



REPORT OF: LEADER OF THE COUNCIL
TO: COUNCIL FORUM
ON: 25 JANUARY 2018

SUBJECT Social Integration Strategy 2018-20

1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

To seek approval for the adoption of the Social Integration Strategy 2018-20.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee is asked to:

- a) Note the contents of the report and adopt the strategy.
- b) Delegate authority to the Chief Executive in consultation with the leader to co-design/deliver a two-year action plan.
- c) Receive a report on progress and achievements, at the end of the two-year cycle.

3. BACKGROUND

Our Borough is a vibrant and diverse place, made up of different races, cultures, beliefs and attitudes. Our people, location, character and shared assets are what make the Borough a great place to live, work and visit. The Council has been nationally recognised for its work over many years. The strategy was embedded in other key policies across the Council and given its importance, we have developed a social integration strategy to raise the profile and prominence of a key Council priority.

4. RATIONALE

To build on our many strengths and opportunities and to drive further improvement.

5. KEY ISSUES

We want to see all communities feel part of the borough by playing a greater part in civic life, and in accessing leisure, culture and sport opportunities. We want our residents to have shared values and aspirations - to want for others what they would want for themselves and their families.

The strategy is underpinned by the facilitation, enablement and encouraging of linking opportunities, understanding and respect in communities and growing the local economy and skills agenda.

Linking opportunities: We want to see people in all communities get the best start in life and be supported to become well-rounded and successful adults.

Understanding and respect in communities: we want to see people from different backgrounds get together to make the Borough a better place.

Growth of our local economy and skills agenda: we want to see Blackburn with Darwen be a great place to live, study, work and visit. A place where people have access to opportunities and the ability to realise aspirations and potential.

6. POLICY IMPLICATIONS

The social integration strategy is supportive to the Council's Corporate Plan priority objectives and strategic themes for delivery.

7. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no direct financial implications arising from the report. Staffing resource is available through mainstream provision and delivery which supports the social integration agenda.

8. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

Emerging national policy / legislation is scheduled to be presented Spring 2018. The proposals from the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government include the implementation of policies seeking to support integration and social cohesion.

9. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

The strategy will be championed by the Leader and the Chief Executive. Its aims will be achieved through targeted and mainstream delivery. The Your Call campaign will be integral in engaging with and delivering alongside individuals, community groups and partners.

10. EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS

The social integration strategy supports equality objectives towards eliminating unlawful discrimination, advancing equality of opportunity and fostering good relations.

11. CONSULTATIONS

The Council entered into consultation during 2017 with staff, partners and members of the public. For example, staff consultation, May 2017-onwards and public/partner consultation September 2017-onwards.

Chief Officer/Director

Contact Officer: Harry Catherall – Chief Executive
Sayyed Osman – Director Adult Services and Prevention

Date: 17 January 2018

Background Papers: **The draft BwD Social Integration Strategy is available at <http://www.blackburn.gov.uk/Lists/DownloadableDocuments/Draft-Social-Integration-Strategy-%28January-2018%29.pdf>**