



Ministry of Housing,
Communities &
Local Government



The Integrated Communities Strategy Green Paper

Toolkit



What is this toolkit for?

- This toolkit aims to raise awareness about the consultation on the Integrated Communities Strategy Green Paper and encourages responses to it. It provides tips on how you can set up your own conversation with your members, community or other interested parties, and summarises the Green Paper's themes, proposals and consultation questions.
- Your responses will help inform our thinking and will help Ministers make decisions on future policy development.
- The government will publish a response to the consultation later this year, setting out what respondents have said, and how it proposes to move forward.



Integrated Communities Strategy Green Paper

Key messages

- Britain is a great place to live and is a well-integrated society on the whole. However, we cannot ignore the fact that in too many parts of our country communities are divided.
- This reduces opportunities for people to mix with others from different backgrounds, allows mistrust and misunderstanding to grow, and can prevent people in isolated communities from taking advantage of the opportunities that living in Britain offers.
- The Integrated Communities Strategy Green Paper invites views on the Government's vision for building strong integrated communities **where people – whatever their background – live, work, learn and socialise together, based on shared rights, responsibilities and opportunities.**
- The Green Paper sets out an **ambitious programme of actions** to deliver this vision at the **local and national level**. **You and your community have an important part in shaping the strategy and delivering this vision.**



The Consultation

- The consultation began on 14 March 2018. The consultation will end on 5 June 2018. All responses should be received by no later than 23:45 on 5 June 2018.
- This consultation is open to everyone. We are keen to hear from a wide range of interested parties from across local government, in the faith, voluntary, community and business sectors, and the general public.



How you can get involved

- **You** can help us by having a conversation with your members, community or other interested parties.
- This toolkit explains what questions to discuss to best feed in views to the consultation, what formats might be useful and how to feed your conversations back to us.
- The Green Paper explores a number of themes in detail and **it may be appropriate to focus your conversation on the theme(s) of most interest to your audience.**



Setting up your conversation (1)

1. You will need a place to meet, 30 minutes or more and someone who takes notes.

2. Decide who you want in the room - we want to hear from as many different people as possible, there is no right or wrong. The Green Paper talks about increasing meaningful social mixing between people of different backgrounds. You may wish to take this opportunity to help bring this to life. Below are some ideas of people to consider:
 - Charities, volunteers, young people, academics, faith communities, community leaders, businesses, local authority representatives, people who care about society.



Setting up your conversation (2)

3. You may pick as many (or as few) areas for discussion as you like. In doing so, you may want to consider:
 - The size and experience of your audience
 - The amount of time you have available
 - The amount of time you have to capture feedback after the discussions.

4. Depending on your audience, you may wish to simplify the questions in a way that stays true to the intended content.



Setting up your conversation (3)

5. Once your conversation has finished, we would ask the lead organiser to encourage individuals to complete the online survey at:
<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/7D2C89V>
6. The online survey may be completed by the lead organiser provided the group they represent has a formal constitution (for example, a charitable body) and if group members are content for their views to be represented in this way.
7. Individuals can also respond in writing using the template provided on our website at:
<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/integrated-communities-strategy-green-paper>.



Hints and tips for your conversation

In answering questions, please encourage participants to:

- Be as specific as possible.
- Consider what could be different as well as how this could be achieved.
- Reflect their own experiences, as well as examples they are aware of in the UK and abroad
- Consider different types of organisations and people when they explore questions
- Consider the role of different parties in achieving change (such as central and local government, charities, businesses, themselves and / or your organisation and others).



Annex

Summary of Green Paper themes, proposals and consultation questions



Introduction: Building Integrated Communities

Questions:

- We define integrated communities as communities where people - whatever their background - live, work, learn and socialise together, based on shared rights, responsibilities and opportunities. **Do you agree with our definition?**
- We believe that the varied nature and scale of integration challenges means that tailored local plans and interventions are needed to tackle the issues specific to particular places. **Do you agree?**
- **Do you have any examples of successful approaches to encourage integration** that you wish to highlight, particularly approaches which have been subject to evaluation?



Strengthening Leadership

Our ambition is that challenging segregation and promoting integration should sit at the heart of all policy and public service delivery. We want all leaders in national and local government, and in the faith, voluntary, community and business sectors, to work in partnership and have the confidence to champion our shared values.

To **strengthen leadership to drive integration** in policy development and service delivery, we will:

- call on public authorities to include an equality objective outlining specific activity to promote integration;
- select a number of priority policies and services to review across government to determine how they might best drive integration;
- call on local government and business, and voluntary and community sector organisations to commit to doing the same;
- support the new Cohesion and Integration Network to enable it to identify best practice on leadership and to share this widely.

Question: The Green Paper proposes that we need to build the capacity of our leaders to promote and achieve integration outcomes. Do you agree?



Supporting New Migrants and Resident Communities

We want all people who come from outside the UK and wish to settle lawfully in this country to play a full part in our society and to make the most of the economic and social opportunities available to them. Local resident communities share a responsibility for the effective integration of recent migrants.

To **support newly arrived migrants to integrate** and improve communities' ability to adapt to migration, we will:

- review the impact of English language requirements on visas, introduced in 2017, and review the potential for further change in the English language requirements in future;
- review the Life in the UK test and whether it could be amended to strengthen its focus on the values and principles of the UK which we expect all people to live by;
- consider providing information to prospective migrants before they arrive in the UK, to give them a clear expectation about life in modern Britain, including our laws, norms and standards;
- provide a package of information for recent migrants in the Integration Areas to test what is most helpful to support them to integrate into their communities and to build an understanding of life in the UK;
- work with civil society and others to increase the integration support available to help refugees overcome the barriers to integration.



Supporting New Migrants and Resident Communities

Questions:

- The Green Paper proposes measures to support recent migrants so that they have the information they need to integrate into society and understand British values and their rights and responsibilities. **Do you agree with this approach?**
- The Controlling Migration Fund was constructed to deal with the short-term migration pressures and associated costs that local authorities can encounter. **Do you think it adequately achieves this objective?**



Education and Young People

All children and young people in England should receive a good education in a safe environment which prepares them for life in modern Britain. They should have the opportunity to mix and form lasting relationships with others from different ethnic, religious or socio-economic groups so they are well equipped for life.

To make sure all children and young people are prepared for life in modern Britain and have the opportunity for meaningful social mixing with those from different backgrounds, we will:

- work with local admission authorities in the Integration Areas to help ensure the intake of schools are more representative of the wider area; • strengthen expectations on integration for new free schools;
- promote mixing and twinning arrangements between schools in areas of high segregation;
- support teachers to promote British values across the curriculum;
- work with Ofsted to ensure that there is strong coverage of schools' promotion of fundamental British values and integration within its new inspection arrangements;



Education and Young People

- ensure a high standard of safeguarding in all education settings;
- work with the National Citizen Service to increase young people's mixing in areas of high segregation, and stimulate other innovative approaches to promoting meaningful social mixing.

Questions:

- The Green Paper proposes measures to ensure that all children and young people are prepared for life in modern Britain and have the opportunity for meaningful social mixing with those from different backgrounds. **Do you agree with this approach?**
- The Green Paper sets out proposals to support parents with their choice of out-of-school education settings. **Do you agree with this approach?**



Boosting English Language

Everyone in England should be able to speak and understand English so they can integrate into life in this country.

To **boost English language skills** – which are fundamental to being able to take advantage of the opportunities of living in modern Britain such as getting a job, mixing with people and playing a full part in community life – we will:

- propose developing a new strategy for English Language in England;
- launch a new community-based English language programme;
- work with local authorities in the Integration Areas to improve the provision of English language learning and establish a new infrastructure fund open to other local authorities;
- facilitate a new network of community-based conversation clubs.



Boosting English Language

Questions:

- The Green Paper proposes a number of measures to improve the offer for people to learn English. **Do you agree with this approach?**
- **Do you have any other suggestions** on how we can improve the offer for people to learn English?



Places and Community

Everyone should feel comfortable living alongside and mixing with people from different backgrounds. We want to see vibrant communities in which everyone plays a part and for people from all backgrounds to have access to, and make use of community hubs where they can come together with people from different backgrounds around shared activities.

To **mitigate residential segregation** and support people to build strong and integrated communities, we will:

- take forward a programme of work to determine what changes to housing policy and practice would help in addressing residential segregation;
- challenge libraries and other community hubs to maximise their contribution to building integrated communities;
- issue revised guidance on how community groups can bid to take over the running of valued local assets;



Places and Community

- work with the Parks Action Group on how to enhance the sustainability of parks and green spaces and how they can best promote integration.

Question: The Green Paper proposes measures to ensure that people, particularly those living in residentially segregated communities, have opportunities to come together with people from different backgrounds and play a part in civic life. Do you agree with this approach?



Increasing Economic Opportunity

Everyone, no matter what their background, level of educational attainment, or where they live, should have the opportunity to upskill and reskill into the jobs of the future. Work and progression in work supports integration by increasing the size and diversity of our networks and brings confidence and a sense of belonging.

To **increase economic opportunity**, we will:

- provide additional funding to Jobcentre Plus so they can support more people from the most segregated communities into work in the Integration Areas;
- use the opportunity of Universal Credit to engage people who are economically inactive to help them realise their potential through pathways to work;
- support people from ethnic minorities into work in places where there remains a big gap between their employment rates and that of White British people;
- increase take up of apprenticeships and the early years offer by people in isolated communities.



Increasing Economic Opportunity

Question: The Green Paper proposes measures to provide tailored support to people, especially those who may not currently be active in the labour market, to build their confidence and skills to take up employment. Do you agree with this approach?



Rights and Freedoms

We believe in a society based on shared rights, responsibilities and opportunities in which we respect and promote equal rights, particularly for those in isolated and segregated communities whose voices are too seldom heard.

To **challenge the practices that can hinder integration and equal rights**, we will:

- empower marginalised women, including exploring limited reform of the law on marriage and religious weddings;
- improve our understanding of the ways in which overseas influences can undermine attitudes to rights and freedoms in the UK;
- expand the Strengthening Faith Institutions programme to help a wider range of faith institutions to strengthen their governance structures, including the participation of women and young people;



Rights and Freedoms

- support faith communities and interfaith dialogue as a means of breaking down barriers between communities, building greater trust and understanding, and removing the conditions which can allow intolerance and unequal treatment to flourish;
- support delivery of the Hate Crime Action Plan in the Integration Areas, strengthening local partnerships to identify innovative practices to address hate crime and promote greater reporting of incidents.

Questions:

- The Green Paper proposes measures to encourage integration and resist divisive views or actions. **Do you agree with this approach?**
- The Green Paper proposes measures to address practices which can impact on the rights of women. **Do you agree with this approach?**



Measuring Success

Measuring progress and sharing evidence of what works is important for strengthening community integration and enabling us to learn and build upon our successes.

To **learn what works** in building integrated communities and to **share that learning**, we will:

- undertake a programme of evaluation research in the Integration Areas to generate evidence of what works in different local area settings;
- improve the way knowledge of what works is promoted and shared so that it reaches the people who need it;
- develop a clear set of integration measures at the local and national level so that policy makers and practitioners can monitor and measure progress.

Question: The Green Paper proposes core integration measures for national and local government to focus on. Do you agree these are the right measures?



**Thank you for helping us shape the
Integrated Communities Strategy**