

Community, Cultural, and Corporate Services Scrutiny Committee
Meeting to be held on Tuesday, 21 May 2024

Electoral Division affected:
(All Divisions);

Corporate Priorities:
Delivering better services;

Draft LCC Cohesion and Integration Strategy 2024/28
(Appendix 'A' refers)

Contact for further information:

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Brief Summary

The Cohesion and Integration Strategy 2024/28 sets out how together we can develop stronger and more cohesive communities where communities can flourish, feel they belong and build a fairer and more inclusive County. We have aligned our key priorities to that of Lancashire County Council's (LCC) corporate priorities, our approach will focus on how we can build alliances to tackle inequalities and develop community cohesion and integration by working with existing partnerships, services, and various relevant communities. Please note cohesion and integration is a highly complex and sensitive area, this strategy has been devised and developed over a long period via various consultative and engagement processes.

Our three-pronged approach will be to collaborate and add value to existing partnerships, our current services and build trust with communities. We aim to strategically tackle local issues collectively, and address the diverse challenges faced by the communities by collaborating with the districts, other public sector partners, voluntary community faith and social enterprise (VCFSE), businesses and any other key stakeholders. Our focus will be to ensure that we help promote cohesion with emerging as well as existing communities, deprived communities and hard to reach communities.

Recommendation

The Community, Cultural and Corporate Services Scrutiny Committee is asked to:

- (i) Consider and comment on the content of the draft Cohesion and Integration Strategy 2024/28.
- (ii) Consider ways to further support this area of work.



Detail

Key risks and considerations are as follows:

- Increased social division by not having a strategic plan and not building solid relationships and networks existing community fault lines may worsen.
- An opportunity to work collaboratively to strengthen our communities and work collaboratively to reduce inequalities via the cohesion and integration route.
- Effective and consistent delivery of the Strategy should reduce the risks of challenges and divisions under equalities and other legislations/directives. It will build and strengthen trust and confidence with specific and wider communities, to meet other wider LCC and partnership strategic objectives, by providing this specialist approach and dealing with sensitive issues in a constructive way.
- Missed opportunities to work collaboratively to deliver our key priorities under various strategic corporate visions and priorities. The approach incorporates how we can add value and strengthen existing partnerships and services from a cohesion and integration perspective.
- Current focus on Cohesion and Integration by various central government departments, central government and shadow opposition, due to areas of concerns raised nationally pertaining to this area.

Appendices

Appendix	Title
Appendix 'A'	Draft Cohesion and Integration Strategy 2024/28

Consultations

No formal consultation has been undertaken.

Implications:

This item has the following implications, as indicated:

Legal

The Cohesion and Integration Strategy is aligned and underpinned by the Equality Act and Public Sector Equality Duty, focussing on the elements of:

- Fostering good relations between groups who share protected characteristics and those who do not share them.



Finance

There are no significant financial implications contained within the report or appendix.

Risk management

Effective implementation of the Cohesion and Integration Strategy should contribute positively to the Public Sector Equality Duty's three general aims of eliminating discrimination, harassment and victimisation or other conduct which is unlawful, advancing equality of opportunity for groups with protected characteristics including increasing their participation in public life and fostering good relations between groups who share protected characteristics and those who do not share them.

Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985 List of Background Papers

Paper	Date	Contact/Tel
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N/A

Reason for inclusion in Part II, if appropriate

N/A

