

Recommendation 1:

The Select Committee supports the borough undertaking its own survey to provide insight into the views of residents towards community cohesion. The Select Committee therefore recommends that the Council should continue to survey residents in relation to this indicator, using statistically comparable methods.

Recommendation 2

The Select Committee recommends that funding to build community cohesion from both General Fund and Housing Revenue Account should be managed in a joined-up way to deliver maximum benefits to the community.

Recommendation 3:

The Select Committee recommends that an update on the achievement of the targets for service and support by the CVS be provided by the CVS to the Select Committee in six months time.

Recommendation 4:

The Select Committee recommends that the Faith Forum be invited to provide a briefing to all ward Councillors to enable them to encourage faith groups in their ward to register with the Faith Forum.

Recommendation 5:

The Select Committee recommends that the Faith Forum advertise the activities and events of different faith groups taking place in each ward in 'The News' on a regular basis.

Recommendation 6:

The Select Committee recommends that the Faith Forum work with libraries in the borough to seek permission of the faith groups to incorporate the details of their organisations and activities into the main database.

Recommendation 7:

The Select Committee recommends that the Regeneration and Economic Department provide a briefing to all Members regarding the Council's policy for places of religious premises, including guidance on what to do if Members suspect premises are being used as places of worship outside of planning regulations, or are creating environmental nuisance to neighbours.

Recommendation 8:

The Select Committee recommends that the Council undertake a review of the religious premises in the borough to establish where parking space is sufficient and consider whether a drop-off zone could be created to facilitate people visiting their places of worship.

Recommendation 9:

The Select Committee recommends that the Council adopt a policy of issuing parking permits to Faith Ministers registered with the Faith Forum in the borough.

Recommendation 10:

The Committee recommends that the provision of free accommodation at the Town Show for community and voluntary groups, including faith groups, be further promoted in the Third Sector via the equalities fora and CVS.

Recommendation 11:

The Select Committee recommends that the Council should encourage local businesses to support a reinvigorated carnival with the aim of achieving at least one float per ward.

Recommendation 12:

The Select Committee recommends that the Council invite schools to exhibit their extra-curricular activities and increase their presence at the Town Show and the carnival.

Recommendation: 13

The Select Committee recommends that the Council uses commemorative plaques to celebrate famous figures that were born or lived in the borough in the past as well as those currently reside in the borough.

Recommendation 14:

The Select Committee recommends that consideration be given to promoting a local history week to increase awareness of the borough's history and heritage across all ages.

Recommendation 15:

The Select Committee recommends that the schools not yet rated 'good' or 'outstanding' be encouraged to develop plans to achieve a higher rating in building cohesion.

Recommendation 16:

The Select Committee recommends that the provision of community facilities, including the availability of community halls and church halls, should be further publicised to the community in the News, on a ward-by-ward basis, and using Community TV.

Recommendation 17:

The Select Committee recommends that a report, outlining the extent to which the community centres transferred continue to enable the whole community to access their space, be brought to the Committee in six months time.

Recommendation 18:

The Select Committee recommends that the Council encourage school governing bodies to consider opening facilities to the community in at least one school in each ward.

Recommendation 19:

The Select Committee recommends that Councillors, in their role as school governors, encourage schools to allow their facilities to be used by the community.

Recommendations 20:

The Select Committee recommends that the CVS pro-actively approach the local media to further promote the work undertaken by the local community and voluntary groups, including the publication of the activities and event organised by the groups.

Recommendation 21:

The Select Committee recommends that in nine months time, by when the new volunteering function will be up and running, a report on the impact of volunteering in the borough and plans for its promotion be presented to the Committee by the organisation delivering this commission.