

Better Mosque: A Community Consultation



20 January to 30 April 2018

www.ourmosquesourfuture.org.uk/consultation

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Outline



1. Background
2. Proposals
3. Next steps

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Background 1/2



- 1,500+ 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 beyond the local area
- MCB '#VisitMyMosque' Feedback Sessions in early 2017 heard strong desire for structured approach to sharing good practice between mosques in Britain

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Background 2/2



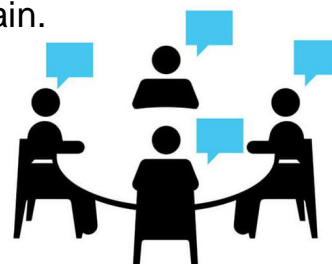
- Several common challenges affecting mosques in Britain, including fear of Islamophobia, youth and women disenfranchisement, confronting violent extremism, community disunity and more.
- Several common opportunities facing mosques in Britain, including increased community outreach work, interfaith engagement, supplementary school provision, social action projects like Food banks/drives and much more.
- 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 a one-day **Our Mosques Our Future** conference on **20 January 2018**.
- At the conference, the MCB proposed five tangible ideas to address the issues faced by mosques and launched a consultation around them and other ideas that could benefit mosques in Britain.
- The Consultation will run 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/stak to deliver on the consultation results.
- However the MCB commits to facilitating the consultation exercise and producing a summary report of the results in **June 2018**
- The Consultation consists of:
 - Online Survey (~15 min to complete)
 - Email feedback to mosques@mcb.org.uk or call 0845 26 26 786
 - Regional Mosque Forum Events (see later slides)
- 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

- | | |
|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In many professional sectors a web portal exists where management can access template policies, procedures and forms • It is proposed to collate such documents and produce a similar web portal for Mosques in Britain | <p>Possible contents of the web portal:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Policies, procedures & forms - templates 2. Policies, procedures & forms - models 3. Guidance documents 4. Project-specific toolkits <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Example web portal can be found here: 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:

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

- A professional Certification Service would then be built around the Standard or Charter, which could consist of:
 1. Independent Mosque Advisor to visit mosque to discuss 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 Jobs Board could:

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 3rd party assists two parties to resolve a conflict or disagreement.
- Often individuals or organisations that deal with mosques want to raise a concerns 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 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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Have Your Say



- Based on the feedback received, MCB suggests a number of practical and actionable ideas to address these issues.
- These were presented at the **Our Mosques Our Future** on **20 January 2018** and form part of this consultation
- The Consultation will be open between **20 January and 31 March 2018**
- You can get involved by completing the online survey here:

www.ourmosquesourfuture.org.uk/consultation

- Alternatively:

- Email us at 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 Forum



- 5 Regional Mosque Forum events in 5 major cities across the UK
- Duration: Half-day sessions
- Schedule: March – June 2018
- Topics to cover:
 1. Structure of scheme
 2. Content of Standards / Charter
 3. Key needs of mosques in this region
- Notes transcribed after each session
- Findings summarised in Evaluation Report by June 2018



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Key Outcomes



1. Participating Mosques gaining **direct financial benefits** and realise savings in their annual expenditure
2. Participating Mosques accessing the **latest best practice** policies, procedures and templates
3. Participating Mosques receiving regular professional advice, as well as a **customized and actionable Mosque Improvement Plans (MIPs)**
4. Service Providers provided with increased access to the mosque market and see **increased sales** from their customer segment



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Summary



1. Background
 - Context / Trends
2. Proposal
 - Three party model: Funders, Service Providers, Mosques
 - Initial services: 1. Discounts 2. Best Practice Hub 3. Certification
 - Later: 4. Jobs Board 5. Peer Advice Programme
 - Finance: £125k for first 2 years. Timeline Phase 1 to 4 (2018 to 2020)
 - Consultation Jan-Jun 2018 to launch at Janaury conference
3. Next steps

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