



DERBY CITY COUNCIL

COMMUNITY COMMISSION 15 JANUARY 2007

Report of the Corporate Director of Corporate and Adult Social Services

The Commission on Integration and Cohesion - 'Your chance to tell us what you think'.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1.1 That members consider the draft response.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

- 2.1 The Commission on Integration and Cohesion is an independent advisory body that has been set up to explore how different communities and places in England are getting along, and what more might be done to bring people together – respecting differences, but developing a shared sense of belonging and purpose. The Commission are conducting an important consultation entitled 'Your chance to tell us what you think'. This could warrant 'focussed scrutiny' but there is not time to hold a special meeting.
- 2.2 In late December 2006 the Chair, Councillor Turner, invited all 51 members to contribute their views ahead of this meeting. He had explained:

Given our above average achievements in Derby around cohesion we will have a useful contribution to make. I invite all members of the Derby City Council to contribute to this important dialogue. To do so, please read the 10 page document using the hyperlink and then fill in the questions below. These are exactly the same as in the document *plus* an extra one to help guide the Community Commission.

- 2.3 Attached at Appendix Two is a draft response synthesised from members' written contributions. If Community Commission members have suggested additional or revised wording it would assist if these could be provided to the co-ordination officer by noon on the day of the meeting, 15 January 2007.

For more information contact:	01332 255596 e-mail rob.davison@derby.gov.uk None
Background papers:	Appendix 1 – Implications
List of appendices:	Appendix 2 – Draft Response

Appendix 1

IMPLICATIONS

Financial

1. None

Legal

- 2 None

Personnel

- 3 None

Equalities impact

- 4 The purpose of the national Commission and this consultation is to promote equal and fair treatment for and by all sections of the community .

Corporate Priorities

- 5 This consultation relates either directly or indirectly to all the high level priorities.

Appendix 2

There are 7 set questions plus an additional question 8. In each case, the question is followed by the suggested response and then the actual replies given by members.

Question
1. What does 'cohesion' mean to you? What does 'integration' mean to you? What might a community which is both integrated and cohesive look like?
Draft Response Cohesion means a community where its members see they have ties and interests in common. Cohesion is the overall unity of a community that tolerates and embraces the differences between its various constituent groups of people. Integration means a significant degree of acceptance and co-operation between groups so that they can operate with a single identity. It means everyone in the community making the effort to play a part in the community, being neighbourly and developing friendships. As well as established residents from a variety of backgrounds it also has a special relevance to the inclusion of new groups, like migrants, so they don't feel like outsiders separate to the mainstream. A community that is sustainably both integrated and cohesive would see its members 'sticking together' and not susceptible to split on grounds such as economic conditions, religious difference, ethnic diversity or on supposed racial differences.
Graves Cohesion is the unity of a community that tolerates and embraces the differences between 'sets' of people. The word sets means a wide variety of people who have put themselves in a group or set of groups such as religious (obvious), age, sport, hobbies etc. Integration is where 'new' sets of people integrate with the mainstream although usually referred to in relation to migrants, travellers etc. Again integration is much wider and it is important that any set of people do not separate themselves from the mainstream.
Rawson Cohesion means a community which has things in common and common ties and interests. Integration means everyone in the community making the effort to play a part in the community be neighbourly and develop friendships.
Roberts Cohesion signifies a level of joint working and acceptance of alternative disciplines and processes by varying factions. Integration means a

significant degree of acceptance and co-operation between groups so that they can operate with a single identity

Turner

COHESION?

It means the act of sticking together. So why not use words that most people will understand - like **sticking together**? (Rather than allowing bureaucrats to perpetuate confusion/ignorance.)

That would mean not allowing the community to split on any grounds, such as; economic conditions, religious difference, ethnic diversity or on alleged racial differences.

Clearly such a policy is not currently considered acceptable in our liberal society since the kingdom already allows and encourages division on the first two grounds - noting the huge income differences which exist in it and the existence of fee-paying, selective and faith schools.

INTEGRATION?

Integration is an almost useless word now since people interpret it in quite different ways - it is possible that people who use the word in what they see as, and is, a positive sense rarely actually want true integration since it would mean radical change to their own respective culture.

Looking at the community within the area I represent on Derby City Council (Sinfin Ward) the following could be noted (but not meaning that that there are no other important elements to note):

1. The existence of a significant number of mainly working class Sikh people, with ancestry originating in the Indian subcontinent, amongst the homogeneous and mainly working class indigenous population.
2. There exists a good state of what I call **Co-existence** amongst the vast majority of the whole population.
3. This extends to solidarity against antisocial behaviour (which includes behaviour originating in a racial division made by the perpetrators)
4. There are very few community based bodies in the ward which include people from across the spectrum present. It would be such bodies which doing whatever their special interest is as a main activity if they were broadly based would be strong indicators of integration at certain levels.
5. These processes are going on in Sinfin and as such represent positive developments, such as **Sinfin Together**.

WHAT WOULD AN INTEGRATED AND COHESIVE COMMUNITY WOULD LOOK LIKE?

Given the presumed intent of a question about the community being both integrated and cohesive it is of course obvious that neither characteristic could exist without the other characteristic being also present:

- The community would be integrated if it were cohesive because the cohesiveness (in the sense of sticking together) would depend on

there being cultural threads of communication.

- The community would be cohesive if it were integrated because cultural pressures would enforce it.

Examination of the spectrum of all private bodies, businesses, faith groups, schools, clubs and associations showing the same spectrum as the community - allowing for age differences of course - would indicate whether or not an integrated and cohesive community existed.

2. What, if any, are the tensions between different groups in your local area? What do you think tends to cause these and what are your thoughts about how to resolve them? What role can local leaders play in tackling them? What are the organisations in your community which would help when an incident is leading to tensions or when conflict resolution is needed?

Draft Response

Tensions develop when one group of people feel that another group is being treated more advantageously or they have a grievance and feel disadvantaged. An example is the misconception about asylum seekers being 'given everything' whilst others, often very disadvantaged 'get nothing'. Resolving those misconceptions and urban myths is very difficult.

To prevent communal tensions, local leaders need to explain better how and why decisions on allocation of resources are made. Religious and community groups can help resolve –and prevent - conflict.

In some parts of Derby the main tensions exist between younger people and residents and are related to anti-social behaviour.

In terms of anti-social behaviour, local leaders need to:

- support local residents when situations arise and insist that local agencies do all they can to resolve issues and
- encourage local residents to own their community.

The police, youth offending, probation service, various council departments plus voluntary organisations should be involved in finding solutions.

The clear difference between the 'haves' and 'have nots' was reported as an underlying problem. There are also high levels of racial intolerance shown by a small minority within some areas. The leaders in the areas affected address the problems in different and contrasting ways but the end objective of ensuring the tolerance of other ethnic backgrounds is related to bringing the worst off in an area up to an acceptable standard and creating opportunities for the disadvantaged to progress to higher ambition.

Some councillors openly expressed the dilemma about their having a clear understanding of what society's issues are but their difficulties in effecting

short or long term change:

"Resolving those misconceptions and urban myths is very difficult and I don't know how to do it".

"Expecting leaders to apply sticking plasters to a sick body does not resolve anything".

Graves

The main tensions in my local area are related to anti-social behaviour and exist between younger people and residents. Society in general has in my view become too tolerant towards muggings, bullying, harassment, petty damage to property etc. Local leaders need to support local residents when situations arise and insist that local agencies do all they can to resolve issues. Also they need to encourage local residents to own their community. The police, youth offending, probation service, voluntary organisations such as enthusiasm and various council departments should all get involved in finding a solution

Rawson

Tensions develop when one group of people feel that another group is being treated more advantageously or they have a grievance and feel disadvantaged. An example is the misconception about asylum seekers being 'given everything' whilst others, often very disadvantaged 'get nothing'. Resolving those misconceptions and urban myths is very difficult and I don't know how to do it. Local leaders need to explain better how and why decisions on allocation of resources are made. Lack of special housing causes tensions. Religious and community groups help resolve conflict.

Roberts

There are many but the clear difference between the haves and have nots is one. There are also high levels of racial intolerance shown by a small minority within the ward. The leaders in the ward address the problems in different and contrasting ways but the end objective is to ensure the tolerance of others is related to bringing the worst off in our area up to an acceptable standard and creating opportunities for the disadvantaged to progress to higher ambition.

Turner

The main tensions are focused on economic differences - that is relative and absolute poverty compared with: "a steady job rewarded with the ability to pay for a pension, buy and prepare healthy food, provide whatever materials not provided by a school for their children for educational purposes and afford school trips, be able to support children through post 16 years age education, etc" There is weak control by local leaders of the behaviour of children manifest by persistent racial harassment and abuse.

Organisations which would help are:

- Derby Community Safety Partnership
 - The police

- Derby City Council
- Primary Care Trust

Leaders as identified have little role in resolving tensions.

The arising of an incident should not lead to a community tension - every one of the agencies should have mechanisms, processes and procedures which naturally have a community wide acceptance that from the start eliminate the possibility of any institutional discrimination.

Expecting leaders to apply sticking plasters to a sick body does not resolve anything.

3. What activities help bring people together, build friendships and get a better understanding of people from a different background? Where do these activities take place – at school or college, socially, at work or in the neighbourhood? What are the shared spaces in your community where people can come together? What celebrations are there of local traditions in your area?

Draft Response

The following are ward based example rather than city-wide.

‘Area Panel meetings on a variety of topics, sport coaching and competitions, youth clubs, neighbourhood watch activity, hobby interest groups all help towards friendship building in local areas. Shared spaces include the local park, playgrounds in various parts, church halls, schools and the district centre. Celebrations are not as evident as they could potentially be. More use should be made of the district centre and the local park to promote integration’.

‘In my area, a number of projects funded by the New Deal for Communities have brought people together; Derwent into Gardening, Time Bank, Green Gym, Hat Trick Football Project. Activities provided for children have the added benefit of bringing together adults from many different backgrounds who have their children as a common denominator. These activities are, I would say, the best way of bringing parents together. People will only get involved in activities they enjoy and benefit from. Much preparation needs doing to break down people’s distrust of ‘authority’.

A councillor in the same ward added: ‘We are fortunate to have NDC and the spin off operations within the community although this must be balanced by the fact that NDC was achieved only because the area was categorised as one of the most deprived areas in Europe. As far as local traditions are concerned there are national celebrations such as Guy Fawkes and pancake day but I would have a problem identifying a local celebration’.

A councillor in another deprived ward made an equivalent comment about

the dependence on external (ie time-limited) funds as a catalyst for community interaction. 'The continuous external funding by public sector agencies of autonomous/semi-autonomous broadly based local bodies is needed to off-set the mal-distribution of economic resources and to develop positive self confidence in the local population'.

A further ward-based comment was: 'There is a gross lack of shared spaces in [the] Ward. An Activity Centre is the only publicly owned and available space. Nowhere is without a hiring charge. However there is an annual Carnival and an Asian Games - both are relatively modern traditions'

Graves

Local panel meetings on a variety of topics, sport coaching and competitions, youth clubs, neighbourhood watch activity, hobby interest groups all help towards friendship building. Shared spaces include Alvaston Park, playgrounds in various parts, church halls, schools and the district centre. Celebrations are not as evident as they could be. More use should be made in the district centre and the main park.

Rawson

In Derwent, a number of projects funded by the New Deal for Communities have brought people together; Derwent into Gardening, Time Bank, Green Gym, Hat Trick Football Project. Activities provided for children have the added benefit of bringing together adults from many different backgrounds who have in common their children. These activities are, I would say, the best way of bringing parents together. People will only get involved in activities they enjoy and benefit from. Much preparation needs doing to break down people's distrust of 'authority'.

Roberts

We are fortunate to have NDC and the spin off operations within the community although this must be balanced by the fact that NDC was achieved only because the area was categorised as one of the most deprived areas in Europe. As far as local traditions are concerned there are national celebrations such as Guy Fawkes and pancake day but I would have a problem identifying a local celebration

Turner

1. Continuous funding of autonomous/semi-autonomous broadly based bodies in local communities to enable them to take part in the development of a bottom up society within their area. This method being required given the mal-distribution of economic resources existing in the kingdom.
2. Clearly public bodies should be funded to maximise the development of positive self confidence in the population.
3. There is a **gross lack of shared spaces** in Sinfin Ward. Cotton Lane Activity Centre is the only publicly owned and available space. None is without a hiring charge - local councillors can call meetings for the public

at private premises for which the council pays.

4. There is Sinfin Carnival - a relatively modern tradition
5. There are the Asian Games - of a similarly recent tradition to the above in Sinfin
6. There are traditions of Anglican, Roman Catholic, Baptist, and other religions of a Christian nature with premises in the ward used for worship. There are no mosques or gurudwaras in the ward.

4. What schemes in your community build a sense of belonging to your neighbourhood or community? What schemes in your community try to build or teach a set of values or 'ground rules' about how to live together? What schemes to address poverty, crime and anti social behaviour in your local area have improved how people feel about one another?

Draft Response

The only way cohesion can be sustainably achieved is if people from different backgrounds interact, understand each other, see their similarities and develop good relationships and friendships. Councillors views vary according to the types of funding applying to different areas of the city.

For example: 'The New Deal approach of community engagement does work but that is mostly down to the availability of NDC money and the team's commitment. Several successful schemes have been implemented in the area this way'.

In a priority neighbourhood ward: 'There are not really any schemes having the explicit objectives in question 4. All schemes and institutions in the area would need to have a strong commitment to a shared "sense of belonging" for that sense to be attained. The local Together Partnership does have this strong commitment. The Council with partners has recently established locally devolved service delivery arrangements and the Neighbourhood Management team are addressing some of the issues in the local area'.

In a different ward with no external funding or inter agency structures no extra schemes beyond those in a reply to Q3 were cited.

Graves

Only those listed above [at 3]

Rawson

The New Deal approach of community engagement does work. Providing opportunities for people to get involved in community activities and then doing outreach to publicise what's on offer and encouraging people to take up the offer is vital. Also 'buddying' to provide support for people to attend. Formal meetings are boring and intimidating to many people. The only way

cohesion can be achieved is if people from different backgrounds interact, understand each other, see their similarities and develop good relationships and friendships.

Roberts

There are several schemes that have been implemented in the area mostly down to NDC money and the Derwent Delivers team commitment. The flagship schemes are The Gateway Centre, stepping Stones nursery provision, the Blue Boy Community Pub, the Derwent Community Transport Scheme and a plethora of other smaller but equally important provisions such as time bank, CACTI and the Green gym concept.

Turner

There are not really any schemes having these objectives explicitly. Lack of privacy (partly due to anti-social behaviour) and high density settlements tends to reduce people's options to live together. This is because it is necessary to be able to "go private" sometimes in order to be able to sustain togetherness given the difficulties that that process can sometimes prevent.

All schemes and institutions in the area would have to have a strong commitment to the "sense of belonging" for that sense to be attained. **Sinfin Together Partnership** does have this strong commitment.

The Sinfin Neighbourhood Management team are addressing some of the issues that need addressing in the area and indeed all areas of the kingdom.

5. What schemes in your community help new people when they arrive? What schemes in your community aim to counteract people's negative perceptions of and attitudes to people from different backgrounds? In what ways can communities steer people away from extremism?

Draft Response

With the exception of one localised scheme, Members are unaware of any organised welcoming provision or of other organisations that might help fulfil the role.

To steer away extremism it is important to discuss openly the issues, preferably without any bias one way or the other.

Ensuring that other cultures are embraced at primary school level and then right through the educational system is one of the basic elements of a cohesive and sustainable community. This requires long term and broad based community activity.

Graves

I do not think there are any such schemes. To steer away extremism it is important to discuss openly the issues, preferably without any bias one way or the other.

Rawson

Derwent Zambezi? I don't know of any other organisations which would fulfil this role.

Roberts

I know of no organised welcoming provision the steady building of the community bringing in the broad based community activity and ensuring that other cultures are embraced at primary school level and then right through the educational system is on of the basic elements of a cohesive and sustainable community

Turner

I do not know of any schemes that do this in the area. As a local councillor I have asked officials to provide me with knowledge of where new people are living but it has to be concluded that there is a specific policy amongst some agencies which prevents that.

I consider this to be an extremely serious weakness

6. What schemes in your area aim to get people involved in local decision making? What role do representative organisations for communities have in building communities in your area? How are you encouraging the formation of such organisations? How are people encouraged to get involved in your local community to make a difference?

Draft Response

It is not possible to give a standard answer for the city as whole. The following examples *may* suggest that councillors in areas with either external funding or inter-agency institutions use those routes to address issues whereas in areas without those resources personal brokering skills are used to make things happen.

'The whole ethos of NDC is to empower the residents to be a key element of the decision making process. The local NDC has established theme groups and a management board to make decisions on how the NDC money is to be spent. No action can be taken to the Board of NDC without passing through a resident's group and receiving support from it. This is all resident led. This will fit in with the citywide neighbourhood working agenda. All of the projects funded by NDC are resident led and involve residents in making decisions. Area Panels involved residents across the city. Derwent Empowerment Project, Councillors newsletters. First Steps in a project led by CVS to encourage the growth of volunteer community groups'.

Area with local Together Partnership. 'This body is slowly growing in confidence but needs to be invested with more opportunities to be effective. The three local councillors most strongly support this but funding remains a huge problem we ensure the local agencies are engaged with the partnership'.

Area with no external funding or inter agency structures 'Area Panel, Neighbourhood meetings, Neighbourhood Watch, local interest group meetings. As a local member many organisations have gotten off the ground with my help in conjunction with fellow councillors. The most recent being the local Park Friends (Dec 06). Regular newsletters explaining how they can help and local council literature'.

Graves

Area Panel, Neighbourhood meetings, Neighbourhood Watch, Local interest group meetings. As a local member many organisations have gotten off the ground with my help in conjunction with fellow councillors. The most recent being the Alvaston Park Friends (Dec 06). Regular newsletters explaining how they can help and local council literature.

Rawson

Derwent New Deal for Communities has established theme groups and a management board to make decisions on how the NDC money is to be spent. This is all resident led. This will fit in with the citywide neighbourhood working agenda. All of the projects funded by NDC are resident led and involve residents in making decisions. Area Panels involved residents across the city. Derwent Empowerment Project, Councillors newsletters. First Steps in a project led by CVS to encourage the growth of volunteer community groups.

Roberts

The whole ethos of NDC is to empower the residents to be a key element of the decision making process. No action can be taken to the Board of NDC without passing through a resident's group and receiving support from it. Other than major projects i.e. Gateway change of management, where spending decisions are made it must have a majority of the residents on the Board in favour before it can attain approval

Turner

Sinfin Together Partnership. This body is slowly growing in confidence but needs to be invested with more opportunities to be effective. The three local councillors most strongly support this but funding remains a huge problem. We ensure the local agencies are engaged with the partnership.

7. What role do local schools, workplaces and faith groups have in building communities in your area? What role do local authorities, public services and charities (e.g. the Police, Hospitals, Housing Associations) have in building communities in your area? How can the media help to build communities?

Draft Response

Local schools are vital in building good relations between different communities because at this age children develop attitudes which will probably stay with them for life. Schools are uniquely placed for individuals

to develop friendships with people from many different backgrounds. Cohesion requires schools to be representative of the whole community if children are to understand one another and learn to live together.

Local schools, public library, church halls are all used for agency meetings. The local housing, police and council all either provide meeting space or attend on a regular basis. However this level of other agency sign-up is not universal across the City.

The media can have a great force for good or evil but tend to be more interested if a celebrity attends rather than if it is a local success.

Graves

Local schools, public library, church halls are all used for such meetings. The local housing, police and council all either provide meeting space or attend on a regular basis.

Rawson

Local schools are vital in building good relations between different communities because at this age children develop attitudes which will probably stay with them for life. Schools are uniquely placed for individuals to develop friendships with people from many different backgrounds (as long as schools are not segregated). Segregating children, for example by religion, in schools is, in my opinion, a very bad idea. Cohesion requires schools to be representative of the whole community if children are to understand one another and learn to live together.

Roberts

The NDC has a full suite of agency involvement police, fire, PCT, MH Trust Housing Associations Derby Homes and Derby City Council amongst others. Schools and local employers are invited and participate strongly in the work of the community. As ever the media can have a great force for good or evil but tend to be more interested if we can have a celebrity to attend than if it is a local success.

Turner

Not much by any of them. The Fire and Rescue Service being a notable exception.

With so much wilful and disastrous fragmentation started in 1979 and ended in 1997 there are now numerous bodies with these sort of aims but effectively competing for the same money.

8. Are there are other points that you feel should be incorporated into the Community Commission's response? This may be about local circumstances in Derby or about national policy.

Draft Response

Government needs to be more proactive in promoting community cohesion.

Funding needs to be provided for activities which bring people together - similar to NDC - and get involved in promoting community cohesion. It is apparent from the preceding answers that NDC funding provides the resource base to facilitate both one off events and continuous capacity building that cannot be easily replicated elsewhere.

Each area of Derby has unique features but the people of the City have a positive attitude towards cohesion. Generally good community relations are recognised as a long standing strength of Derby by all the political groups on the Council.

Graves

Rawson

Governments need to be more proactive in promoting community cohesion and not laissez-faire as in the past. Funding needs to be provided for activities which bring people together (similar to NDC) and get involved in promoting community cohesion.

Roberts

Each area of Derby has unique features but there some small groups of activists in derby who see their role as deniers of progress and seek to keep Derby and its community in the dark ages. Sometimes the silent majority is dismissed by this band of nay sayers and I believe this detracts from Community and city visions.

Turner

Locally the people of Sinfin Ward and Derby have a positive attitude towards cohesion - resulting from the quality of the strong working class traditions which have persisted despite attempts to destroy them.

Nationally more local and representative democratic decision making (with the resources to do it) to be allowed by the central government and more local engagement by local people in a six-way process of education between:

- residents
- councillors and,
- professional officers.

engagement with nationally regulated agencies, e.g. the NHS, and DWP has been influenced very weakly local people.