

STRONG AND SUPPORTIVE COMMUNITIES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE	Agenda Item No. 5
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Report of the Executive Director of Operations

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COMMUNITY COHESION STRATEGY 2010

1. PURPOSE

- 1.1 Community Cohesion Strategy 2010 is being presented to the Scrutiny Committee as it is a key document which underpins the Peterborough approach to promote cohesion.

It is presented as a user friendly document to provide information to the community at large in respect of the over-riding principles and priorities in improving community cohesion as well as preventing violent extremism.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 Members are requested to scrutinise the approach, to provide challenge where necessary and to suggest alternatives to support further improvement. The Committee's endorsement is a key milestone in promoting wider stakeholder consultation and strategic support.

3. LINKS TO THE SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY STRATEGY AND LOCAL AREA AGREEMENT

- 3.1 Under the existing provisions of the Local Area Agreement, whilst cohesion is placed under the Priority of Creating Strong and Supportive Communities, it is a common thread which links other priorities including tackling inequalities, promoting Peterborough as UK's environment capital and supporting the substantial and truly substantial growth agenda for the unitary authority.

Key National Indicators which the strategy helps to achieve are:

- NI 1 which measures the percentage of people who believe that individuals from different backgrounds get on well together within their local area.
- NI 13 which helps to improve the language skills and knowledge of migrants.
- NI 35 which aims towards building resilience to violent extremism.

(Further information as to the way forward for the National Indicators from the Department for Communities and Local Government is currently awaited).

4. BACKGROUND

- 4.1 Community Cohesion aims to bring different groups of people together, including both new and existing members of the community but also people of different age, gender, race, religion or beliefs (including no-faith), disability, sexual orientations and cultural differences.

The Strategy has been prepared in consultation with forums including the Cohesion Board Away Day held on 12 May, 2010 attended by community members as well as representatives from partner organisations and was endorsed by the Cohesion Board on 24 May 2010.

5. **KEY ISSUES**

- 5.1 The key issues addressed in the Strategy include not only our recognition of cultural diversity as one of its greatest strength but also an emphasis towards respect for other equality strands. As a growing city, it promotes recognition of the contribution that young people make but also gives due respect to others.

The strategy emphasises the need to work as Team Peterborough including public, private, voluntary and community sectors to promote best for Peterborough now and future generations

Special placement of the contribution made by resident groups which include those from city and rural areas is made.

It pledges our combined efforts to enhance the image of Peterborough as a place which demonstrates vibrancy, cohesion and community spirit.

Key over-arching cohesion priorities which the strategy aims to deliver include:

- Tackling socio-economic related challenges
- Promoting inter-faith, inter-cultural and inter-communities dialogue, understanding and mutual respect
- Working closely with young people across the community
- Empowering community and neighbourhoods

Specific Priorities for 2010-2011 as endorsed by the Cohesion Board Partnership include:

- Gypsy and Travellers
- Poverty issues - vulnerable localities and families
- Young People and NEET (Not in education, employment or training)
- Hate Crime

The specific priorities are reviewed annually (April/May).

6. **IMPLICATIONS**

- 6.1 The document has city wide implications to all.

7. **CONSULTATION**

- 7.1
- Cohesion Board Away Day held on 12 May 2010
 - Cohesion Board Partnership held on 24 May 2010
 - Respective sessions with other key partners including the Mayor held on 24 August 2010.
 - Strategy Draft placed on GPP website with comments solicited
 - Publicity of the draft document made through GPP Newsletter (Accord)

8. **NEXT STEPS**

- 8.1 The draft Strategy Document will be modified and take into account any comments and include any quotes from respective champions as stated on the document and packaging before being rolled out.

Equality Impact Assessment is also being finalised.

This will be done at the next Cohesion Board Away Day in April/May 2011 or earlier as necessary.

9. **BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS**

Guidance from the Communities and Local Government Department on promotion of cohesion.

<http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/communities/cohesiondelivery2010overview>

Sustainable Community Strategy Summary 2008-2011

Peterborough Local Area Agreement 2008-2011

Community Cohesion Report 2007-2008

Greater Peterborough Partnership Comprehensive Area Assessment Dec 2009

10. **APPENDICES**

10.1 Draft Community Cohesion Strategy 2010 'Home in the Meadows'.

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