



DERBY CITY COUNCIL

COUNCIL CABINET
31 JULY 2007

ITEM 14

Cabinet Member for Neighbourhood, Social Cohesion and Housing
Strategy

City of Derby Community Cohesion Strategy

SUMMARY

- 1.1 The Community Cohesion Strategy is the first of its kind for Derby City. The Plan is designed to deliver strong sustainable community relations across the City resulting in 'A City where people live together and respect each other'. Creating cohesive communities is now a major policy theme for national and regional government. Improving community cohesion in the City will play a significant role in building and maintaining the reputation of Derby and in encouraging Derby citizens to confidently participate in the life of the City and its neighbourhoods.
- 1.2 The overall aim of the strategy is to create a City where there is a clearly defined and widely shared sense of the contribution of different individuals and communities to a future vision for the City. In particular there is a focus on the contribution of those newly arrived in the City, those people already settled, and what they share in common. The strategy also aims to be preventative, avoiding future problems through targeted work with young people.

RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 To recommend to Council to approve and adopt the Derby City Community Cohesion Strategy.
- 2.2 The strategy will be driven through the Community Safety Partnership recently established Community Cohesion Leadership group and will be adopted by the CSP and Derby City Partnership board.

REASON FOR RECOMMENDATION

- 3.1 The City of Derby has a Community Strategy driving Derby's 2020 vision which states that: 'People of all ages and from all walks of life will feel they belong to Derby and that Derby offers them everything they need'. The Community Cohesion strategy will be one way of realising that aim.

- 3.2 At national level there exists an increasing feeling and fear that communities and cultures are becoming increasingly divided and that people have negative thoughts about the current cultural mix. Communities can gain great benefits from creating harmony within across the spectrum of education, employment, safety and culture and in turn bring positive outcomes for the City in terms of its ability to attract investment, tourism and funding.



City of Derby Community Cohesion Strategy

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

- 1.1 The Strategy is informed by research commissioned by the Community Safety Partnership which base-lined the current position in terms of cohesion. The research addressed over sixty organisations and individuals in the City across communities to establish the likely causes of cohesion breakdown, the barriers to cohesion and determine actions which would make a difference.
- 1.2 The findings demonstrated that many people feel Derby has a safe and relaxed atmosphere and is a good place to be. There also exists willingness for partner organisations to work together further to build on this position.
- 1.3 However, there were two concerns. Local people identified the most likely cause of a community tension as arising from a local trivial incident, triggered by spread of rumour or a territorial dispute. Myths and rumours could then create the potential for breakdown. Secondly, there were some common barriers to cohesion which centred around leadership, inequity in funding, poor response to incidents, language difficulties, social and economic inequalities and confusion as to how to access support services.
- 1.4 Local people also felt there needed to be more time for cross cultural mixing and cross community activities and events.
- 1.5 A report based on the research was prepared for consultation in January 2007 culminating in an event in March. Feedback from this has informed the final strategy. The institute of Cohesion has undertaken research within Derby's Muslim community and this has also informed the Strategy.
- 1.6 The strategic vision will be achieved through the implementation of eight key objectives:

- The establishment of strong and effective leadership of community cohesion at city and community level;
 - Empowerment of local communities through the implementation of neighbourhood engagement and participation structures;
 - The development of a sense of belonging and shared values across the City;
 - implementation of a prevention strategy that avoids tomorrow's problems and is particularly targeted at young people;
 - Effective monitoring and assessment of community tensions through the use of high quality data and information;
 - Visible and effective work to tackle inequalities across partnership agencies;
 - The implementation of actions that prevent the growth of extremism within communities;
 - Effective inter-faith work.
- 1.7 An action plan to support each objective will be developed on an annual basis and managed by the Director of the Community Safety Partnership
- 1.8 The Commission on Integration and Cohesion has produced a report 'Our Shared Future' which outlines principles and evidence based proposals for actions to build stronger and safer communities and redefines an integrated and cohesive community:
- The new definition of an integrated and cohesive community is one where:
 - There is a clearly defined and widely **shared** sense of the contribution of different individuals and different communities to a **future vision** for a neighbourhood, city, region or country;
 - There is a strong sense of an individual's **rights and responsibilities** when living in a particular place – people know what everyone expects of them and what they can expect in turn;
 - Those from different backgrounds have **similar life opportunities**, access to services and treatment;
 - There is a **strong sense of trust** in institutions locally to act fairly in arbitrating between different interests and for their role and justifications to be subject to public scrutiny;
 - There is a strong recognition of the contribution of both those who have newly arrived and those who already have deep attachments to a particular place, with a **focus on what they have in common**
 - There are **strong and positive relationships** between people from different backgrounds in the workplace, in schools and other institutions within neighbourhoods.

The Derby City Cohesion Strategy adopts this definition.

OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 2.1 A wide range of views has been canvassed and considered during the consultation on the Strategy.

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| For more information contact: | Tel: | e-mail |
| Background papers: | None. | |
| List of appendices: | Appendix 1 – Implications | |

Appendix 1

IMPLICATIONS

Financial

1. There is limited mainstream funding for community cohesion within council budgets and current activity is primarily funded by national anti extremism monies as well as contribution from the police and CSP. Applications for funding of cohesion work will be submitted to the 2008/9 budget negotiation process.

Legal

2. All actions will be undertaken within the legal framework of the partnership bodies.

Personnel

3. The establishment of cohesion team will involve the secondment and appointment of staff.

Equalities impact

- 4 The Strategy will assist in addressing inequalities across communities in the City.

Corporate Priorities

5. The proposal predominantly comes under the Council's Objective of **job opportunities** and also **strong and positive neighbourhoods, a healthy environment** and **shops, commercial and leisure activities**. The DP environ