COMMUNITY AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

18 JUNE 2014

REPORT OF THE HEAD OF COMMUNITIES & NEIGHBOURHOODS

SOCIAL INCLUSION STRATEGY

1.0   PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1   Members to comment and approve of the reviewed and refreshed Social Inclusion Strategy.

2.0   RECOMMENDATIONS

2.1   Members to comment and approve the Social Inclusion Strategy, attached as Appendix A and the 7 priorities set out in paragraph 3.6

3.0   KEY ISSUES

   Background

3.1   Social inclusion is working to break the cycle of social exclusion. A report by the Department of Sociology and School for Social Policy at the University of Bristol has defined Social Exclusion as;

Social exclusion is a complex and multi-dimensional process. It involves the lack or denial of resources, rights, goods and services, and the inability to participate in the normal relationships and activities, available to the majority of people in a society, whether in economic, social, cultural or political arenas. It affects both the quality of life of individuals and the equity and cohesion of society as a whole. (The Multi-Dimensional Analysis of Social Exclusion, 2007)

3.2   Social inclusion is not simply an economic term, but rather it affects all areas of a person's life, and that of a society's. There are costs of social exclusion, firstly for the individual, who often does not reach their educational potential, has higher risks of unemployment, poorer physical health and is more likely to experience crime. Secondly for society who loses out on skilled workers and customers, as when people are socially excluded they are not able to reach their full potential. It is also a cost to the tax payer, for example the estimated annual cost of school exclusions to public services is £406 million.

3.3   In Melton Borough it is important to understand social exclusion as both an urban and rural phenomena. Social exclusion in urban areas is often concentrated on particular neighbourhoods, as can be seen in parts of Melton Mowbray. However in rural areas social exclusion is more dispersed and more difficult to identify. Therefore we need to develop ways of working that will tackle both urban and rural social exclusion.

3.4   The strategy has been refreshed in light of Localism Act in 2011, policies on Community Rights and changes to the demographics through the recent publication of the 2011 Census.

The 2011 Census has provided us with up to date demographic data, highlighting the need for social inclusion in our communities to tackle issues such as child poverty (in 2012 it was estimated that 872 children in Melton were still in poverty) and an increasing older population (with the advantages of diet, medicine and environment we are living longer and therefore living with long terms complex condition example dementia). Other cultural changes have demanded a need to refresh the strategy, the digital agenda. This can create social exclusion at different ages, intelligence, financial, social levels.

3.5 The strategy is developed against a range of themes that relate to Social Inclusion; Community Development, Leisure and Culture, Safety and Protection, Housing and Development, Health and Care, Education and Training and Jobs and Prosperity.

3.6 The strategy identifies vulnerable areas of work and where the greatest impact is required for groups within the Borough. The key priorities and actions demonstrate where the need and resources will be developed to support those most at risk and look to build stronger communities. These are;
- to promote participation and engagement in community life and the decision making process, and to develop services so that all can be involved.
- to address the barriers which limit people's ability to participate in leisure and cultural activities.
- to reduce crime, and to tackle the causes of reoffending.
- to make sure everyone has access to decent and affordable houses
- to improve health, and to support those with health problems, and their carers, to be fully included.
- to work with our partners to improve education and training opportunities for all.
- to support people into work, and support those who cannot work or who are on low income.

4.0   POLICY AND CORPORATE IMPLICATIONS

4.1 The Social Inclusion Strategy relates to the Melton Corporate Plan. Some of the clear priorities that relate to this strategy are:

People
- Support people [and businesses] through the economic downturn
- Improving the well-being of vulnerable people
- Reducing re-offending and the impact of offending on the community
- Encouraging people to take an active role in their communities

Place
- Meet the Economic needs of the Borough
- Improve quality of life for people living in the most disadvantage neighbourhoods
- Increase public confidence and pride in neighbourhoods
- Help provide a stock of housing accommodation that meets the needs of the community.

Well Run Council
- To provide high performing services that are efficient and meet customers' needs

In addition the strategy aligns to:-
- Melton's Corporate Plan 2011 - 2015

- Melton Sustainable Community Strategy 2008 – 2013
- Melton Community Safety Plan 2011 – 2014
- Ageing Well Strategy 2012 – 2015
- Anti Poverty Strategy 2012 - 2015
- Leicestershire Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2013-2016
- E.S.R.C Poverty and Social Exclusion in the UK 2012

5.0 FINANCIAL AND OTHER RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

5.1 The financial cost to promote Social Inclusion is delivered through various projects and departments that has already been approved and allocated, an example would supporting all new mothers with the development of their baby with techniques from the Wave Trust. This funding is commissioned through the Leicestershire and Rutland Sport partnership. Should any additional financial resources be required in the future then a separate report will be presented to members for approval after consideration of the benefits.

6.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS/POWERS

6.1 There are no other legal implications directly arising from this report.

7.0 COMMUNITY SAFETY

7.1 This strategy is designed address the causation of crime and supports the community safety elements that have been identified in the Corporate Plan.

8.0 EQUALITIES

8.1 An Equalities Impact Assessment has been completed and has shown no negative impact for any characteristic group. It has identified positive impacts for certain characteristic groups as the strategy seeks to tackle social exclusion which often resembles certain characteristic groups

9.0 RISKS

9.1 The risks are considered in the table below

Probability
↓

Very High A				
High B				
Significant C				
Low D	1,2			
Very Low				

Risk No.	Description
1	Social Inclusion Strategy is not approved
2	The priorities are not agreed and need to be reviewed.

E				
Almost Impossible F				
	IV Negligible	III Marginal	II Critical	I Catast-rophic

Impact

10.0 CLIMATE CHANGE

10.1 There are no climate change issues directly arising from this report.

11.0 CONSULTATION

11.1 The strategy has been developed with regard to the work of the Melton Community Partnership and their delivery groups which include community and other stakeholder involvement.

12.0 WARDS AFFECTED

12.1 All wards affected.

Contact Officer:	Emma Trahearn - Community (Policy) Officer Harry Rai – Head of Communities and Neighbourhoods
Date:	29/05/2014
Appendices:	Appendix A – Melton Social Inclusion Strategy 2014-2017
Background Papers:	None
Reference:	X:\Cttee, Council & Sub Cttees\CSA\2014.15\180614\HR- Social Inclusion Strategy