

## **Social Inclusion Policy**

**Director/Head of Department:** Fergus McMorrow  
**Report Author:** Diane Ward

**Recommendation:** that OSC recommends the Social Inclusion Policy be considered for adoption by Full Council

### **1. BACKGROUND**

- 1.1 The most recent Comprehensive Performance Assessment (CPA) recommended the Council put in place a Social Inclusion Policy. This is further supported by the findings of the Assessment of Services (2007) which highlights the need for the Council to ensure its services are accessible to all.
- 1.2 Copeland Borough Council therefore needs a Social Inclusion Policy which once adopted and implemented should see social inclusion as an integral part of the work of CBC, and thus ensure that the work of the Council at all levels, is socially inclusive. By preventing social exclusion, the council will further enhance the well-being of all Copeland residents.
- 1.3 Adoption of the policy will make a direct contribution to the Corporate Plan, in particular to the Equality of Opportunity strand.

### **2. ISSUES TO BE CONSIDERED**

- 2.1 Without a Social Inclusion Policy Copeland Borough Council cannot satisfy the recommendations of the CPA.
- 2.2 The policy itself will commit CBC to appropriate training for staff where necessary and involve enhanced consideration of factors affecting social inclusion in all of its work. However, once the latter becomes the norm, the policy will not be considered to create additional work.

- 2.3 With consideration of social inclusion at all levels, this will not only help guide the work that CBC does, if effective, it will prevent future problems arising as a result of social exclusion.
- 2.4 To be effective it will be necessary to monitor implementation of the policy across all departments within service reviews

### **3. CORPORATE PLAN**

- 3.1 Direct links to the corporate plan are highlighted throughout the policy

### **4. BENCHMARKING**

- 4.1 All local authorities should have a Social Inclusion Policy, as was the recommendation from CBC's CPA. Policies do vary, and the one suggested for adoption by Copeland Borough Council is in comparison relatively detailed. However, this should ensure it is easier to implement and monitor.

### **5. PUBLIC CONSULTATION AND PUBLICITY**

- 5.1 This policy if adopted will have a direct positive impact on all residents of Copeland.

### **6. CONCLUSION**

- 6.1 Copeland Borough Council needs to adopt and actively implement a Social Inclusion Policy. A suggested policy is attached for recommendation to Full Council. Amendments will be considered from the OSC before presentation to Full Council if necessary.
- 6.2 Adopting a Social Inclusion Policy per se will not lead to the Council becoming socially inclusive. This policy must be actively implemented and monitored across all departments to see a real difference. This therefore requires that the Social Inclusion Policy is only put forward to Full Council if the OSC are satisfied there is sufficient commitment to implement the policy.

## **List of Appendices**

Draft Social Inclusion Policy

**List of Background Documents:**

Rochford District Council: Social Inclusion Policy  
Tynedale Council Social Inclusion Policy  
City of York Council: Social Inclusion Policy  
Penwith District Council: Social Inclusion Toolkit  
Cameron, A. (2006) Geographies of Welfare & Exclusion: Social Inclusion and Exception. *Progress in Human Geography* 30 (3) pp396 - 404  
Social Exclusion Task Force (2006) *Reaching Out: An Action Plan on Social Exclusion*

**List of Consultees:** Corporate Team

**CHECKLIST FOR DEALING WITH KEY ISSUES**

Please confirm against the issue if the key issues below have been addressed. This can be by either a short narrative or quoting the paragraph number in the report in which it has been covered.

Impact on Crime and Disorder	Policy (2.12) directly addresses crime and disorder
Impact on Sustainability	
Impact on Rural Proofing	Policy (2.14) directly addresses rural isolation
Health and Safety Implications	None
Impact on Equality and Diversity Issues	Policy supports equality & diversity
Children and Young Persons Implications	
Human Rights Act Implications	