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**The Institute of Community Cohesion and Leicester City Council**

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**Report of the Chief Executive**

**1 Purpose of Report**

- 1.1 This report sets out a proposal that the Leicester City Council become a founding partner of the Institute of Community Cohesion.

**2 Summary**

- 2.1 The development of the Institute of Community Cohesion and its possible location in Leicester would be a prestigious and valuable asset to the council, the city and to our communities. The City Council has been invited to take a major role in the proposed Institute.
- 2.2 Founding partnership in the Institute would give benefits of increased Council profile at all levels in community cohesion, opportunity to contribute to the research agenda, a locally based forum for new ideas and developments, and local access to best practice and innovation from the UK, Europe and worldwide.
- 2.3 The financial cost is expected to be £20,000 per annum (for an initial period of three years). This could be funded from the Community Cohesion Fund in the first two years (2005 – 2007), and also in the third year (2007 – 2008), if it is possible to carry funding over.

**3 Recommendations**

Cabinet members are recommended to support the establishment of the proposed Institute of Community Cohesion by:

1. Accepting the invitation for the council to become a key partner.
2. Nominating the Chief Executive and the Cabinet Lead for Cohesion as members of the Partnership Board.
3. Agreeing to provide core funding to support the Institute in its first three years of operation (2005 – 2008) to the amount of £20k per annum from the Community Cohesion Fund.

## **4 Financial and Legal Implications**

### **4.1 Financial Implications**

1. The participation of the Council in the proposed Institute of Community Cohesion would cost £20,000 per annum, for an initial period of 3 years. This would be the Council's contribution towards the overall funding of the new Institute.
2. The funding could be met from the annual budget of £102k for the Community Cohesion fund, although this budget is due to be reviewed from April 1st 2007. The budget is managed by the Director of Regeneration & Culture, and expenditure against the budget in 2005/06 is £66k as at November 16<sup>th</sup>. There is sufficient uncommitted money in 2005/06 to fund the first year's £20k contribution to the new Institute.
3. If the Community Cohesion budget were to be discontinued from 2007/08, the commitment of the £20k contribution would be a pressure to be met from existing resources within the Chief Executive's Office unless sufficient unspent Community Cohesion funds could be carried forward to meet it.

### **Financial advice**

Andy Morley  
0116 – 252 - 7404

### **4.2 Legal Implications**

The proposed support for the establishment of an Institute of Community Cohesion would be in line with the Council's statutory duty to promote equality of opportunity and good race relations between persons of different racial groups (Section 2, Race Relations (Amendment) Act, 2000).

Also relevant is Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 which places a duty on the Authority to do what it reasonably can to prevent crime and disorder in its area.

Promotion of "well being" powers under Section 2 of the Local Government Act 2000 can be used as a basis for incurring expenditure.

Further legal advice is required depending on the nature of the body being established; for example whether it is a company or simply an informal consultative forum.

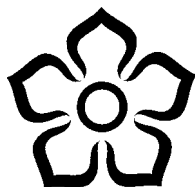
**Legal advice**, Peter Nicholls, Legal Services, 0116 252 6302

## **5 Report Author**

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### **DECISION STATUS**

<b>Key Decision</b>	No
<b>Reason</b>	N/A
<b>Appeared in Forward Plan</b>	No
<b>Executive or Council Decision</b>	Cabinet



Leicester  
City Council

**WARDS AFFECTED:**

All

**Cabinet**

**5 December 2005**

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**Report of the Chief Executive**

**Report**

**1. Background**

- 1.1 The City Council has been invited to become a key partner in the new Institute of Community Cohesion which is in the process of being set up by Ted Cattle.
- 1.2 There is currently no other similar national organisation that focuses specifically on community cohesion issues. The emphasis will be on practical as well as academic and research outcomes.
- 1.3 The city council's national reputation for its leading edge work in community cohesion plus Leicester's reputation as a successful multicultural city have been paramount in the choice of Leicester as a preferred location.

**Aim of the Institute of Community Cohesion**

- 1.4 The aim is to establish a new institute which will become recognised as a key international point of reference for cohesion work, based on a genuine partnership of academic institutions together with those public, private and voluntary sector agencies that are responsible for 'on the ground' problem solving. It will have a particular focus on professional evaluation of best practice in community cohesion so as to disseminate ideas that have demonstrable impact in communities.

**Other key partners**

- 1.5 National key partners already identified include the Improvement and Development Agency, the Commission for Racial Equality, the National Health Service, the Housing Corporation, and Government Departments.

**Location**

- 1.6 High level discussions have taken place with the Vice Chancellors of both local universities in Leicester, and with Coventry and Warwick. Different aspects of the Institute's programme will be hosted by each of the universities, led by a Directorate team.

## **Development of the Institute of Community Cohesion**

- 1.7 Two phase approach:
- Launch of a Community Cohesion Programme in September 2005, with a strong practical focus on developing toolkits, and training and development schemes for local authorities, government departments and agencies. The proposed launch is expected to take place in the House of Lords in late autumn.
  - Full Institute to be created early in 2006, backed by research activities and advanced studentships at post-graduate level.

## **2. What we have been invited to do**

- 2.1 The city council has been invited to become a key partner in the Institute of Community Cohesion.
- 2.2 The city council Lead Member for Community Cohesion and the Chief Executive have been invited to become members of the Partnership Board.

## **3. Benefits and opportunities**

- 3.1.1 An Institute of Community Cohesion located in Leicester would help to further the city's reputation in both practical and academic terms by:
- contributing to the agenda for research into community cohesion
  - providing a forum for new ideas and developments
  - promoting our experience of 'good practice'
  - providing access to 'best practice' and innovation from the UK, Europe and worldwide
  - assisting with research into monitoring and evaluating our projects, such as those sponsored by the Community Cohesion Fund Programme
  - working together on establishing sound community cohesion indicators.
- 3.2 Research projects could be commissioned in relation to, for instance:
- Young people: barriers preventing young people from participating fully; the work of the Young People's Council of Faiths; relationships between young people and others
  - The level of integration in the city / the 'parallel lives' phenomenon
  - Intergenerational work.
- 3.3 An Advisory Panel could be set up to provide access to our wealth of local knowledge and experience. The Community Cohesion Project Team could take a role as a key reference group.

## **4. Costs**

- 4.1 £20k per annum for an initial period of three years, as a contribution towards the core funding of the Institute.
- 4.2 It is possible that the £20k core funding contribution per year could be found from the Community Cohesion Fund over all of the three initial years.
- 4.3 In subsequent years, it is likely that city council departments will participate and provide financial investment through the relevance of the Institute's work to service planning, delivery, monitoring and evaluation.

## **5. Key public relations messages**

- 5.1 Being a partner in the Institute of Community Cohesion will enhance the council's and the city's national and international reputation for leading edge work on community cohesion.
  
- 5.2 It will also give a strong message to the people of Leicester about the seriousness with which the Council views community cohesion and the strength of our commitment to achieving cohesion outcomes.

## **6. Report Author**

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