

# Better Mosques: A Community Consultation



20 January to 31 March 2018

[www.ourmosquesourfuture.org.uk/consultation](http://www.ourmosquesourfuture.org.uk/consultation)

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## Outline



1. Background
2. Consultation
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## Background 1/2



- About 1,750 mosques in Britain which vary in size and quality of service
- Large amounts of positive work and activities being performed by mosques
- But most is not being heard about or shared beyond the local area
- MCB 'Visit My Mosque' feedback sessions in 2017 heard strong desire for structured and institutionalised approach to sharing good practice and achieving better mosques in Britain today

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## Background 2/2



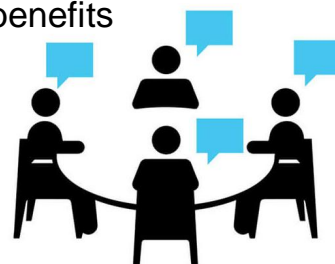
- Several common challenges faced by mosques in Britain were raised, including fear of Islamophobia, youth and women access, confronting violent extremism, community disunity and more.
- Several common opportunities facing mosques in Britain were also discussed, including increased community outreach work, interfaith engagement, supplementary school provision and social action projects like Food banks/drives.
- Many mosques also expressed strong aspiration to embody the spirit of the first mosque in history, the Prophetic Mosque in Medina.

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## Consultation 1/2



- Based on the feedback received, MCB organised the one-day 'Our Mosques Our Future' conference on **20 January 2018**.
- At the conference, the MCB launched a consultation around five possible ideas that *could* address the issues faced by mosques and provide them and their communities with tangible benefits
- The Consultation will be open from **20 January** and **31 March 2018**
- The proposals are summarised in the next slides



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## Consultation 2/2



- The MCB will **not** necessarily deliver these ideas, rather we propose to work with partners to deliver based on the consultation results.
- However the MCB commits to facilitating the consultation exercise and producing a summary report of the results by **June 2018**
- The Consultation consists of:
  - Online Survey (~15 min to complete)
  - Email feedback to [mosques@mcb.org.uk](mailto:mosques@mcb.org.uk) or call 0845 26 26 786
  - Regional Mosque Forum Events (see later slide)
- The Consultation is open to:
  - Mosque committee members, trustees, activists, students, professionals, academics, Council of Mosque, National Umbrella Organisations, Imams & Chaplains...
  - ... and anyone with an interest in the future of mosques in Britain today!

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## Proposals - Summary



Five ideas are proposed for national services that could offer several benefits to mosques in Britain and their communities. They are:

1. **Best Practice Online Portal**
2. **Discounts & Preferential Rates**
3. **Certification Service**
4. **Jobs Board**
5. **Independent Mediation Service**

The following slides provide more detail on each idea.

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## Proposal 1/5



### 1. Best Practice Online Portal

- In many professional sectors a web portal exists where management can access template policies, procedures and forms
- It is proposed to research and collate such best practice documents for running mosques and produce a similar web portal for Mosques in Britain

Possible contents of the web portal:

1. Policies, procedures & forms - templates
  2. Policies, procedures & forms - models
  3. Guidance documents
  4. Project-specific toolkits
- Example web portal can be found here: [www.mcb.org.uk/mosque-portal](http://www.mcb.org.uk/mosque-portal)

*Key Outcomes for Mosques:*

- 1) *Increased access to and use of latest best practice and model documents*
- 2) *Save time by adapting existing documents rather than starting from a blank canvas*

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## Proposal 2/5

### 2. Discounts & Preferential Rates

- Service Providers for mosques exist in several key areas who provide high quality goods and services of benefit to mosques.
- It is proposed to invite interested Service Providers to join a scheme where they agree to provide free, discounted or preferential rate goods and service to participating mosques.

Initial Service Provider areas to invite:

1. Legal Services
2. Accountancy / Book-Keeping
3. Capacity Building & Training Providers
4. ICT and Computing Services
5. Exhibition & Display Material
6. Architecture, Building & Construction
7. Utility/Bills Consultants
8. Other Services

*Key Outcomes for Mosques:*

- 1) Access to high quality recommended service providers
- 2) Savings in annual expenditure

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## Proposal 3/5

### 3. Certification Service

- In many professional sectors there is a voluntary 'Standard' or 'Charter' for individuals or organisations to sign up to
- It is proposed to produce a similar Standard or Charter for mosques
- These could build upon the previously produced MINAB Standards in 2008 / Aziz Foundation Beacon Mosques programme

- A professionally-run Certification Service would then be built around the Standard or Charter, which could consist of:
  1. Independent Mosque Advisor to visit mosque to discuss their needs
  2. Customised Mosque Improvement Plans (MIP) produced for mosque
  3. Certification lasts for 3 years until re-certification required

*Key Outcomes for Mosques:*

- 1) Receiving a customized and actionable Mosque Improvement Plans (MIPs)
- 2) Official recognition as having met a nationally-recognised standard or charter

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## Proposal 4/5

### 4. Jobs Board

- Mosques constantly need to employ Part-Time or Full-Time staff, whether its new Imams, Centre Managers, Admin Officers, Caretakers, Teachers or anything else.
- Volunteer roles to lead certain projects or initiatives are also often required

Possible online jobs board could be:

1. Hosted on an easily accessible webpage
2. Free for mosques to advertise up to 5 vacancies a year (staff or volunteer)
3. Users can 'subscribe' to receive Job Alerts based on region, role type or keyword search

*Key Outcomes for Mosques:*

- 1) *Easier and quicker to recruit for staff or volunteer roles, minimising empty vacancy time*
- 2) *Better chances of finding the right candidate for the role*

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## Proposal 5/5

### 5. Independent Mediation Service

- Mediation is the processes where a neutral 3<sup>rd</sup> party assists two parties to resolve a conflict or disagreement.
- At times, individuals or organisations that deal with or use mosque services want to raise a concern or complain about aspects of mosque service provision

- Where the concern or complaint is unable to be dealt with satisfactorily by the mosque, this Independent Mediation Service could provide an alternative and independently-run way for complaints, conflicts or disagreements to be resolved

*Key Outcomes for Mosques:*

- 1) *Better chances of timely resolution to conflicts involving mosques before escalation*
- 2) *Transparent way for individuals to raise concerns and have them resolved*

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## Proposal – Further ideas?



- Do you have other ideas not mentioned above?
- Further ideas, comments and suggestions for how best to achieve better mosques are welcome!
- Please do submit your ideas as part of the consultation (See next slide for details on ‘Have Your Say’)

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## Have Your Say - Summary



- Based on the feedback received, MCB has suggested a number of practical and tangible ideas to support achieving better mosques.
- These were presented at the **Our Mosques Our Future** on **20 January 2018** and form part of this ‘Better Mosques: A Community Consultation’
- The Consultation will be open from **20 January** to **31 March 2018**
- You can get involved by completing the online survey here:  
[www.ourmosquesourfuture.org.uk/consultation](http://www.ourmosquesourfuture.org.uk/consultation)
- Alternatively:
  - Email us at [mosques@mcb.org.uk](mailto:mosques@mcb.org.uk)
  - Write to us at P.O. BOX 57330, London, E1 2WJ
  - Call us on 0845 26 26 786



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## Regional Mosque Forums



- The consultation will also include 5 Regional Mosque Forum events in 5 major cities across the UK
- All mosques in that region are invited to take part
- Duration: Half-day sessions
- Schedule: March – April 2018
- Notes will be transcribed after each session
- Findings summarised in Evaluation Report by June 2018 *insha'Allah* (God willing)
- Please email [mosques@mcb.org.uk](mailto:mosques@mcb.org.uk) to express interest in attending a forum event



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