

Slough Borough Council

Community Cohesion Statement

Foreword

Slough is a super diverse town. One of our greatest strengths is that we have always celebrated diversity and we have a long-standing history of accepting and welcoming different people, from across the UK and from around the world.

However, our work focuses on much more than just race and ethnicity – it is about all the things that make our lives different, but also the many common aspirations and values that we hold as a community or place.

Community cohesion has always been an important element of what the council and partners do. We have carried out numerous programmes and projects over the years to help foster better relations between and within our local communities.

The Slough Wellbeing Strategy identifies the following vision for Slough, that by 2028

“.....people are proud to live in Slough where diversity is celebrated and where residents can enjoy fulfilling, prosperous and healthy lives”.

With our partners across the public, private, voluntary and community sectors we have made significant progress towards this vision from the launch of our second community cohesion strategy 2013- 2015. Residents, the Council and local organisations have been working hard to unite people to celebrate the borough and to work together to build a cohesive and stronger community.

We also face new challenges and issues, including reduced and reducing public sector resources but as a Council we will continue to work with our partners and stakeholders to respond to opportunities and challenges in a positive way.

The leadership role of Elected Members – working together for all our residents.

A cross-party Members' community cohesion group has been set up by the Council to encourage awareness, debate and engagement around any issues that could potentially affect community cohesion in Slough. Through partnership working with a range of stakeholders we will continue to promote cohesive communities. We will join up activities and strengthen community engagement and the following outcomes will shape our work:

- People feel a sense of belonging
- Better life opportunities

- Diversity is valued
- Positive relationships within and between communities
- We all take responsibility

It is essential that community cohesion activities continue to be promoted and supported by the Council and the wider public authorities as it is at the heart of all our efforts to make Slough a great place for people to live in, work in or visit. As the role of local government changes at an unprecedented pace it is ever more important that we are all working together to make Slough a place of cohesion and tolerance.-.

We will:

- Continue to work with our communities to identify issues that matter to them
- Raise aspirations of young people so they can achieve their full potential
- Work with faith based establishments to promote cohesion work
- Provide a leadership role on issues that impact on local community cohesion
- Promote mutual respect and tolerance
- Promote local democracy and civic engagement
- Champion equality and challenge prejudice
- Re-inforce civic values and democracy
- Promote dialogue and understanding between different groups
- Speak out against extremism, in all its forms