

Subject: Community Cohesion Policy
Statement incorporating the
Equalities Strategy Review

Status: For Publication

Report to: Policy Overview and Scrutiny
Committee

Date: 13 January 2010

Report of: Liz Murphy, Head of People and Policy

Portfolio

Holder: Finance & Resources and Communities and Neighbourhoods

Key Decision: No

Forward Plan

General Exception

Special Urgency

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1 To consult with Policy O&S on:

1.1.1 The Community Cohesion Policy Statement.

1.1.2 The revision of the Equalities Strategy.

2. CORPORATE PRIORITIES

2.1 The matters discussed in this report impact directly on the following corporate priorities:-

- Delivering quality Services to our customers
- Delivering regeneration across the Borough
- Encouraging healthy and respectful communities
- Keeping our Borough clean, green and safe
- Promoting the Borough
- Providing value for money services

3. RISK ASSESSMENT IMPLICATIONS

3.1 All the issues raised and the recommendation(s) in this report involve risk considerations as set out below:

- No corporate position or communicated commitment on community cohesion.

- Lack of agreed vision and aligned approach to building a more cohesive Rossendale.

4. BACKGROUND AND OPTIONS

Community Cohesion Policy Statement

- 4.1 Rossendale Borough Council took the decision to mainstream its approach to community cohesion via its Neighbourhood Forums and more specifically the development of Neighbourhood Plans, which would capture actions related to building cohesive communities.
- 4.2 In order to embed this commitment, it was agreed that a Community Cohesion Policy Statement should be developed and adopted by the Council to articulate formally its position and approach to the community cohesion agenda (Appendix 1).
- 4.3 The Council intends to seek support and endorsement of the Policy Statement from the LSP Executive.
- 4.4 It is also intended that a shortened overarching summary cohesion statement (Appendix 2) will be included as part of the adopted of all Neighbourhood Plans.

Equalities Strategy

- 4.5 The Council is required to undertake a revision of its current Equalities Strategy (Appendix 3) to take account of new guidance on public sector duties from Human Rights and Equalities Commission and in preparation for the forthcoming Equality Bill which is expected to receive royal assent in spring 2010.

COMMENTS FROM STATUTORY OFFICERS:

5. SECTION 151 OFFICER

- 5.1 Any financial implications will be met from existing budgets.

6. MONITORING OFFICER

- 6.1 No comments.

7. HEAD OF PEOPLE AND POLICY (ON BEHALF OF THE HEAD OF PAID SERVICE)

- 7.1 No HR implications arising from this report.

8. CONCLUSION

- 8.1 Development and adoption of a Community Cohesion Policy Statement will better ensure a greater alignment of key aims and principles for community

cohesion in Rossendale reflected in all Neighbourhood Plans and endorsed by the Rossendale Partnership.

- 8.2 Revision of the Council's Equalities Strategy will ensure that it is updated with latest guidance and compliant with its statutory duties.

9. RECOMMENDATION(S)

- 9.1 It is recommended that the Committee agree and provides any comments on the Community Cohesion Policy Statement and Equality Strategy revision.
- 9.2 All future minor amendments to the Community Cohesion Policy Statement and Equalities Strategy to be delegated to the Head of People and Policy in consultation with the Portfolio Holder(s).

10. CONSULTATION CARRIED OUT

- 10.1 EMT, Management Team, Portfolio Holders.

11. COMMUNITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

Is a Community Impact Assessment required Yes / ~~No~~

Is a Community Impact Assessment attached Yes / ~~No~~

12. BIODIVERSITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

Is a Biodiversity Impact Assessment required ~~Yes~~/ No

Is a Biodiversity Impact Assessment attached ~~Yes~~ / No

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No background papers.