community Cohesion Action Plan

2.0 Summary

- 2.1 Phase 1 of the community cohesion project was to carry out a baseline research into how effectively community cohesion could be taken forward in Leicester. The report "Taking forward community cohesion in Leicester" was published in February 2003 and a Community Cohesion Project Team, chaired by the Chief Executive, was set up in July 2003 to take the recommendations forward.
- 2.2 The Project Team agreed the process to develop the Community Cohesion Strategy (phase 2 of the project) and provide guidance on developing a Community Cohesion Action Plan (phase 3 of the project).
- 2.3 During September and October 2003 extensive consultation was carried out to inform the strategy development work. This has culminated in the development of an outlined strategy which has been consulted on and refined and is attached as appendix 1. Members and Corporate Directors are asked to endorse the strategy and therefore conclude phase 2 of the Community Cohesion Project.
- 2.4 Further to the strategy development, work has started on producing the "emerging community cohesion action plan" (attached as appendix 2). The latter will begin phase 3 of the project, to develop a detailed action plan, identifying key activities, milestones,

outcomes, targets and resources for implementation. The latter will be developed by June 2004.

- 2.5 The Community Cohesion Project Team have recommended the strategy for endorsement and the “emerging action plan” for further detailed work with the Leicester Partnership and a Community Cohesion Action Planning Group. The latter to have Member representation and nominated representatives from the Project Team. It is suggested that the establishment of the Community Cohesion Action Planning Group be endorsed to lead phase 3 of the project.

3.0 Recommendations

3.1 Members are asked to:

- endorse the Community Cohesion Strategy;
- approve the process for the development of the Community Cohesion Action Plan through the establishment of the Community Cohesion Action Planning Group as outlined in this report;
- delegate authority to the Chief Executive, in consultation with Councillor Suleman, to develop mechanisms for the implementation of the community cohesion fund and the allocation of resources.

4.0 Headline Financial and legal Implications

4.1 Financial implications

£600,000 has been set aside from the 2004/5 budget to support community cohesion activities. The process for how the funding will be distributed will be established during April 2004 and linked to the development of the Community Cohesion Action Plan.

Other resources have also been secured which will add further capacity to the overall strategic programme. For example Community Cohesion Beacon Peer funding of £48,000 was awarded in January 2004, £75, 000 granted during 2003 by the Home Office for community cohesion work through extended schools and up to £2 million from the Creative Partnership Programme, some of which will be harnessed to deliver community cohesion objectives.

4.2 Legal implications (Peter Nicholls)

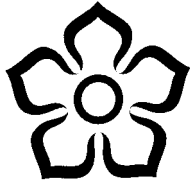
The Race Relations Act 1976, as amended by the Race Relations (Amendment) Act 2000, places a duty on the Authority to work towards the elimination of unlawful discrimination and promote equality of opportunity and good relations between persons of different racial groups.

5.0 Report Author/Officer to contact:

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DECISION STATUS

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



Leicester
City Council

WARDS AFFECTED
All Wards

FORWARD TIMETABLE OF CONSULTATION AND MEETINGS:

Cabinet
Leicester Partnership

15 March 2004
17 March 2004

Community Cohesion Vision and Strategy Development

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

1.0 Report

1.1 Purpose of Report:

To present:

- a short summary of Phase 1: Research and Consultation on Community Cohesion
- the Outline Strategy: Major Themes (Appendix 1) for approval
- to outline the next steps for the development of a detailed Community Cohesion Action Plan

1.2 Recommendations

Members are asked to:

- endorse the Community Cohesion Strategy;
- approve the process for the development of the Community Cohesion Action Plan through the establishment of the Community Cohesion Action Planning Group as outlined in this report;
- delegate authority to the Chief Executive, in consultation with Councillor Suleman, to develop mechanisms for the implementation of the community cohesion fund and the allocation of resources.

2.0 Summary of Phase 1: Research and Consultation on Community Cohesion

- 2.1 In 2002 the Leicester Partnership carried out a base line assessment of community cohesion in Leicester. Following the publication of the Report “Taking Forward Community Cohesion in Leicester” the LP established a Community Cohesion Project Team. The Project Team agreed to guide the development of the city’s vision and strategy. It was agreed that consultation workshops to develop the strategy would be run in September/October 2003.
- 2.2 A wide range of community groups, young people, the faith sector and Leicester residents were consulted. All participants were sent copies of the notes taken at each workshop. The findings from the consultation have been analysed together with the findings from the IDeA research and a Report has now been produced “Community and Sector Consultations on Community Cohesion” This analysis has helped to identify five community cohesion specific themes and four broad cross-cutting issues which have been used to develop the Outline Strategy (Appendix 1). This completes Phase 1 of the Community Cohesion Project.
- 2.3 The outline strategy” has been presented and considered by a number of forums and groups listed below under section 5 of this report. The documents have been well received and minor amendments made from consultation feedback. It is suggested that Members and Corporate Directors now endorse the strategy and approve it for further development through the emerging action plan.
- 2.4 It is intended that the final action plan will include major community cohesion activities, associated milestones, outcomes, targets and resources for implementation.

3.0 Next Steps: Phases 2 and 3: Community Cohesion Strategy Endorsement and Development of an Action Plan

- 3.1 Once the strategy has been endorsed it will be at the heart of the Community Plan and the City Council’s Corporate Plan. These plans will help to make Leicester a more attractive place to live, work and invest in. The endorsement of the strategy will also end phase 2 of the project. Phase 3 of the project is to develop a detailed Community Cohesion Action Plan. As stated in the previous section an emerging action plan has been produced. This draft action plan will require further detailed work to identify areas of activity for future implementation.
- 3.2 The strategy has 22 objectives altogether spanning 5 themes. Clearly some prioritization has to take place in order to focus on those areas which need the greatest attention. It is therefore suggested that the Leicester Partnership are asked to:
- endorse the strategy;
 - set the priorities within the strategic framework document “emerging action plan”

3.3 At its meeting of the Community Cohesion Project Team on 24th February 2004 it was agreed that after the strategy had been endorsed by the Council and Leicester Partnership and the priorities had been agreed by the latter that a Community Cohesion Action Planning Group be established. The action planning group would:

- Be made up of Members and representatives from the Project Team (already nominated);
- Agree the process for developing the detailed action plan;
- Set the funding criteria;
- Ensure that this criteria is informed by the strategy, and is based on the 5 themes and identified priorities;
- Agree the upper limit of grants to be awarded;
- Define eligible organisations e.g. statutory and /or voluntary;
- Agree the process for accessing the funding. It is therefore proposed that the establishment of the action planning group be approved.

4.0 **FINANCIAL, LEGAL AND OTHER IMPLICATIONS**

4.1 **Financial Implications**

£600,000 has been set aside for the 2004/5 budget to support community cohesion activities. The process for how the funding will be distributed will be established during April 2004 and linked to the development of the Community Cohesion Action Plan.

Other resources have also been secured which will add further capacity to the overall strategic programme. For example Community Cohesion Beacon Peer funding of £48,000 was awarded in January 2004, £75, 000 granted during 2003 by the Home Office for community cohesion work through extended schools and up to £2 million from the Creative Partnership Programme, some of which will be harnessed to deliver community cohesion objectives.

4.2 **Legal Implications (Peter Nicholls)**

The Race Relations Act 1976, as amended by the Race Relations (Amendment) Act 2000, places a duty on the Authority to work towards the elimination of unlawful discrimination and promote equality of opportunity and good relations between persons of different racial groups.

4.3 **Other Implications**

OTHER IMPLICATIONS	YES/NO	Paragraph References Within Supporting information
Equal Opportunities	Yes	All
Policy	Yes	All
Sustainable and Environmental	No	
Crime and Disorder	Yes	All

Human Rights Act	No	
Elderly/people on low income	Yes	All

5.0 Background Papers – Local Government Act 1972

Building a Picture of Community Cohesion, joint guidance issued by the Home Office
July 2003

Community Cohesion Joint Guidance for LSPs

Both documents are available from the home Office web site:
www.communitycohesion.gov.uk

Taking Forward Community Cohesion in Leicester, the Improvement and Development Agency February 2003. Full copy or summary available from the Chief Executives Department and downloadable version available from the Council website:
www.leicester.gov.uk

Report on the Community and Sector Consultation on Community Cohesion February 2004

6.0 Consultations

Corporate Equalities Strategy Group, 27 November 2003

Corporate Directors Board, 16 December 2003

African Caribbean Working Group, 15 January 2004

Equalities Standards Steering Group, 15 January 2004

Leicester Mercury Advisory Group, 12 February 2004

Community Cohesion Project Team, 24 February 2004

7.0 Report Author

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