

**Name of meeting:** Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee  
**Date:** 13 January 2020  
**Title of report:** Cohesion Review: Interim Findings Report

### Purpose of report

This report provides the Committee with an update on the review of the Cohesion Strategy, focusing on the initial findings from data analysis following engagement with individuals and communities through approximately 50 focus groups.

Key Decision - Is it likely to result in spending or saving £250k or more, or to have a significant effect on two or more electoral wards?	No
Key Decision - Is it in the <a href="#">Council's Forward Plan (key decisions and private reports?)</a>	No
The Decision - Is it eligible for call in by Scrutiny?	Yes
Date signed off by <u>Strategic Director</u> & name	Yes – Rachel Spencer-Henshaw 7/1/20
Is it also signed off by the Service Director for Finance IT and Transactional Services?	NA
Is it also signed off by the Service Director for Legal Governance and Commissioning Support?	NA
Cabinet member <a href="#">portfolio</a>	Give name of Portfolio Holder  Cllr Carole Pattison

**Electoral wards affected:** All

**Ward councillors consulted:** All councillors have been made aware of the cohesion review, they will be invited to the partnership event to be part of the co-production and the development of the place based cohesion action plans.

**Public or private:** Public

**Have you considered GDPR?** Yes – N/A

## **1. Summary**

The purpose of this report is to provide the Scrutiny Panel with an update on the development of the Cohesion Strategy, focusing on findings from analysis of the 50 focus groups held to help inform the vision and strategy.

## **2. Information required to take a decision**

The Interim Report (attached), outlines key themes identified from the conversations held with individuals and communities across Kirklees.

## **3. Implications for the Council**

### **3.1 Working with People**

The Cohesion Strategy has been developed with co-production principles at its foundation. The Interim Report attached reflects the views of approximately 650 residents from across Kirklees who were engaged in an attempt to develop an understanding of what Cohesion means to our residents, as well as what they feel hampers it.

The next stage of strategy development will involve playing these findings back to participants and other community members and groups at a partnership event in January, to ensure their voices have been reflected as accurately as possible.

Once drafted, the strategy will be shared universally for comment from individuals, groups and communities across Kirklees, and once published we will be establishing a mechanism to ensure people are able to continue engaging with and shaping the work programme as it is delivered.

### **3.2 Working with Partners**

The Cohesion Strategy will be overseen by the Communities Board in the first instance, which has representation from a number of key partners working in and with communities.

The Strategy will be taken to this Board for initial sign off. In addition, partners will have the opportunity to shape the vision and strategy at the abovementioned January partnership event.

The success of the strategy will be heavily reliant on a range of partners, including schools, police, health care providers, businesses and more working together to improve cohesion in Kirklees.

### **3.3 Place Based Working**

While we recognise that cohesion needs to be a consideration across the whole of Kirklees, as every town, ward and street is affected by cohesion and its related issues, people's experiences of cohesion, and therefore their needs can differ significantly in different places. We will be tailoring our work to ensure it responds to the specific circumstances in Kirklees' diverse communities.

### **3.4 Improving outcomes for children**

There is specific consideration given to young people and their experience of cohesion in the engagement work we've already completed, and this will be reflected in the strategy once developed. However, we know the effect that

living in cohesive communities more broadly has on children and young people and, therefore their outcomes, is significant. This can affect their feelings of safety, and access to wider support networks beyond the family unit.

**3.5 Other (e.g. Legal/Financial or Human Resources)**

N/A

**4. Consultees and their opinions**

**5. Next steps and timelines**

Partnership Event	30.01.20
Communities Board	12.02.20
ET:	<b>17.03.20</b>
Portfolio holder brief:	<b>13.04.20</b>
LMT:	<b>20.04.20</b>
Cabinet:	<b>19.05.20</b>

**6. Officer recommendations and reasons**

The Panel provides feedback and constructive challenge to the Interim Report before it is shared with partners and participants at the event in January.

**7. Cabinet portfolio holder's recommendations**

N/A

**8. Contact officer**

Carol Gilchrist, Head of Communities  
Ali Amla, Cohesion & Integration Manager

**9. Background Papers and History of Decisions**

N/A

**10. Service Director responsible**

Rachel Spencer-Henshall, Strategic Director – Corporate Strategy and Public Health