



Leicester
City Council

WARDS AFFECTED
All Wards

FORWARD TIMETABLE OF CONSULTATION AND MEETINGS:

Cabinet

8 December 2008

Community Cohesion Strategy **Report of the Community Cohesion and Safety Task Group**

Report of the Director of Partnership, Performance and Policy

1. Purpose of Report

This report endorses the recommendations set out in the attached report from the Scrutiny Community Cohesion and Safety Task Group (Cohesion Strategy) and an additional recommendation arising from OSMB. It also makes a further recommendation that Cabinet should revise one of the Scrutiny Report's recommendations.

2. Summary

This report charts the way forward for community cohesion in Leicester for the next five years.

It covers six areas of activity – the importance of community cohesion as a priority for the Council, the updating the Community Cohesion Strategy, ward community meetings as a means of furthering community cohesion at the local level, the Community Cohesion Fund, mainstreaming community cohesion in core services, and supportive of continued efforts to measure community cohesion.

The Task Group Report re-iterates the importance of community cohesion for a city as diverse as Leicester and is supportive of the current approach to include everyone in the city - both white and ethnic minority communities, and women, disabled people, those of differing sexualities. However, it advocates that over the next few years greater attention be given to the largely white outer estates to compliment the activities undertaken with ethnic minority groups largely in the inner city.

3. Recommendations

That Cabinet:

- approve the recommendations set out in the Scrutiny Task Group Report together with the revisions as set out below:

- approve a further recommendation from OSMB and amended by Cabinet relating to section D on page 9, which deals with the Community Cohesion Fund. The recommendation is “that in decision-making, added weight is given to projects that contribute to the sustainability of community cohesion and make clear that projects should have no expectation of receiving mainstream funding at their end”
- revise Recommendation 8 to read “that ward community meetings seek to promote and embed good community relations throughout their work.”.
- approve Cabinet’s inclusion of a new recommendation to read ‘that inequalities across the city be addressed as part of community cohesion’.

4. FINANCIAL, LEGAL AND OTHER IMPLICATIONS

4.1. Financial Implications

The budget for community cohesion was increased as part of the 2008/9 – 2010/11 revenue budget. This raised the budget to £206,900 pa. From this sum, an amount of £44,000 has now been allocated specifically for determination by Ward Community meetings.

Andy Morley, Head of finance, Resources.

4.2 Legal Implications

The Report presents no particular legal issues at the moment. Generally our community cohesion work is in line with our statutory responsibilities.
Peter Nicholls, Service Director Legal Services.

5. Other Implications

OTHER IMPLICATIONS	YES/NO	Paragraph Within Supporting information	References
Equal Opportunities	yes	Whole report	
Policy	yes	Appendix 1	Heading 2.
Sustainable and Environmental	yes	Appendix 1,	Appendix 3
Crime and Disorder	yes	Appendix 1,	Appendix 3
Human Rights Act	yes		
Elderly/People on Low Income	yes	Appendix 1,	Heading 4

6. Consultations

None

7. Report Author

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