

**Subject: Community Cohesion Statement of Commitment**      **Status: For Publication**

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**Report to: Cabinet**      **Date: 13<sup>th</sup> December 2006**

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**Report of: Head of Community and Partnerships**

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**Portfolio Holder: Member Champion for Cohesion / Leader of the Council**

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**Key Decision:**      Yes

Forward Plan       General Exception       Special Urgency

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**1. PURPOSE OF REPORT**

1.1 The purpose of the report is to agree the Council's Commitment to the Statement of Community Cohesion.

**2. CORPORATE PRIORITIES**

2.1 The matters discussed in this report are linked to and support the following corporate priorities:  
Embedding our Customers Promise (Customers)  
Making Rossendale a great place to live and visit

**3. RISK ASSESSMENT IMPLICATIONS**

3.1 Failure to deliver against the community cohesion agenda could lead to an increase in tension within the Borough and a decrease in the cohesion of communities.

**4. BACKGROUND AND OPTIONS**

4.1 The Government White Paper "Strong and Prosperous Communities" and recent guidance on the development of the next generation of community strategies for local councils (Sustainable Community Strategies) both detail the need for local authorities to take a key role in driving forward the community cohesion agenda. This includes the Eight Guiding Principles of Community Cohesion.

4.2 The Rossendale Partnership has an active and well attended cohesion working group. The group consist of all of the LSP partners who have developed an

action plan which is being delivered as an aide to increasing community cohesion and reducing social isolation.

- 4.3 The most recent citizens panel survey asked a range of community cohesion questions both which was a repeat of the 2002 Living and Working in East Lancashire Survey. A number of these questions relate directly to the quality of life indicators which have been established by the audit commission. The results are still being analyzed and will be made available in the early new year by the East Lancashire E-Consultation Partnership.
- 4.4 Rossendale Community Cohesion partnership has agreed a statement of intent in relation to community cohesion (See appendix) which members are asked to endorse as the Council's approach to cohesion.

## **5. COMMENTS OF THE HEAD OF FINANCIAL SERVICES**

- 5.1 The activities identified within the strategy are already provided for within existing budgets.

## **6. COMMENTS OF THE HEAD OF LEGAL AND DEMOCRATIC SERVICES**

- 6.1 There are no direct legal implications.

## **7. COMMENTS OF THE HEAD OF HUMAN RESOURCES**

- 7.1 There are no direct Human Resource implications.

## **8. CONCLUSION**

- 8.1 The strategy will be monitored through the Council's Performance Management Framework. Each Head of Service is responsible for producing a Business Plan which shows how the service will overall contribute to the values of the Council in relation to community cohesion. Monitoring will also take place via the Rossendale Partnership Community Cohesion Group.

## **9. RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 9.1 The statement of intent on Community Cohesion be adopted by the Council.
- 9.2 That Community Cohesion remains an issue for all Heads of Service to consider within their business plans.

## **10. CONSULTATION CARRIED OUT**

- 10.1 LSP Executive
- 10.2 Community Network
- 10.3 Leader
- 10.4 Member Champion for Community Cohesion
- 10.5 Rossendale Partnership Community Cohesion Working Group

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**Background papers**

Rossendale Partnership Delivery Plan

Rossendale Partnership Community Strategy

Local Area Agreement

Rossendale Partnership Community Cohesion Action Plan

Strong and Prosperous Communities DCLG October 2006

Definitions and Components of Sustainable Communities

[Living and Working in East Lancashire 2002](#)

[Living and working survey 2006](#)

## **Community Cohesion Statement of Intent**

Rossendale Borough Council is proud of the diversity of the people and communities of Rossendale. We want everyone in Rossendale to have an equal chance to fulfil his or her potential and to enjoy a good quality of life.

We know that people face barriers to social and economic inclusion, to good health and housing, and to learning and access to services based on who they are, where they live, their age, disability, faith, ethnic origin, gender and sexual orientation.

Our communities are diverse, containing different communities with different heritages and different aspirations. Community cohesion is recognised as communities living and working confidently alongside each other, recognising differences but sharing a sense of belonging and working towards a common prosperity, where everyone counts.

Rossendale Partnership is committed to removing the barriers that lead to disadvantage and inequality. Partners will deliver services in a way, which encourages those from all backgrounds and circumstances to have similar life opportunities, and to live and work confidently alongside each other. They will not exclude people, nor make access to services more difficult for any community or interest group. Partners will effectively promote strong and positive relationships between people in schools, in work places, in leisure and cultural activities and in neighbourhoods in general.

We will celebrate difference and challenge unacceptable behaviour in everything we do

# Equality Impact Assessment Form

A copy of this form is available on the Intranet.

## Screening

Name of strategy, project or policy:

Community Cohesion Statement Of Intent

Officer completing assessment:

Miladur Rahman
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Telephone:

01706 252413
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1. What is the main purpose of the strategy, project or policy?

To agree the Council's Commitment to the Statement of Community Cohesion.
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2. List the main activities of the project, policy (for strategies list the main policy areas)

The Community Cohesion working group of the Rossendale Partnership has agreed a statement of intent in relation to community cohesion. The group is encouraging all partners to adopt to the statement. The Council is asked to adopt the statement of intent its is approach to community cohesion.

3. Who will be the main beneficiaries of the strategy, project or policy?

All residents in Rossendale as the Council will ensure that it's policies and procedures are inclusive and everyone has an equal opportunities.
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4. Use the table below to tick:

- (a) Where you think that the strategy, project or policy could have a negative impact on any of the equality groups i.e. it could disadvantage them.
- (b) Where you think that the strategy, project, policy could have a positive impact on any of the groups or contribute to promoting equality, equal opportunities or improving relations within equality target groups.

		<b>Positive Impact</b> – it could benefit	<b>Negative Impact</b> – it could disadvantage	<b>Reason</b>
<b>Gender</b>	Women	✓		By endorsing the statement the Council will strive to ensure that all its policies and procedures promote equality and enhance social inclusion in the borough.
	Men	✓		See above
<b>Race</b>	Asian or Asian British people	✓		The Council will strive to ensure that people of all different backgrounds have equal opportunities and all policies, procedures promote equality.
	Black or black British people	✓		See above
	People of mixed race	✓		See above
	Irish people	✓		See above
	White people	✓		
	Chinese people and other minority ethnic communities not listed above	✓		See above
<b>Disability</b>	Physical/learning/mental health	✓		The Council will strive towards equality of access for all disabled people and comply with DDA.
<b>Sexuality</b>	Lesbians, gay men and bisexuals	✓		The Council will strive to

				ensure that everyone has an equal chance through its policies and procedures irrelevant of sexuality.
<b>Gender Identity</b>	Transgender people	✓		See above
<b>Age</b>	Older people (60+)	✓		See above
	Younger people (17-25), and children	✓		See above
<b>Belief</b>	Faith groups *	✓		See above
<b>Equal opportunities and/or improved relations eg Rural</b>		✓		See above.

**Notes:**

\* Faith groups cover a wide range of groupings, the most common of which are Muslims, Buddhists, Jews, Christians, Sikhs, Hindus. Consider faith categories individually and collectively when considering positive and negative impacts.

5 If you have indicated there is a negative impact on any group, is that impact:

Legal? YES  NO

(i.e. it is not discriminatory under anti-discriminatory legislation)

Intended? YES  NO

Level of impact HIGH  LOW

If the negative impact is possibly discriminatory and not intended and/or of high impact you must complete section two of this form. If not, complete the rest of section one below and consider if completing section two would be helpful in making a thorough assessment.

6 a) Could you minimise or remove any negative impact that is of low significance?

Explain how:


- a) Could you improve the strategy, project or policy's positive impact?

Explain how:

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*You may wish to use the action sheet at the end of Section two.*

- 7 If there is no evidence that the strategy, policy or project promotes equality, equal opportunities or improved relations – could it be adapted so that it does?

How?


Please sign and date this form, keep one copy and send one copy to the Head of Human Resources.

Signed: .....Miladur Rahman.....

Date: ..... 27 November 06.....