

FORM S & PP 3

 Walsall Council	REPORT OF THE SCRUTINY OVERVIEW COMMITTEE	DATE: REF.NO:
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TITLE OF THE MATTER CALLED-IN: Resilient Communities - a new model of personal responsibility, community led solutions, integrated community safety and community protection and enforcement.

DATE CONSIDERED BY CABINET: 18 December 2019

CABINET PORTFOLIO HOLDER: Councillor G. Perry

DATE OF OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY MEETING: 13 January 2020

Grounds under which the matter was called in for scrutiny:

As there is such a mix of social capital, across the borough, and within each of the four localities, we are concerned that the expectations as set out within the Resilient Communities report to Cabinet on 18 December, 2019 may not be met.

The report states that the budget for Resilient Communities is £2.2m (para 4.32) and that there will be staff implications due to 'efficiencies' (para 4.39). It is our view that further detail is required in relation to the budget and implications for staff before a decision is taken. This will provide clarity as to whether the budget and staffing structure are sufficient to create the social capital required to genuinely create resilient communities in Walsall.

Further information is required on the role and responsibilities of the community and voluntary sector providers in order to understand how areas will be co-ordinated and the Cabinet vision for the role of elected members with particular reference to Community Forums.

Due to the importance of establishing settled arrangements for locality working to prevent the frequent revision of working arrangements around community engagement it is our view that the process would benefit from a cross-party scrutiny task and finish working group, established by the Scrutiny Overview Committee, who will then make recommendations to Cabinet for their consideration.

Record here the Overview and Scrutiny Committee conclusions and proposals:

Following the presentation of the reasons for call-in and further points that required clarification. The Portfolio Holder (Communities, Leisure and Culture) responded in detail outlining proposed budgets and work practices. He explained the purpose of using a voluntary and community sector (VCS) provider to better engage with the local community and the further work required to develop this proposal. He noted several examples of VCS organisations that supported the development of Resilient Committees.

Committee Members wished to be able to influence the development of the Resilient Communities Model through establishing a working group. A proposal was made for the Cabinet decision of 18 December 2019 to be paused whilst a scrutiny working group was established. The intention being for the working group to present a final report to the Scrutiny Overview Committee meeting on 28 April 2020. On being formally moved, seconded and put to the vote this motion was lost. However, the Committee did agree to establish a working group to consider the subject as outlined above but in the knowledge that the decision made by Cabinet on 18 December 2019 was implemented.

Record here the specific recommendations of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee:

That, a cross party working group be established by the Scrutiny Overview Committee at its meeting on 4 February 2020 to enable a detailed assessment of the proposed Resilient Communities model to be undertaken and for the working group to report back to the Committee on 28 April 2020.

Explain here how the proposals/recommendations of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee differ from those of Cabinet:

Not applicable.

This form provides an accurate record of the meeting of the above named Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

Chair of Scrutiny Overview and Scrutiny Committee

John Murray

Signature: **Date:** ...15 January 2020