

Report of:	Cllr Tristan Chatfield, Cabinet Member for Social Inclusion, Community Safety and Equalities
To:	Housing and Neighbourhoods Overview and Scrutiny Committee
Date:	3rd July 2018

Birmingham Community Cohesion Strategy Green Paper Consultation and Engagement

Purpose of the Report

To brief the Housing and Neighbourhoods Overview and Scrutiny Committee on the Community Cohesion Strategy Green Paper and the consultation and engagement of Community Cohesion Green Paper.

Recommendation

That Members note the information contained in this report.

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Background

The Council has been engaging with city partners and voluntary and community organisations to develop an approach to promote community cohesion in the city. Details of the background and proposed approach are set out in the Community Cohesion Strategy Cabinet report and Community Cohesion Strategy Green paper attached.

The Community Cohesion Strategy Green Paper will invite views through a public consultation on proposals: to realise the city's vision of a City where people of all backgrounds get on well with each other and access the opportunities Birmingham has to offer to improve their life chances.

The public consultation will commence following Cabinet approval on 26th June, the draft strategy will be publicly launched for wider consultation from 9th July to 31st August 2018. As part of the consultation, we want to draw on the support, knowledge and good work of our partners from the public and private sector, communities and individuals to improve local neighbourhoods and community cohesion.

Therefore, our approach to consultation and engagement of the Strategy will bring together overlapping programmes of consultation activity around the development of a policy in support of 'localism' – celebrating the work that takes place in community groups and neighbourhoods across the city. As well as delivering a broader plan of engagement with city partners and communities of interest and place.

The methods for capturing feedback on the Community Cohesion Strategy Green Paper will include: social media, recording case studies and good practice, written submissions and a series of focussed and themed discussions. This approach will aim to collate city-wide feedback that goes beyond the 'usual suspects'. We will work with our partners to deliver consultation events across communities, neighbourhoods and City partnerships.

We anticipate holding our first Annual Birmingham Community Cohesion Summit in November 2018, building from a series of community dialogues delivered in conjunction with our partners.

Key Issues:

To ensure Birmingham's consultation on Community Cohesion is inclusive and reflects views from across neighbourhoods, communities and city partners

The Committee is asked to note the Community Cohesion Strategy Green Paper and plans to deliver a public consultation on the Community Cohesion Strategy green paper.

Conclusion

Promoting community cohesion requires a collective whole city response. The City Council alone cannot address the factors that undermine community cohesion. It is through the active involvement of city partners, communities, council and individuals that will make the greatest impact.

Furthermore, this city wide joint working approach will provide additional support and evidence to the Overview and Scrutiny Committees cross- cutting work programmes, as they research and shape best practice.