



National Social Inclusion Network



Birmingham Declaration

March 2014



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We recognise that social inclusion is essential to the future success of this country and all its citizens, businesses and communities. All residents have a right to have access to the opportunities that a modern society brings.

More equal and fairer societies result in better wellbeing and improved outcomes for people and communities, enabling residents to participate fully in civic and economic life. By achieving better outcomes, people, families and communities become more resilient and are able to shape their own futures.

However too many residents across the country are still excluded from mainstream society. There are significant social and material inequalities in all our towns and cities, with large gaps in wealth, income, health and wellbeing.

This is not acceptable.

The social inclusion challenge has been made more difficult against a backdrop of public sector budget cuts and the global economic crisis which has meant that statutory organisations no longer have the resources to tackle these issues in the same way that has been done previously. The task of creating more inclusive cities has moved beyond what local or national government can do on their own.

The current economic climate necessitates an urgent need to rally resources and expertise around targeted action that will mitigate further inequality and exclusion.

We have therefore agreed to work together. We will continue to pool our collective knowledge and understanding, developed through our various social inclusion, poverty and fairness commissions, to share thinking around issues of deep concern and to learn from each other about what we can do to bring greater inclusion.

It will require our combined energy, resources and wisdom to address the fundamental economic and social issues that we face and to protect the most vulnerable in our communities.

This declaration is a symbol of our collective commitment to articulate the arguments for social inclusion for all of our communities across the country.

The towns and cities signed up to this declaration agree to:

- Participate in a national social inclusion network
- Share learning and develop joint campaigning on key issues around social inclusion
- Build a strong collective voice to articulate the arguments for social inclusion for all our communities across the country
- Identify action that can be taken around issues of shared concern

We, the undersigned, declare that we are committed to working together in the
National Social Inclusion Network:



D. Pidduck

Councillor Dave Pidduck, Leader
Borough of Barrow in Furness



Sir Albert Bore

Councillor Sir Albert Bore, Leader
Birmingham City Council

John Cotton

Councillor John Cotton,
Cabinet Member for Social
Cohesion and Equalities
Birmingham City Council



George Ferguson

George Ferguson CBE,
Mayor of Bristol
Bristol City Council



Andy Hull

Councillor Andy Hull,
Commission Co-Chair
Islington Fairness Commission
Islington Council



Knowsley Council

R. J. Round

Councillor Ron Round, Leader
Knowsley Metropolitan
Borough Council



Keith Wakefield

Councillor Keith Wakefield,
Leader
Leeds City Council



**Leicester
City Council**

Peter Soulsby

Peter Soulsby,
Leicester City Mayor
Leicester City Council



**Liverpool
City Council**

Joe Anderson

Joe Anderson,
Mayor of Liverpool
Liverpool City Council



**MANCHESTER
CITY COUNCIL**

Sir Richard Leese

Sir Richard Leese,
Leader

Manchester City Council



Nick Forbes

Councillor Nick Forbes, Leader
Newcastle City Council



Chris Penberthy

Councillor Chris Penberthy,
Cabinet Member for Cooperatives
and Community Development
Plymouth City Council



Julie Dore

Councillor Julie Dore, Leader
Sheffield City Council



Simon Letts

Councillor Simon Letts, Leader
Southampton City Council



Mohammed Pervez

Councillor Mohammed Pervez,
Leader
Stoke on Trent City Council



Lutfur Rahman

Lutfur Rahman,
Mayor of Tower Hamlets
Tower Hamlets Council

The National Social Inclusion Network and Birmingham Declaration came out of the National Social Inclusion Symposium, funded by the Barrow Cadbury Trust and hosted by the Leader of Birmingham City Council and the Bishop of Birmingham, in September 2013.



For more information about the National Social Inclusion Network visit fairnessnetwork.wordpress.com, contact Fairbrum by email to fairbrum@birmingham.gov.uk, or follow @FairBrum #fairplaces on Twitter.