

Meeting:	Safer & Stronger Communities Scrutiny Sub-Committee
Date:	23 rd January 2007
Subject:	Consultation Response to Integration and Cohesion Commission on behalf of HSP
Key Decision: (Executive-side only)	No
Responsible Officer:	Anita Luthra-Suri Group Manager Lifelong Learning & Acting Group Manager Community Development Team
Portfolio Holder:	Councillor Anjana Patel
Exempt:	No
Enclosures:	Consultation Submission Form

SECTION 1 – SUMMARY AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The submission sets out the response on behalf of the Harrow Strategic Partnership to the consultation by the Commission on Integration and cohesion.

RECOMMENDATIONS: To note the comments and views expressed in the submission and to consider the issues raised.

SECTION 2 - REPORT

Brief background

In June 2006 the Commission on Integration and Cohesion was set up as an independent advisory body to explore how different communities and places in England are getting along, and what more might be done to bring people together – respecting differences, but developing a shared sense of belonging and purpose. In November 2006 they started a process of consultation, to establish what people mean when they talk about cohesion and integration. They are also trying to establish what practical steps can be taken to make communities more cohesive and integrated places to live. To undertake this work the Commission wish to carry out a consultation exercise and have issued a set of seven key questions for national bodies, local bodies and individuals. The Commission has asked local authorities to make partner organisations aware of the consultation and to encourage responses.

The Commissions' report is due to be published in June 2007. It will identify local good practice and recommend it for wider use. It will also offer practical recommendations to central and local government to promote integration and cohesion.

The Harrow Strategic Partnership (HSP) Approach

Officers presented the Commissions consultation to the Community Cohesion Management Group on 29th November and we were asked to lead on preparing the response on behalf of the HSP and a separate response would be made on behalf of the Council.

In producing this response on behalf of the HSP, representatives came together and engaged in frank debate as to their understanding and responses to the seven questions posed by the Commission. In addition, responses were also invited in writing from those who were unable to attend the consultation. As can be expected, consensus was not achieved on all points and peoples understanding and interpretations varied. This final response captures the main points raised and attempts to represent all the views, but it does not represent a comprehensive summary of actions and initiatives in Harrow. Local organisations and individuals have also been encouraged to respond directly to the Commission.

Issues to be Determined

The consultation process raised a number of issues including :

- How can we continue and widen the discussion on integration and cohesion so we can develop a common understanding and values for Harrow.
- What can we do to strengthen Community Leadership across the public, private, political, community and voluntary sectors

Recommendation

To strengthen the links between CCMG and scrutiny panel in taking this agenda forward.

SECTION 3 - STATUTORY OFFICER CLEARANCE

Chief Finance Officer	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Name: Paula Foulds Date: 18 January 2007
Monitoring Officer	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Name: Sharon Clarke Date: 18 January 2007

SECTION 4 - CONTACT DETAILS AND BACKGROUND PAPERS

Contact:

Anita Luthra-Suri
Group Manager
Lifelong Learning Services

Email: anita.luthra-suri@harrow.gov.uk

Telephone: 020 8420 9331

Background Papers: *none*

IF APPROPRIATE, does the report include the following considerations?

1.	Consultation	YES/
2.	Corporate Priorities	NO
3.	Manifesto Pledge Reference Number	1