Building Cohesive Communities in Leicester:

The Local Area Agreement

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Building cohesive communities in Leicester

- Diversity in Leicester
- Cohesion in Leicester – building cohesive, empowered and active communities (PSA 21) – in Leicester cohesion included in LAA
- Cohesion in context of ‘One Leicester’ 25 year strategy
- Benefits and challenges of the LAA

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Diversity in Leicester: the challenges

- Ethnically diverse
- Young: 45% under 29 years old
- Far right: increasing activities
- PREVENT agenda

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Cohesion in Leicester: Building Cohesive Communities

- History of multi-culturalism in city
- Inwards migration since 1940s
- LMAG – local media community cohesion friendly
- Council of Faiths – inter-faith dialogue

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Cohesion in Leicester: Building empowered communities

- Ethnic minority political representation
- Citizenship ceremonies
- Ward community meetings

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Cohesion in Leicester: Building active communities

- Community festivals and events e.g. Diwali, Caribbean Carnival
- Sports, arts and leisure activities
- Libraries

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‘One Leicester’ 25 year strategy

Current priorities

- Investing in our children
- Planning for people not cars
- Reducing our carbon footprint
- Creating thriving, safe communities
- Improving wellbeing and health
- Talking up Leicester
- Investing in skills and enterprise

Key challenges

- Confident People
- New Prosperity
- Beautiful Place

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What do we do to promote cohesion?

- Mainstream cohesion
- Fund specific small projects – £200,000
- Encourage voluntary, faith and community sectors

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Mainstreaming cohesion

- Youth work
- Education: duty to promote community cohesion in schools
- Housing: local housing managers and neighbourhood working
- Social care: diversity and care needs of older people

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LAA in Leicester: Important

- Being positive about diversity is essential for Leicester
- Cohesion is about learning to live together
- Community cohesion in LAA keeps it at the forefront of Partnership attention
- NI1 – % of people from different backgrounds getting on well together – is one of our 34 designated targets

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LAA in Leicester: Challenging

- Cross cutting theme
- Community cohesion along with equality and diversity is part of everything we do
- Indicator NI1 – hard to measure because based on perceptions
- Regular monitoring of influence, persuasion and feel good factors is challenging

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Cohesion in Leicester

- Context of diversity
- PSA 21 or the LAA very important for partnership focus
- Takes place in context of ‘One Leicester’ 25 year vision
- Challenging but ultimately beneficial

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Thank you

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