

**Forward together to build a fair and inclusive city  
for everyone: a Community Cohesion Strategy for  
Birmingham**

“Forward together to build a fair and inclusive city for everyone” is the first Community Cohesion Strategy for Birmingham, developed in partnership with citizens, communities and organisations across the city.

Extensive engagement and consultation carried out over the last eighteen months, and a public consultation over summer 2018, has developed our understanding of what community cohesion means in Birmingham. The views of people, communities and partner organisations have shaped our collective city vision: *“Birmingham is a welcoming city where everyone has an opportunity to contribute and benefit from the success of the city. The city and its neighbourhoods are safe and flourishing places to live, work and grow up in, they are well connected places where people from all backgrounds trust and support each other. People of all backgrounds realising their full potential and exercising their rights and responsibilities.”*

The strategy sets out a collaborative cross party approach in which residents, local organisations, the Council and city partners will mobilise their collective resources, influence and expertise. This will mean that partners and communities can each play their part to improve and support community cohesion across the city.

The Strategy will ensure that community cohesion is an ongoing process that develops in response to new ideas, research and examples of community cohesion in action. The Council will continue to play a convening role for partners and community organisations that goes beyond the ‘usual suspects’ to share and exchange ideas and celebrate ‘what works’. An annual community cohesion event facilitated by the Council will bring partners and communities together to share learning and exchange ideas; forge new relationships and identify opportunities for joint working.

**MOTION**

That the City Council:

- Adopt the Community Cohesion Strategy for Birmingham as set out at Appendix 1.
- Note city partners have been invited to adopt the Strategy as the city’s approach to community cohesion.