

	<h2>Community Leadership Committee</h2> <h3>7<sup>th</sup> September 2016</h3>
<p style="text-align: right;"><b>Title</b></p>	<p><b>Communities Together Network Annual Report 2015/16</b></p>
<p style="text-align: right;"><b>Report of</b></p>	<p>Interim Director for Strategy, Innovation and Customer Services</p>
<p style="text-align: right;"><b>Wards</b></p>	<p>All</p>
<p style="text-align: right;"><b>Status</b></p>	<p>Public</p>
<p style="text-align: right;"><b>Urgent</b></p>	<p>No</p>
<p style="text-align: right;"><b>Key</b></p>	<p>No</p>
<p style="text-align: right;"><b>Enclosures</b></p>	<p>Appendix One: Communities Together Network Annual Report 2015/16 Appendix Two: Barnet Equalities and Cohesion Data Summary</p>
<p style="text-align: right;"><b>Officer Contact Details</b></p>	<p><u>Lesley Holland</u> 0208 359 3004 <a href="mailto:Lesley.Holland@Barnet.gov.uk">Lesley.Holland@Barnet.gov.uk</a> <u>Sara Elias Bassett</u> 0208 359 5320 <a href="mailto:Sara.Elias-Bassett@Barnet.gov.uk">Sara.Elias-Bassett@Barnet.gov.uk</a></p>

## Summary

This cover report presents the second annual report of Barnet’s Communities Together Network (CTN). CTN was formally set up in October 2013 as part of the Council’s continuing commitment and refreshed approach to equalities as a borough wide forum to support community cohesion and resilience in Barnet. CTN promotes community cohesion through good relationships and monitoring, understanding, reducing and preventing any community tensions so that, as Barnet grows and changes, relationships between our diverse communities remain strong.

The annual report outlines refreshed CTN Aims and Terms of Reference (which, following consultation and feedback from CTN steering group and network members, were endorsed at the CTN meeting on 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2016) to reflect its broadened role. CTN has evolved as a strategic forum with the Voluntary, Charity and Faith Sectors in response to an expressed

need for a Borough strategic forum to help the Borough to maintain strong community links and partnerships and foster excellent community relationships and community spirit.

## **Recommendations**

- 1. That the Committee note The Communities Together Network Annual Report 2015/16 and approve its publication on the Council's website.**

### **1. WHY THIS REPORT IS NEEDED**

- 1.1** An Annual CTN Report is required under the arrangements agreed at Cabinet on 24 September 2013 which gave authority to set up CTN under the 'Communities Together' Action Plan and the approach for promoting community cohesion and monitoring community tensions which included an annual report to Community Leadership Committee.  
<http://barnet.moderngov.co.uk/documents/g7464/Printed%20minutes%2024th-Sep-2013%2019.00%20Cabinet.pdf?T=1>.
- 1.2** CTN is supported by Barnet's strategic lead for community participation and equalities and works alongside the Community Participation Strategy. CTN is an important communication channel for the Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS) and faith sectors drawing membership from a partnership of council officers, statutory partners (police fire, education and health) and voluntary, faith and community sector organisations. It includes council representatives from Emergency Planning, Community Safety, Community Participation, Consultation and Engagement, and other strategic and community partners including Police, Fire, CommUNITY Barnet, Barnet Multi-Faith Forum, Barnet Homes, Re, Middlesex University, Barnet and Southgate College, NHS and faith and community groups. It is jointly chaired with CommUNITY Barnet and is open to all statutory, faith, voluntary, charity and community organisations in the borough, of all faiths and none. Councillors are also welcome to attend.

### **2. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 2.1** The recommendation to note the report and approve its publication on the Council's website is for reasons of transparency -- to give clear information to residents and partner organisations. The recommendation will also advance equality of opportunity between people from different groups; and foster good relations between different communities in Barnet as required under statutory obligations of the Equality Act 2010 - and in particular s149 which sets out the Public Sector Equality Duty (PSED) - which came into force on 5 April 2011.

### **3. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND NOT RECOMMENDED**

- 3.1 No alternative reporting option is required. Not publishing the report would run counter to the arrangements agreed for CTN and the Council's commitment to Transparency to give clear information to residents and partner organisations.

#### **4. POST DECISION IMPLEMENTATION**

- 4.1 Following CLC approval of the report, it will be published on the Council's Website and action will be taken to develop a future work programme and to support the key events outlined in the report.

#### **5. IMPLICATIONS OF DECISION**

##### **5.1 Corporate Priorities and Performance**

- 5.1.1 This is the second CTN Annual Report produced by Barnet Council under the refreshed approach to equalities following the 2010 Equality Act, and it is part of our approach to strengthening how we take account of equalities in decision making and engagement and implementation of our community participation and volunteering strategies.

##### **5.2 Resources (Finance & Value for Money, Procurement, Staffing, IT, Property, Sustainability)**

- 5.2.1 There are no resource implications for this report.

##### **5.3 Social Value**

- 5.3.1 There are no direct social value considerations as this paper does not relate to a service contract. However, the purpose of CTN is to build an understanding of what really matters to Barnet's communities and share information so that Barnet's diverse communities feel informed, included and safe. It also facilitates joint working in the borough, fostering the potential for people to take on more responsibility for their local areas and deliver better outcomes for residents and communities in the years ahead.

##### **5.4 Legal and Constitutional References**

- 5.4.1 The Council has statutory obligations under the Equality Act 2010 - and in particular s149 which sets out the Public Sector Equality Duty (PSED) - which came into force on 5 April 2011.

- 5.4.2 The Council's Constitution (Responsibility for Functions) contains the terms of reference for the Council's Committees. The Community Leadership Committee's responsibilities include:

- To oversee arrangements for cross partner co-operation
- To maintain good community relations with Barnet's diverse communities ensuring that all communities have the opportunity to Participate fully in the Borough's affairs.

## **5.5 General Public Sector Equality Duties**

5.5.1 The PSED consists of a general duty, with three main aims. The general duty requires public bodies to have due regard to the need to:

- Eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation and other conduct prohibited by the Equality Act 2010;
- Advance equality of opportunity between people from different groups; and
- Foster good relations between people from different groups.

## **5.6 Risk Management**

5.6.1 The CTN developed following civil disturbances in 2011 (which were noticeably less pronounced in Barnet than neighbouring boroughs) to promote good relationships between different communities in Barnet. In May 2013, CTN membership increased further in response to the arson attack at Coppetts Road Community Centre (which was home to Somali Bravanese Welfare Association) when multi faith community relationships became an important element in community cohesion.

5.6.2 CTN acts to mitigate the risk of community tension by promoting good relationships between Barnet's diverse communities and building an understanding of what really matters to Barnet's communities, facilitating joint working in the borough and sharing information to foster the potential for people to take on more responsibility for their local areas. It also acts as the community communication arm in the event of any emergency. In both proactive and reactive processes CTN aims to help members to feel involved, informed and safe.

## **5.7 Equalities and Diversity**

5.7.1 CTN is part of Barnet's approach to equalities and forms part of the council's response to the third aim of General Public Sector Equalities Duty PSED (set out in section 149 of the Equality Act 2010) - To foster good relations between people from different groups. The annual report includes up to data demographic information on equalities and community cohesion.

## **5.8 Consultation and Engagement**

5.8.1 It was not considered necessary to undertake a formal consultation exercise for this report. All members of CTN steering group have been given the opportunity to comment on the report and where comments have been made these have been incorporated.

## **5.9 Insight**

5.9.1 A full Equalities and Cohesion Data Summary was used in the development of this annual report. It was updated in January 2016 and is published on the equality page of the council's website at

<https://www.barnet.gov.uk/dam/jcr:926a6a16-9a19-4cae-b689-40ada234bb0f/Equalities%20and%20Cohesion%20data%20summary.pdf>

## **6. BACKGROUND PAPERS**

- 6.1 At their meeting on 24 September 2013 Cabinet gave authority for setting up CTN under the 'Communities Together' Action Plan and to the approach for promoting community cohesion and monitoring community tensions <http://barnet.moderngov.co.uk/documents/g7464/Printed%20minutes%2024th-Sep-2013%2019.00%20Cabinet.pdf?T=1>
- 6.12 At their meeting on 24th June 2015 Community Leadership Committee noted the First Communities Together Network Annual report 2015/16 and agreed its publication on the council Website.  
<https://barnet.moderngov.co.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=694&MId=8367&Ver=4>
- 6.13 At their meeting on 24th June 2015 Community Leadership Committee noted the report on Faith Covenant and Charter with the Voluntary Sector and the Covenant and Charter attached to the report at Appendix A and Appendix B. The Committee RESOLVED that: 1. The Committee, on behalf of the Council, adopts the All Parliamentary Party Covenant for Engagement between Faith Communities and Local Authorities, endorses its principles and authorises officers to carry out the planned actions under the five commitments, set out in paragraphs 1.10 to 1.14 of this report.
- 6.14 The Committee noted and endorsed the planned actions to further develop and mainstream use of the Council's Charter with the Voluntary Sector, as set out in paragraph 1.17 of the report.
- 6.15 The Committee supported a referral of the decision to Full Council, in line with the provisions of the Council's Constitution.  
<https://barnet.moderngov.co.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=694&MId=8367&Ver=4>
- 6.16 At their meeting on 28th July 2015 Council adopted the All Parliamentary Party Covenant for Engagement between Faith Communities and Local Authorities, endorsed its principles and authorised officers to carry out the planned actions under the five commitments, set out in paragraphs 1.10 to 1.14 of the report.
- 6.17 Council noted and endorsed the planned actions to further develop and mainstream use of the Council's Charter with the Voluntary Sector, as set out in paragraph 1.17 of the report.  
<https://barnet.moderngov.co.uk/documents/g8339/Public%20minutes%2028th-Jul-2015%2019.00%20Council.pdf?T=11>