



'All of Us'

A consultation paper on

Our Strategy for Promoting Community Cohesion in Bracknell Forest 2007 - 2010

Why are we consulting with you?

For the past three years the Council has had in place a strategy called 'All of Us'. This is a strategy for achieving community cohesion throughout Bracknell Forest.

Community Cohesion is all about the way in which groups of people get on with one another and support each other.

In 2003 51.4% agreed that Bracknell Forest was a place where people from different backgrounds get on well together, which rose to 54.13% in 2006. However the numbers that disagreed has decreased substantially from 26.2% in 2003 to 12.24% in 2006.

We are now starting to develop a new strategy for the next three years – 2007 to 2010. Our original strategy has achieved almost all its objectives but now needs updating and we are very aware the some of our communities in Bracknell have changed. Please take some time to look at the 'Did you know' page at the end of this document for some key facts about Bracknell Forest.

Over the last three years we have been listening to what different people from different parts of the community have been saying about the issues and priorities that face our community.

To inform the development of a new strategy for the next three years we are consulting with you. We would like your feedback as to whether the objectives we are suggesting are the right ones, and the actions that you think we should take to achieve these objectives.

The consultation period is taking place over the summer of 2007, with the final strategy being agreed by the winter of 2007.

What is Community Cohesion?

Put simply, the way groups of people get on with one another and support each other is known as 'community cohesion'.

Our document 'All of Us' – a strategy for promoting community cohesion, will set out exactly what the Council, its partners and local people need to do over the next 3 years to make our community even more cohesive and stronger, to realise our vision.

'All of Us' will also contain an action plan which details, in practical terms, what we are going to do and when we are going to do it.

By stating where we are going, how we will get there and what we hope to achieve, we hope everyone will be able to see how they could take part, work alongside us and build a better community together.

There is a 'golden thread' within our strategy linking the aspirations for community cohesion from the Sustainable Community Plan through to the vision of the Council and its planning processes.

Sustainable Community Plan Vision

In 2015 the community of Bracknell Forest will be self-confident, socially cohesive, economically buoyant and renowned for its 'can do' attitude. Living and working in Bracknell Forest will mean having an excellent quality of life. Local people will be safe and healthy. They will have a home that meets their needs and be able to travel easily around the borough, particularly by public transport. The distinctive quality environment of Bracknell Forest will be enhanced and the community and learning will be valued throughout people's lives.

This is the vision of the Bracknell Forest Partnership who are Bracknell Forest Borough Council, Police, Fire and Rescue Service, the Primary Care Trust, local businesses and the voluntary and community sector.

Our Vision

The Council's vision is a simple one:

To make Bracknell Forest a place where all people can thrive: living, learning and working in a clean, safe and healthy environment.

To support this vision the Council has agreed a 'Corporate Theme' to

“Develop a safer, stronger community which is socially cohesive”

This is the theme which supports our objectives for community cohesion.

All of Us – these are the areas that we are proposing to develop into actions and on which we are seeking your comments

1. Everybody has similar life opportunities

- Providing for an ageing population
- Older people's commissioning strategy
- Choice based lettings
- New Town Centre – greater opportunities for access
- Knowledge about who is using Council services
- Improve community cohesion through culture and sport (LPSA)
- Implement the electronic proof of age scheme through e+ card
- Ensure inclusion so that every child and family has access to quality education, childcare, family support and out of school opportunities
- Support to young people – careers education and guidance, training, employment and housing
- Provide innovative services to people with disabilities
- Ensure people entitled to benefits receive an accurate and timely service
- Provide support to help vulnerable people fully participate in the community
- Improve health through
 - focusing on healthy eating, sport and activities at schools
 - access to health services at schools and children's centres
- Improve travel
- Making technology available to those without access
- Implement the Nottingham Declaration on Climate Change to protect the environment for current and future generations.

2. The diversity of people, their circumstances and their communities is respected and valued

- Improve information collection, collation and analysis of data on communities, BME, and hard to reach groups
- Increase understanding and awareness about diversity issues
- Set up systems to monitor changing community
- Neighbourhood profiling – strategic needs analysis
- Finalise and implement the Disability Equality Scheme
- Finalise and implement the Gender Equality Scheme
- Changing attitudes through awareness and training
- Celebrate cultural events
- Improve understanding of diverse communities through art work, library projects
- Share knowledge with partners
- Arts and libraries by providing appropriate stock of books and promotions at libraries

3. There are positive relationships between people

- Promotion of good relationships between groups
- Engagement of communities in development, review and evaluation of child/family, school, library and youth initiatives
- Work with partners to reduce the incidence of BCS crime within the Borough
- Support community groups
- Listen to communities

4. Work with people and partners to assist with building and strengthening communities

- Implement extended services in schools and children's centres, where provision is matched to community need and expectations
- Demonstrate effective community leadership through increasing the level of community engagement and participation in volunteering activities in Bracknell Forest (LPSA)
- Developing positive activities for young people
- Community Planning
- Economic Regeneration and development
- Improving the environment – global issues, Nottingham declaration
- Improving community safety by
 - reducing crime,
 - increasing perception of safety,
 - working with offenders to reduce re-offending,
 - providing adequate drug and alcohol treatment services
 - reducing anti-social behaviour
 - increasing the ability of communities to influence policing services in their neighbourhood
 - providing positive activities for young people
 - through activities that target hidden crime such as bullying, racist incidents, domestic violence
- Neighbourhood Action Groups and Forums, community centres, parishes
- Working in each neighbourhood
- Different ways of community engagement
- Reducing health inequalities
- Provision is enhanced in schools to address issues of diversity, citizenship, integration and cohesion
- Promote resident involvement in neighbourhood and housing management
- Ensure appropriate development that protects the natural environment and creates a quality human environment

