

Milton Keynes Cohesion Strategy Consultation

7nd July – 24th October 2008

Community Cohesion looks at:

- ~ how well people from different backgrounds get on together in our neighbourhoods,**
- ~ community belonging and**
- ~ community identity**

Cohesion in Partnership

Cohesion Reference Group 2008

MKCVO

MKP

Community Safety Partnership

MK Equality Council

Education

Regeneration



MK Cohesion Strategy

- **Consultation**

816 respondent MK Community Survey, MK Visioning Event and 13 Stakeholder Interviews (Jan-April 08 by Ecotec)

- **Action Plans**

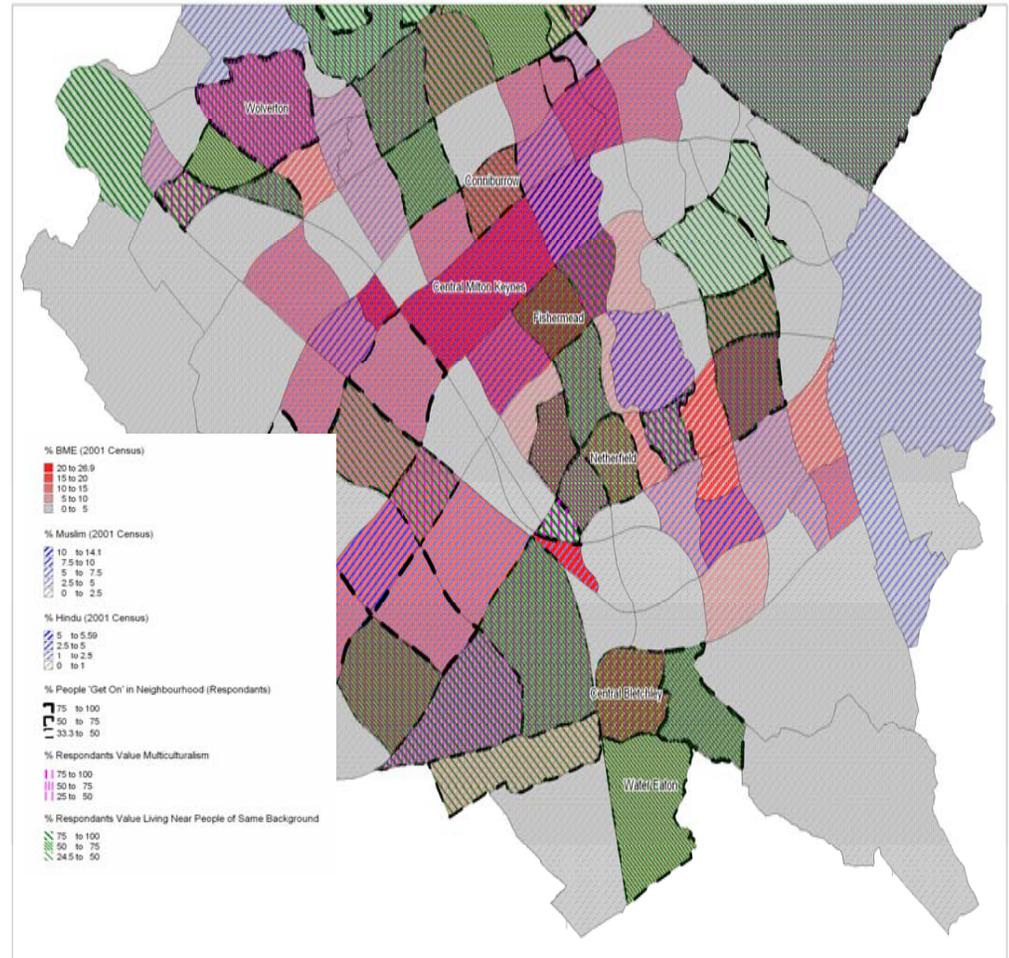
Outlines strategic and operational delivery across MK on key principles and objectives

- **Map**

Cohesion and tensions mapped (live) using GIS and ongoing community data from partners across MK. MKC will share this long term resource.

Cohesion Delivery

- Mapping database (including Community tension Monitoring)
- Action Plans
- Cohesion in service planning across MK
- Cohesion Projects
- Working groups
- Funding application support



Issues, options and questions

1. Building local pride and a sense of belonging

- Working with partner organisations and the voluntary sector on how to adopt and promote community visioning for Milton Keynes;
- Supporting local partners (including the MK Equality Council; MK Council of Voluntary Organisations) in their delivery of cultural festivals and celebrations and other events which develop cross-community contact
- Supporting the Regeneration Strategy focus on our most deprived neighbourhoods

Q: Do you think this approach will help us achieve greater pride and belonging in MK, and if not, what could take this one step closer?

Issues, options and questions

2. Promoting Knowledge and understanding between communities

- Developing an area-based approach to community cohesion focusing on priority neighbourhoods (identified by Regeneration Strategy as well as on case-by-case basis, e.g. Broughton)
- Coordinating the recruitment and training of Milton Keynes Community Cohesion Champions, working to develop communities to take responsibility for cohesion
- Working with partners to develop strategies for supporting and welcoming newcomers (including communication needs).
- Directly support MK Council of Faiths in their work to promote knowledge and understanding between faiths, other organisations and wider communities in Milton Keynes.

Q: This is a wide remit and we will need to build on successful initiatives which have delivered –or are delivering on- similar aims. Do you know of any lessons learnt so far in this area, or of any Best Practice you believe it should refer to?

Issues, options and questions

3 Engaging and Supporting Young People

Working with youth services, youth participation, community development, extended services and education to:

- Improve support to disenfranchised young people;
- Foster inter-cultural contact between young people in schools and colleges;
- Support schools to address bullying, racism, homophobia and harassment and to meet their Community Cohesion Duty

Q: Do we have the right objectives here or are there better ways to engage young people to promote and enhance cohesion in every day life?

Issues, options and questions

- 4 **Addressing social tensions and community conflict, and responding to the threat from political and other forms of extremism**
 - Developing protocols with Community Safety, Emergency Planning, and community partners to share intelligence and plan effective responses to social and political tensions, and conflict;
 - Working with MK Equality Council and the Community Safety Partnership to encouraging reporting of community tensions and hate crime, and to improve awareness and responsibility in the community for cohesion with all diversity strands;
 - Supporting Preventing Violent Extremism projects to monitor local extremism activity and the impact of national and international events on community cohesion.

Q: This is a sensitive and significant issue for Milton Keynes, do you think this approach is enough to encourage engagement from the community?

Issues, options and questions

5 Mainstreaming Community Cohesion

- Working to embed a community cohesion and development approach in mainstream delivery through service plans, reporting on National Indicators, measuring services impact on cohesion, and integrating with like-minded strategies (e.g. regeneration)
- Addressing issues around resource allocation, for example: reviewing positions on Single Issue Funding; and developing perception work around Housing allocation and MKC facilities (sports, leisure, community centres);
- Aligning cohesion delivery with regeneration on areas such as: pilot areas; social capital; addressing persistent inequalities.

Q: This area of work will sustainable leadership to deliver effectively. What do you think would help achieve accountability for cohesion in Milton Keynes?

MK Strategic Fit



What Now

- **Action Plan development**
- **Workshops**
- **Presentations**
- **Cabinet 16th December**

**Strategy and Regeneration Team,
Milton Keynes Council**

Civic Offices,
1 Saxon Gate
East, Central

Milton Keynes, MK9 3HN.

Jessica.Tabbitt@milton-keynes.gov.uk

Tel 01908 253898

Strategic overview of cohesion action plan

Ref	Strategic Objective	Indicator of Success	Action	Responsibility
Section 7.3 Page 13 5.4	Establish a two-tier Action Plan, appropriate for the identified delivery structure. Cohesion strategies and plans should be: Multi-faceted, requiring a partnership approach which is cross cutting -and representative of the organisations whose services can contribute to cohesion;	Strategic Action Plan accurately reflects the vision and outlines a framework for partners to develop a working Action Plan to make recommended objectives and improvements for Cohesion in Milton Keynes over the next 3 years. Report success to the LSP quarterly.	Cohesion Reference Group to endorse Strategic Action Plan to be released for wider consultation and approval from the LSP. Cohesion Officer to work closely with partner agencies over the next 3 years to develop a Working Action Plan with clear milestones, resources, deliverables and responsibilities, and timescales. Delivery Group to be considered as a means of achieving steer, accountability and for reporting to the LSP.	Cohesion delivery partners LSP
Section 4.1	Building local pride and a sense of belonging Developing within Milton Keynes a sense of local pride and sense of belonging. There was a general desire from key stakeholders that activities took place designed to bring communities and groups together. This was especially seen as important in those neighbourhoods which had significant cohesion issues	Communities experiencing poor sense of place, belonging and identity are brought together through activities and meaningful interaction to enjoy a positive vision of a shared future in their neighbourhood and in Milton Keynes as a whole. Performance Indicators (PI's) on Neighbourhood Satisfaction and Community Belonging improved.	Adopting a vision for community cohesion for Milton Keynes Supporting inter-faith activities through our Council of Faiths Supporting cultural festivals and celebrations and other events which develop cross-community contact Support the MK Regeneration Strategy's focus on deprived neighbourhoods and align this with cohesion priorities in these areas.	LSP Cohesion Officer Cohesion delivery partners Cohesion delivery partners

<http://www.milton-keynes.gov.uk/equalities/DisplayArticle.asp?ID=36270>