

**Open Report on behalf of Richard Wills,  
Executive Director for Environment and Economy**

Report to:	<b>Public Protection and Communities Scrutiny Committee</b>
Date:	<b>12 June 2018</b>
Subject:	<b>Integrated Communities Strategy Green Paper Consultation Response</b>

**Summary:**

This Committee asked the Community Engagement Team to co-ordinate and prepare a draft response to Government consultation on the Integrated Communities Strategy Green Paper on behalf of Lincolnshire County Council. This report and its appendix are the result of engagement with each director area and the compilation of feedback from all parties.

**Actions Required:**

Members of the Public Protection and Communities Scrutiny Committee are invited to:

- 1) Consider and comment on the County Council's response to the Integrated Communities Strategy Green Paper, and;
- 2) Endorse the draft Integrated Communities Strategy Green Paper consultation response.

## **1. Background**

The Ministry of Housing, Community and Local Government released its vision for building strong integrated communities where people – whatever their background – live, work, learn and socialise together, based on shared rights, responsibilities and opportunities in 2018. The green paper sets out an ambitious programme of actions which they propose to take across government to deliver this vision at the local and national level.

Lincolnshire County Council's Community Engagement Team (CET) was asked by the Public Protection and Community Scrutiny Committee to co-ordinate a council-wide response to the green paper, providing a Lincolnshire perspective.

The CET invited comment by email from all heads of service (or equivalent), to be received by Friday 18 May. A response was received from each director area and those responses have been compiled in to one, unified draft consultation submission (appended to this report).

There is general agreement with the aims of the government's strategy green paper. A sentiment echoed most frequently throughout responses from LCC colleagues was that integrating communities nationally, but very particularly in Lincolnshire, should be broader than just race, ethnicity and nationality; it must include those from all backgrounds and all protected characteristic groups. Some more specific notes made in response to the questions posed include:

#### Definitions

- General agreement with definitions, as noted above, but with a need to broaden scope to include and integrate:
  - deprived communities
  - isolated individuals
  - intergenerational activities
- There are a small number of projects underway in Environment and Economy and Adult services that could potentially be used to demonstrate effective practice when evaluated
- Strong agreement with the need for a local focus as blanket approaches are unlikely to work in rural areas in the same way as they do in urban centres

#### Leadership

- Few specific comments were received in relation to the nature of capacity that needs to be built, but some felt that cross-boundary working, influencing and delivery would need to be enhanced to shift the measures of success from more traditional ways of thinking

#### New Migrants and Resident Communities

- There would be a preference for 'shared values', rather than 'British values' as these are difficult to define and ever evolving. Using a shared approach means we learn from each other, rather than insisting on promoting potentially outdated ideals
- Celebration services in particular had positive examples of the work they had done around citizenship and ideas to extend this offer to others, for example young people being given opportunities for multi-generational celebrations as a rite of passage and way to instil civic pride

#### Education and Young People

- Where services areas shared insight on this matter there was agreement across the board that it was important, but some questions were raised as to how meaningful the statements were without further detail/clarity, ie signposting to ad hoc existing services is unlikely to be sufficient to make a difference; support to enhance and integrate services (and knowledge/control of how they operate) however might offer better outcomes in future
- Education settings must admit children in an open and fair way. Whilst all efforts are made to ensure diversity 'social engineering' of school make up is open to challenge
- Teaching about values and respect could be a greater focus in RE lessons to increase understanding and value

- Funding for schools was raised as a concern to be able to implement some of the more detailed recommendations the report cites
- This was not specific to those from different backgrounds/new migrants, but should include mixing among children with different abilities and disabilities

#### Boosting English Language

- Responses on this matter were focussed on the need to use the community to do this to improve integration further – as a minimum co-producing services with communities
- Utilise community facilitators and connectors – there is knowledge and experience in the voluntary and community sector
- Funding has been withdrawn in the past and therefore it would need additional resources to make it a reality

#### Places and Community

- There was little response to the question of bringing together segregated communities, other than that the principle is a good thing, suggesting there is no one, magical solution
- There are concerns relating to barriers to this:
  - Insufficient flexibility in housing stock
  - No consistency in social mobility
  - Libraries/community hubs rely on volunteers
  - Sustained opportunities are required – funding is often short term and activities cannot be sustained so have limited likelihood of success

#### Increasing Economic Opportunity

- Again, respondents had little experience of this area so agreement was generally reached, but with some reservations and concerns:
  - Community businesses have a role to play
  - Statutory services, such as schools could play an ambassadorial role
  - Rurality has a huge impact on access to opportunities

#### Rights and Freedoms

- Community leaders and schools were both seen to have a role in resisting divisive views, particularly female role models, for example leaders and business women, mentoring other women
- Concerns were raised however that trying to curtail differences could have the reverse effect and actually fuel more extreme views
- Equity of opportunity was seen as vital
- The matter of reforms to law of marriage was raised by one respondent highlighting the need for staff training to protect vulnerable people

#### Measuring success

- We need a community-focussed, shared vision of what success looks like, even if the scale and route to achieve it might vary from place to place and project to project
- Concerns were raised in relation to potential unintended consequences and how comparator measures will be made

## 2. Conclusion

There is general agreement across Lincolnshire County Council with the principles of what the Government wishes to achieve through its strategy, however there is little detail and some statements are vague regarding measurable ambition and funding sources to achieve the goals set. A submission should be made which reflects this point of view and highlights areas of concern, locally and at a more general, national level.

## 3. Consultation

### a) Have Risks and Impact Analysis been carried out?

No

### b) Risks and Impact Analysis

The intention of the Government's Strategy is to integrate marginalised communities. Consideration to those with protected characteristics has been captured in the response. The Government has carried out its own analysis on the green paper and presents a statement alongside the paper itself, which can be viewed online here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/integrated-communities-strategy-green-paper>

## 4. Appendices

These are listed below and attached at the back of the report	
Appendix A	Lincolnshire County Council's response to the Integrated Communities Strategy Green Paper

## 5. Background Papers

The following background papers as defined in the Local Government Act 1972 were relied upon in the writing of this report.

Document title	Where the document can be viewed
Integrated Communities Strategy green paper Published 14 March 2018	<a href="https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/integrated-communities-strategy-green-paper">https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/integrated-communities-strategy-green-paper</a>

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