

MANCHESTER CITY COUNCIL

REPORT TO: Social Strategy Overview and Scrutiny Committee

DATE: 8th March 2006

SUBJECT: “City meeting” on racial cohesion

REPORT OF: The Chief Executive

Purpose of Report

To report back on the “city meeting” on racial cohesion held in Wythenshawe in February and to propose the way forward.

Recommendations

That the Scrutiny Committee comment on the city meeting on racial cohesion and consider hosting a second event in the North of the city.

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Consequences for revenue and capital budgets

None for Capital Budget

Revenue costs of arranging the meetings could be met from the Scrutiny Committee budget

Background Documents

Wards affected

All

Implications for

Anti Poverty, Equal Opportunities, Human Rights

1.0 Introduction

1.1 At its meeting on 12 October 2005, the Council resolved:

- 1) To continue to work closely with all communities of Manchester to promote racial equality and racial harmony.
- 2) To invite the Social Strategy Overview and Scrutiny Committee to consider holding a 'city meeting on how we can further enhance racial cohesion in Manchester.

1.2 At its meeting in November 2005, the Scrutiny Committee agreed that a 'city meeting' on racial cohesion be held in Wythenshawe in early 2006 and that it would be arranged in conjunction with Manchester Council for Community Relations (MCCR) and the 2006 Challenge Manchester 100 Days campaign. This report provides feedback from the city meeting and proposes the way forward.

2.0 The city meeting

2.1 The city meeting on racial cohesion took place at Wythenshawe Forum on February 17 and was attended by approximately 140 people representing a wide number of groups and communities from across the city. Deputy Leader, Councillor Jim Battle attended and local councillors were well represented. A full list of all attendees is attached at Appendix 1 but some of the participants included:

- Cedar Mount high School in Gorton, Parklands High School in Wythenshawe
- Manchester Pensioners Association
- Manchester Chinese Centre
- Sri Lankan Association
- Indian Association
- Lesbian and Gay Foundation
- Manchester Deaf Centre

2.2 The meeting was fully integrated into the 100 Days Campaign embracing the themes of behaviour and respect and looking towards building a cohesive future for the city.

2.3 Chaired by Councillor Pat Karney, and following a short speech by Khan Moghal of MCCR, Paul Goggins MP provided the keynote speech feeding back progress on the Home Office initiative of 'Tackling Extremism Together' and the meetings held in Manchester in August 2005. The majority of the meeting was devoted to enabling those attending to talk frankly through three scenarios and offer community based solutions to some of the questions they raised.

2.4 The scenario's and some of the suggestions made are listed below. More detailed feedback is attached at Appendix 2.

- 2.5 The total cost of the city meeting was just over £2k. This was met from the Scrutiny Committee budget.

3.0 Scenarios

3.1 Newly arrived scenario

The delegates were asked to consider what the community and the Council could do to help newly arriving communities from outside the UK feel welcomed and part of the community. Some of the suggestions included

- Peer mentors (family or individual).
- Community Cohesion volunteer/ welcoming committee
- Early information is essential to both the host community and to those moving in – information pack, newsletters, multi-lingual in shops
- Network of agencies across faiths to communicate between each other when new people move in

3.2 Inter-generational issues

The second scenario tackled inter-generational issues and about what could be done to bring people together from different cultures and different generations.

- Buddy up on shared interests, young and old
- Community buildings and centres should be more inclusive, not just for youth, or older people but for everyone.
- Breaking down barriers of misconception (seeing is believing)
- Work together to identify, then achieve common goals.
- Organise events to have fun, educate and involve all ages
- Acknowledge fear and tackle it through tenants associations, multi-agency community approach.

3.3 Sense of place

The final scenario asked what did people think were the strengths in having such a diverse mix of people in the city and what local communities could do to contribute towards the vision for the city

- Encourages greater tolerance
- Communities should not be based on colour only as people have many identities.
- Increased local talent pool for employers
- Opportunity to learn different points of view which then breaks stereotypes
- Acknowledge that diversity produces fear in some
- Celebrate the difference, be proud Manchester is a much friendlier place than other cities in the UK
- It's OK to be me in Manchester (Though this was challenged as members of the audience felt that this was not necessarily true in for all communities in all parts of the city)

- 3.4 Whilst the meeting was very positive about racial cohesion in the city, it was very clear that communities understood that racial and community cohesion would not happen on their own and that there was no room for complacency. Tackling fear, and recognising that some people felt threatened by the changing nature of communities were two issues that were mentioned throughout the meeting.

4.0 The way ahead

- 4.1 The comments made at this meeting will be collated and fed into the Manchester Partnership Conference to be held on March 18th 2006 and be used to help shape the Community Strategy. Many of the comments related to communities coming together to celebrate being proud of Manchester in a positive and enjoyable way. This is one of the key messages behind the 100 days campaign where all communities can help to improve and celebrate being part of Manchester together.
- 4.2 The meeting was conducted in a people-friendly manner enabling the speakers to put their points to the participants in clear terms. A number of delegates reported to MCCR that an emphasis on Islamic extremists and spot-lighting the issues within the Muslim community was not entirely relevant to the subject matter of the meeting. However, the response from most participants was very positive. They felt that the inclusion of young people from different ethnic background as well as residents from the local area assisted in better understanding of community relations. It was also felt that similar events should be repeated in other parts of the city thereby 'taking the message to the people' rather than getting people to come to the centre. Appreciation was also given for the contribution made by the older people. The workshops focused the mind and the final discussion time seemed to have been used effectively. Significant numbers valued the presence of Paul Goggins MP in this meeting. Overall, this was a very successful event.
- 4.3 The event was open to all communities from across the city however, Scrutiny Committee may wish to consider holding a second meeting on racial cohesion in the North of the city to test whether community perceptions on racial and community cohesion are the same and if not what the differences might be. This would add to the Council's understanding of the differences in local communities and help to inform how the Council, its partners and communities work together to bring about racial cohesion in all areas of the city.

5.0 Recommendations

- 5.1 That the Scrutiny Committee comment on the city meeting on racial cohesion and consider hosting a second event in the North of the city.

City Meeting Racial Cohesion Meeting Friday 16th February 2006

	NAME	ORGANISATION / AGENCY
	A Houghlin	MCCR
	A Malique Haji	Kutchi Sunni Muslim Assoc
	Ali Rao	GMPA
	Amer Salam	Al-Hilal Community Project
	Amna Jamshal	Cedar Mount School
	Andrew Rawlins	Surestart
	Angelo Kouacevic	Manchester Youth Service
	Anthony Maxted	Corporate Services - MCC
	Azeldin El Sharif	Libyan United Community Association
	Beverly Taylor	Manchester City Council
	Carol Bartram	East Manchester
	Caron Martin	Manchester City Council
	Catherine Mantack	MAES
	Chanelle Levy	Cedar Mount School
	Chris Fox	Manchester City Council
	Chris Orwin	Manchester Probation
	Clare Evans	4CT Ltd.
	Clare Thethean	Private Sector Housing
	Councillor Abu Chowdhury	Manchester City Council
	Councillor Battle	Manchester City Council
	Councillor Cooley	Manchester City Council
	Councillor E Newman	Manchester City Council
	Councillor Evans	Manchester City Council
	Councillor Keller	Manchester City Council
	Councillor Pat Karney (Chair)	Manchester City Council
	D Doyo	Manchester Youth Service
	Danial Drummond	MDRU
	David Whitpreld	Cedar Mount School
	Dawn Warriner	Wythensahwe Regeneration
	Devon Poyser	Housing - MCC
	Don Flynn	Barrow Cadbury Trust
	Donna Denheim	CRE
	E Clark	Manchester City Council
	E M Phipps	-
	Eileen Knibb	Community Safety Officer – GMP
	F R Alsberg	MCCR

APPENDIX 1

	NAME	ORGANISATION / AGENCY
	F Zubairu	MCCR
	Forid Meah	Head of Corporate Performance
	Geoff Little	Assistant Chief Executive
	Hailey Kenny	Parklands High School
	Hazel Keeyes	Ward co-ordination
	Heather Cook	Discus Y.I.P.
	Inspector Kevin Mariott	GMP
	Jane Butler	GMP
	Janet Bambury	The Scarman Trust
	Janet Tysoe	Tree of Life Centre
	Jayne Hargrave	Scarman Trust
	Jiao Jian	Manchester Chinese Centre
	Jill Meredith	Manchester City Council
	Jim Johnston	Manchester Youth Service
	Joanna Williams	Parklands High School
	Joe Doyley	Manchester Deaf Centre
	Kabir Ahmed	MCCR
	Kare Parker- McGowan	JAG
	Kerry Wood	Willow Park Housing
	Kosy Oraeu	Cedar Mount School
	L Gillian	Manchester Youth Service
	Linda Dawes	Libraries and Theatres
	Lynne Fullard	Manchester Youth Service
	M.I.M Umarji	Home Office
	Mahes Wijayasiri	Srilankan Association
	Mark Collar	Cedar Mount School
	Mazamil Bashir	Hate Crime Unit
	Mel Kirby	Campaigns Team - MCC
	Mike Blaney	Barnados Family Action – Benchill
	Miranda Nathans	Manchester Jewish Museum
	Mumba Kafula	Agenda 2010
	Neil MacInnes	Libraries and Theatres - MCC
	Nicky Griffiths	Manchester City Council
	Peter Knight	Ashiana Housing Association
	Peter Richardson	MCCR Observer
	Puspa Shrestha	Nepalese Association
	R Guito	Institute of Education - MMU
	R R Chaudhry	Indian Senior Citizens Centre
	Richard Bishop	Cedar Mount School
	Rihula Sameer	Cedar Mount School
	Ron Brannon	Arawark Walter Housing Association

APPENDIX 1

	NAME	ORGANISATION / AGENCY
	Sally Haycock	Parkland School
	Samantha Days	Lesbian and Gay Foundation
	Samiya Butt	Manchester City Council
	Shefali Kapoor	South Manchester Regen Team
	Sheila Wigley	Government Office North West
	Sonia Stewart	Manchester City Council
	Steve Mycio	Deputy Chief Executive
	Su Andi	Black Arts Alliance
	Sudip Chatterjee	Manchester Supplementary Schools
	Sylvia Lawal	Body Positive North West
	Tariq Julani	Contour Housing Group
	Tarlok Saini	Indian Association
	Teresa Adesanya	Manchester City Council
	Tom Nelson	MAES
	Tommy Walsh	Manchester Pensioners Assoc
	Tony Durrant	MCCR Individual Member
	Ursula Hussain	The Scarman Trust
	Uzma Alam	GMPA
	Vanessa Iloenyusi	Manchester Youth Service
	Wadi Nassar	MCCR
	Yan Nin Cockayne	Manchester City Council



MANCHESTER
CITY COUNCIL

WORKSHOP DISCUSSIONS

Ice breaker

“You would not know this, but I am really good at.....”

“My role model in life is because.....”

“I read a book called and it moved me because.....”

Scenarios

Newly arrived

Laila and Jamal have two children and they have recently moved to England from Bangladesh. They have moved into a two-bedroom house in Wythenshawe and are keen to get to know their new neighbours and find out about what is happening in the area for their children and themselves.

Jamal is concerned as English is not their first language and their culture is very different they will not be able to fit in. Laila is scared to go out alone in fear of being abused for her differences. They are also not aware of any of the services (such as refuse collection and other council services, access to education and employment) and support that is available to them.

1. What could the community and the council do to help newly arriving communities from outside of the UK feel welcomed and part of the community?
2. What could Laila and Jamal do to get help?
 - Welcome group / meeting which includes landlords
 - What information is available when arriving in Manchester?
 - Peer mentors (family or individual)
 - Use interpreter to contact or speak to the neighbours, breaking down barriers between people
 - Community should find a medium of communication
 - Communicator to speak community languages
 - Face to face contact
 - Liaison officer in place
 - Early information is essential by both sides – information pack / newsletters, leaflets and posters – multi-lingual in shops
 - Information in libraries
 - Encourage neighbourliness

- Community to tackle effective use of schools as public community facilities
- Network of agencies across faiths to communicate between each other when new people move in
- Community cohesion volunteer / welcoming committee
- Joined up services
- Contact points
- Outreach groups / outreach support offered in appropriate languages
- Religious leaders as mentors

Inter- generational

Margaret and John have lived in Moston for most of their lives. The area has significantly changed and is continuing to change as the years go by. One of the most noticeable changes that both Margaret and John have noticed is the number of younger people living in Moston.

John feels that the increased number of younger people has contributed towards more crimes in the area and a sense of fear when going out after dark. However, Margaret welcomes the increase in the number of young people and is particularly glad to see that young people from other cultures and communities are beginning to move into the area. Margaret wishes that she could talk to and find out more about the different people and cultures but does not know where to start.

1. Manchester's population is made up of many people from different backgrounds, cultures and age groups. What can be done to help bring these people together and establish a greater level of understanding?
 2. How can communities help to improve the interaction between young and old and build respect between the two generations?
- Buddy up on shared interests young and old
 - Music event and "guess who?" pictures of older people in younger days
 - Give respect to young people, get respect from young people
 - Community buildings or centres should be more inclusive, not just for youth or older people, but for everyone
 - Breaking down barriers of misconception (seeing is believing)
 - Work together to identify and then achieve a common goal and tackle local issues
 - Local people to be educated in terms of changes
 - Trust amongst tenants
 - Involve young people in lifelong learning centres
 - Organise events to have fun, educate and involve all ages
 - Acknowledge fear and tackle it through tenants associations and a multi-agency community approach
 - History in schools, invite WWII survivors to speak and pass on knowledge – it helps to overcome fear
 - School fashion shows – invite the whole community: embeds diversity, culture and age
 - Consult with others on differences such as the Police, individuals / leaders, community groups,

- Set up knowledge base to raise awareness of other cultures
- Manchester website for all to access

Sense of Place

Manchester City Council is proud of its multi cultural City and is striving to become a place of international significance where people choose to live, work and spend their leisure time.

1. As a Manchester resident what do you think the strengths are in having such a diverse mix of people in the city?
2. How can local communities build on these strengths and contribute towards the vision for an international City?

- Encourages greater tolerance
- Respect for each other
- Education
- Sharing experiences such as cultures, fashions, and food
- Communities shouldn't be based on colour only as people have many identifiers
- Increased local talent pool for local / international employers
- Increases our knowledge
- Promotes good aspects of Manchester
- Addresses issues on race hate
- Gives the ability to enjoy a wider range of diverse facilities
- Opportunity to learn different points of view which then break stereotypes
- Acknowledge that diversity produces fear in some
- Involve everybody, young people, older people and cultures
- It's OK to be "me" in Manchester
- Celebrate the difference, be proud. Manchester is a much friendlier place than other cities in the UK
- Involvement in Trade Union and politics
- Acknowledge community role models
- Set up community "boards"
- Through the use of arts and cultures e.g: galleries, writing, libraries, open days / festivals, reading groups – sharing differences
- Economic development