

# Consultation Questionnaire

The purpose of the consultation questionnaire is to provide you with an opportunity to comment on the Programme for Cohesion, Sharing and Integration. The questions should be read in conjunction with the consultation document.

Additional copies of the consultation document and the questionnaire can be obtained from the Office of the First Minister and deputy First Minister

By telephone            028 90 523194  
By fax                    028 90 523272  
By text phone         028 90 522526  
By emailing            policysec@ofmdfmi.gov.uk

By writing to:            Policy Secretariat  
                              OFMDFM  
                              Room E3.19  
                              Castle Buildings  
                              Stormont Estate  
                              BELFAST  
                              BT4 3SR

The documents can also be viewed and downloaded from the OFMDFM website at [www.ofmdfmi.gov.uk](http://www.ofmdfmi.gov.uk) or the NI Direct Website at [www.nidirect.gov.uk](http://www.nidirect.gov.uk)

Alternative formats of the document can be made available on request.

All responses to this consultation should be posted to the above address or emailed to **csi@ofmdfmi.gov.uk**

**Responses must be received no later than 29 October 2010.**

Please note that all responses will be treated as public, and may be published on the OFMDFM website. If you do not want your response to be used in this way, or if you would prefer it to be used anonymously, please indicate this when replying (see statement on Confidentiality and Access to Information Legislation).

Following consideration of all responses a report will be published on the OFMDFM website [www.ofmdfmi.gov.uk](http://www.ofmdfmi.gov.uk)

Thank you for taking the time to give us your views

## **Confidentiality and Access to Information Legislation**

Information provided in response to this consultation, including personal information, may be published or disclosed in accordance with access to information legislation: these are chiefly the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA), the Data Protection Act 1998 (DPA) and the Environmental Information Regulations 2004 (EIR).

If you want the information that you provide to be treated as confidential, please be aware that, under the FOIA, there is a statutory Code of Practice (section 45) with which public authorities must comply and which deals, amongst other things, with obligations of confidence. In view of this, it would be helpful if you could explain to us why you regard the information you have provided as confidential. If we receive a request for disclosure of the information, we will take full account of your explanation, but we cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances. An automatic confidentiality disclaimer generated by your IT system will not, of itself, be regarded as binding on the Office of the First Minister and deputy First Minister.

For further information about confidentiality of responses please contact the Information Commissioner's Office on 028 9026 9380 or email [ni@ico.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:ni@ico.gsi.gov.uk) (or see their website at: [www.ico.gov.uk](http://www.ico.gov.uk)).

I am responding:	as an individual	
	on behalf of an organisation	

Name:	
Job Title:	
Organisation:	
Address:	
Tel:	
Fax:	
e-mail:	

## GOALS

Chapter 2 sets out the key goals of the Programme for Cohesion, Sharing and Integration as follows:

- To urgently address the physical and community division created by interfaces with the support of communities;
- To ensure and promote the safety of vulnerable groups;
- To tackle the visible manifestations of racism, sectarianism, intolerance and other forms of prejudice;
- To adopt a zero tolerance approach to all incidences of, and reasons for, attacks motivated by sectarian, religious, racist or hate prejudice, including those on symbolic premises, cultural premises and monuments;
- To promote equality of opportunity and tackle disadvantage;
- To provide and expand safe and shared spaces;
- To build a society where cultural diversity is embraced and celebrated and to promote pride in who we are and confidence in our different cultural identities;
- To create a new and improved framework for the management and regulation of public assemblies including parades and protests;
- To achieve the full participation of all sectors in all aspects of society;
- To support the local community to resolve local issues through local solutions; and

- To take action which will address sectarian behaviour at spectator sports events.

1. Do you agree/disagree with the key goals of the programme?

Strongly Agree	Agree	No Strong Opinion	Disagree	Strongly Disagree

Comments – is there anything that has not been included/should be omitted?

## **THEMES FOR ACTION**

Chapter 2 states a number of themes for action as follows:

### **Short Term**

- Developing 'Shared Space';
- Enhancing community capacity to play a full role in implementing the Programme for Cohesion, Sharing and Integration;
- 'Crisis Intervention' and the need for a mechanism to co-ordinate multi-agency rapid responses to tackle sectarianism and racial violence and all forms of hate crimes;
- Ensuring good relations considerations are embedded within all government policy making;

- Early and strategic intervention to tackle anti-social behaviour and tensions around interfaces; and
- Promoting Cohesion, Sharing and Integration through a process of community renewal.

### **Medium Term**

- The relationship between young people and the community;
- Providing a new and improved framework for the resolution of public assembly disputes; and
- Ensuring the sharing of best practice projects aimed at improving cohesion, sharing and integration across all areas where appropriate and when required.

### **Long Term**

- Interfaces;
- Encouraging shared neighbourhoods;
- Reducing and eventually eliminating segregated services;
- Tackling the multiple social issues effecting and entrenching community separation, exclusion and hate; and
- Cultural identity, including issues around flags and emblems, murals, bonfires, cultural expression, language and popular protest.

2. What are your views on the themes for action currently identified?

### **GOOD RELATIONS AND THE RACIAL EQUALITY STRATEGY**

The Programme for Cohesion Sharing and Integration is not intended to supersede or replace the Racial Equality Strategy for Northern Ireland 2005-10, which was endorsed by the motion made by the Assembly on 3 July 2007. Rather, it provides the framework for the delivery of aspects of that strategy relating to good race relations in a co-ordinated, joined up process (paragraph 1.10).

3. Do you agree/disagree the programme will complement the delivery of the Racial Equality Strategy?

Strongly Agree	Agree	No Strong Opinion	Disagree	Strongly Disagree

Comments- How could the relationship between the Programme for Cohesion, Sharing and Integration and the Racial Equality Strategy be strengthened?

### **PEOPLE AND PLACES**

The Programme for Cohesion, Sharing and Integration aims to make a difference to both people and places across our society (Chapter 3). The key aims for people and places are:

- Public spaces, thoroughfares, community facilities and town centres should be safe, shared and welcoming to the whole community;
- All public authorities, including District Councils, should discharge functions and deliver services equally and inclusively recognising the diverse nature of the community they serve and the barriers which can be experienced by minority ethnic people in particular;
- Unnecessary duplication of services should be targeted through the enhanced delivery of shared services on the basis of objective need;
- Safe and secure shared community spaces should be developed in a culture of fairness, equality, rights, responsibilities and respect; and
- Displays of flags and emblems, graffiti or murals, parades or public assemblies or festivals should be held in an environment which respects individual and community rights.

**4. Do you agree/disagree with the proposed aims for people and places?**

Strongly Agree	Agree	No Strong Opinion	Disagree	Strongly Disagree

Comments – is there anything that has not been included/should be omitted?

## EMPOWERING THE NEXT GENERATION

The Programme for Cohesion, Sharing and Integration proposes a number of specific aims to empower the next generation (Chapter 4):

- Under the auspices of the Ministerial Panel for Cohesion, Sharing and Integration (see Chapter 2 & 10), establishing a major initiative aimed at developing a longer term strategic approach to helping marginalised young people;
- Supporting young people to increase their civic responsibility including facilitating and empowering youth groups to work together on civic responsibility projects;
- Focusing on education and promoting greater understanding of shared values; and
- Establishing multi-agency partnerships between indigenous and minority ethnic and migrant worker communities to address the specific needs of the young people in those populations.

5. Do you agree/disagree with the proposed aims for empowering the next generation?

Strongly Agree	Agree	No Strong Opinion	Disagree	Strongly Disagree

Comments – is there anything that has not been included/should be omitted?

## RESPECTING CULTURES

The Programme for Cohesion, Sharing and Integration recognises the importance of respecting the cultural diversity within our community and sets out a number of aims in relation to this (Chapter 5):

- Building a peaceful climate of fairness, equality, rights, responsibilities and respect;
- Working with and supporting the local community to resolve contentious cultural issues;
- Promoting greater understanding of cultural diversity and expressions of cultural identity;
- Encouraging greater engagement with, and understanding of, cultural diversity and intercultural relations;
- Working to eliminate attacks on cultural, sporting and other symbolic property and monuments; and
- Promoting cultural exchanges, joint events and tourism initiatives.

6. Do you agree/disagree with the proposed aims for respecting cultures?

Strongly Agree	Agree	No Strong Opinion	Disagree	Strongly Disagree

Comments – is there anything that has not been included/should be omitted?

## A SECURE COMMUNITY

The Programme for Cohesion, Sharing and Integration recognises the need to create a secure community and sets out a number of aims in relation to this (Chapter 6):

- Encouraging community events which reflect cultural diversity and are open, welcoming and inclusive to all;
- Ensuring that all responsible agencies continue to provide a high level of community safety delivered within a rights based framework and an overarching ethos of mutual respect;
- Continuing to promote initiatives based on the principle of mutual respect, which reflect acceptance of cultural diversity and the ways in which it is expressed;
- Building community support networks across community, cultural and minority ethnic groups; and
- Building capacity of the local and minority ethnic communities to support people who have experienced hate crime.

7. Do you agree/disagree with the proposed aims for a secure community?

Strongly Agree	Agree	No Strong Opinion	Disagree	Strongly Disagree

Comments – is there anything that has not been included/should be omitted?

## A COHESIVE COMMUNITY

The Programme for Cohesion, Sharing and Integration recognises the need to progress towards a more cohesive community and sets out a number of aims in relation to this (Chapter 7):

- Zero tolerance for crimes motivated by prejudice and all forms of hate crime, whilst actively promoting rights and respect;
- Promoting intercultural work through the Minority Ethnic Development Fund;
- Building an inclusive community open to all, regardless of their background;
- Promoting greater understanding between established sections of the community and new arrivals;
- Working closely with the PSNI, the new Crime Reduction Partnerships and Probation Board in local areas to address racism and hate crime;
- Encouraging greater understanding of new cultures and new sections of the community; and
- Developing and supporting workplace initiatives to promote respect and understanding of cultural diversity.

8. Do you agree/disagree with the proposed aims for a cohesive community?

Strongly Agree	Agree	No Strong Opinion	Disagree	Strongly Disagree

Comments – is there anything that has not been included/should be omitted?

## **SUPPORTING LOCAL COMMUNITIES**

The Programme for Sharing and Integration recognises the need to support local communities in delivering good relations and sets out aims to ensure this (Chapter 8):

- Continue to support Councils' delivery of Good Relations programmes and funding;
  - Ensure the local community is integral to the Good Relations decision making and implementation process; and
  - Nurturing leadership at a local level and empowering the local community to identify solutions to local issues.
9. Do you agree/disagree with the proposed aims for supporting local communities?

Strongly Agree	Agree	No Strong Opinion	Disagree	Strongly Disagree

Comments – is there anything that has not been included/should be omitted?

## LOOKING OUTWARD

The Programme for Cohesion, Sharing and Integration recognises that improving relationships within our society has to be viewed in the wider context of developing strong relationships on a North/South, East/West basis and proposes that an effective outward looking dimension is part of the programme with the following aims (Chapter 9):

- Identifying key exemplar projects which have proven track records of success in promoting good relations;
- Sharing of relevant research and experiences on a North/South, East/West, European and international basis; and
- Mutual promotion of cultural diversity and encouraging better social networks on North/South, East/West, European and international level.

**10.** Do you agree/disagree with the proposed aims for looking outward?

Strongly Agree	Agree	No Strong Opinion	Disagree	Strongly Disagree

Comments – is there anything that has not been included/should be omitted?

## **MECHANISM TO OVERSEE THE IMPLEMENTATION OF CSI**

Chapter 10 sets out mechanisms for the co-ordination of the actions to implement the Programme for Cohesion, Sharing and Integration. The key features of implementation are;

- A Ministerial Panel chaired by OFMDFM Ministers, key statutory and community partners;
- A Senior Officials Steering Group which will be tasked with co-ordinating the cross-departmental alignment of activities and allocation of resources;
- An Advisory Panel of practitioners and experts to provide advice to Government.
- A Funders Group that will advise the Ministerial Panel on good relations funding issues and seek to improve the targeting and co-ordination of funding from many different sources.

**11.** Do you agree/disagree with the mechanism to oversee the implementation of the programme?

Strongly Agree	Agree	No Strong Opinion	Disagree	Strongly Disagree

Comments – are there any improvements that could be made to the proposals for implementing the programme?

## **OPTIONS FOR THE DELIVERY OF FUNDING AND POLICY ADVICE**

Chapter 11 outlines options for the delivery of funding and advice to Government on good relations policy to support the implementation of the Programme for Cohesion, Sharing and Integration. The options are as follows:

**Option 1:** Advisory panel and direct or contracted funding

**Option 2:** Services provided by organisations (procure the delivery of advice and funding from one or more organisations)

**Option 3(a):** Statutory non-departmental public body with funding function

**Option 3(b):** Statutory non-departmental public body without funding function (funding delivered direct or contracted)

**12.** Please specify which of the above options (or any alternative you may wish to suggest) represents the best choice for the future of the delivery of funding and policy advice to Government. Please provide reasons for your choice and comment on any changes that could be made to your preferred option to improve delivery of funding/policy advice.

## **OFMDFM FUNDING FOR GOOD RELATIONS WORK**

Chapter 11 sets out options for structures and mechanisms for the delivery of advice to Government and funding delivery services whilst Chapter 12 describes how OFMDFM Good Relations funding will be allocated across three strands as follows:

- Local District Council Programme;
- Thematic; and
- Targeted and Emergency

**13.** What are your views on the three strand approach for funding?

## **FURTHER COMMENTS ?**

- 14.** Please use the box below to insert any further comments, recommendations or suggestions you would like to make in relation to the Programme for Cohesion, Sharing and Integration.

## EQUALITY OF OPPORTUNITY ISSUES

We are seeking views on the equality implications of the Programme for Cohesion, Sharing and Integration and would be grateful for your comments on the following:

- 15.** What data or information should we take into account when assessing and monitoring the equality of opportunity issues in relation to the Programme?

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- 16.** Could the proposals, in your view, have a negative impact in the promotion of equality of opportunity on any of the groups within Section 75 of the Northern Ireland Act 1998 in a way we have not identified?

Yes	No	No View	Not sure

If you answered "Yes", please state the group/s and describe the impact.

**17.** Taking account of existing legislation, are there any alternative or additional approaches to promoting equality of opportunity and good relations?

Yes	No	No View	Not sure

If you answered "Yes", please describe the alternative/additional approaches.

A large, empty rectangular box with a thin black border, intended for the respondent to provide additional comments.

**18.** Please use the box below to insert any other comments you would like to make on the equality of opportunity issues raised in the Programme.

A large, empty rectangular box with a thin black border, intended for the respondent to provide additional comments.

Thank you for taking the time to complete this questionnaire. Your questionnaire must arrive at the Office of the First Minister and deputy First Minister no later than **29 October 2010**.