

Walsall Council Scrutiny and Performance Panel Work Group  
Initiation Document

<b>Work Group Name:</b>	Community Cohesion
<b>Committee:</b>	Corporate & Public Services
<b>Municipal Year:</b>	2015/16
<b>Lead Member:</b>	Cllr A. Nawaz
<b>Lead Officer:</b>	Paul Gordon Nigel Rowe Irena Hergottova
<b>Support Officer:</b>	Craig Goodall
<b>Membership:</b>	Cllr S. Craddock Cllr I. Shires Cllr G. Sohal
<b>Co-opted Members:</b>	
<b>1. Context</b>	
	<p>The current priorities for community cohesion have been in place for some time and could benefit from updating. An opportunity to review what the current strategy has achieved and if there are any gaps is welcomed.</p> <p>The working group felt that building a cohesive community in Walsall is vital to the borough maximising its potential achievement. But recognised that there were barriers to creating cohesion such as segregated communities, the rise of right wing views and religious extremism.</p> <p>Members recognise that there is a lot of good work that goes on to promote community cohesion and it would benefit from increased exposure. However, the working group recognised that public funding is diminishing and it was important that scarce resources were used in the most effective way.</p>
<b>2. Objectives</b>	
	<p><b>What do you want it to achieve? It is important to have clearly defined outcomes at the start to give the working group direction and ensure it adds value.</b></p> <p>The working group want to make 'community cohesion' a meaningful and real policy that delivers tangible benefits to the borough.</p> <p>The working group will make recommendations to Cabinet on the strategic direction it thinks the Council and its partners should follow in order to create stable and cohesive communities across Walsall.</p> <p>Due to diminishing resources the working group will consider the approach to creating an environment where local people and the voluntary and community sector have the resources to create community cohesion.</p>
<b>3. Scope</b>	

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	<p><b>What should be included and excluded?</b></p> <p>In order to create a cohesive society it is important that focus is given to the whole breadth of community cohesion. Whilst it is recognised that the biggest risk to a cohesive Walsall are right wing organisations and religious extremism Members wish to build a truly cohesive place where people of all ages, genders, races, religions, sexualities and those with disabilities feel fairly treated and engaged. Therefore the working group will seek the views of a wide range of people and not just solely focus on extremism.</p>
<b>4.</b>	<p><b>Equalities Implications</b></p> <p>There is a legal and moral obligation to ensure that, when undertaking a scrutiny review, the impact of policies; procedures; strategies and activities is considered within the 6 strands of equality (Age, Disability, Gender, Race, Religion or Belief, and Sexual Orientation)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• How will the working group consult with each of these six groups regarding this review and its outcomes?</li> <li>• If an EIA has been carried out for this service\policy then what were its outcomes? Can this be mapped into the review? If no EIA has been carried out by the service is one required and can this be reported to the working group?</li> </ul> <p>The working groups entire purpose is to seek to create an environment in Walsall whereby all groups covered by the six strands of equality, namely: age, disability, gender, race, religion or belief and sexual orientation, are treated without prejudice.</p> <p>The working group will seek to engage with representative groups of each of the six strands of equality and will make whatever reasonable adjustments necessary to engage with them in a fair and equitable way.</p>
<b>4.</b>	<p><b>Who else will you want to take part?</b></p> <p>Think about who else, other than lead officers and members, it would be useful to include either as part of the working group or to bring information at specific points. For example- partners, stakeholders, other authorities.</p> <p>Representative groups of the six strands of equality – age, disability, gender, race, religion or belief and sexual orientation.</p> <p>Chief Executives of: Walsall Council, WHG, NHS, Police, Citizens Advice Bureau</p> <p>Local media editors – newspapers – Express &amp; Star and Advertiser; local radio and television – local and community stations</p> <p>Schools and youth groups</p>

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	<p>Councillors and council staff</p> <p>Hate groups/extremists</p>									
<b>5.</b>	<b>Timescales &amp; Reporting Schedule</b>									
	<p style="color: red;">Needs to be completed within the same municipal year and so should be able to report to full panel by the last meeting at the latest but consider the subject- is there anything else that it may need to tie into (e.g. academic or financial year or to coincide with national/sub-regional developments)</p> <p style="color: red;">How often will update be provided to full panel?</p> <p>10 September 2015 – Working group terms of reference to be reported to Corporate and Public Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee</p> <p>14 April 2015 – working group final report and recommendations to be presented to the Corporate and Public Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee.</p>									
<b>6.</b>	<b>Risk factors</b>									
	<p style="color: red;">Are there any obstacles that can be predicted? For example, is it dependent on other organisations outside your control and duty to cooperate? Identifying these factors early and how they will be mitigated should help minimise their impact.</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse; margin-top: 10px;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="width: 35%;">Risk</th><th style="width: 20%;">Likelihood</th><th style="width: 45%;">Measure to Resolve</th></tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Raising expectations of large scale action to create community cohesion and combat extremism of all kinds</td><td>Medium</td><td>Working group to be clear throughout investigation that their recommendations must be achievable within the context of reduced public spending.</td></tr> <tr> <td>Being able to speak to the right people or groups and/or people/groups not informing the working group of their real views.</td><td>High</td><td>Consider the most effective way to engage each of the identified groups that the working group wishes to speak to.</td></tr> </tbody> </table>	Risk	Likelihood	Measure to Resolve	Raising expectations of large scale action to create community cohesion and combat extremism of all kinds	Medium	Working group to be clear throughout investigation that their recommendations must be achievable within the context of reduced public spending.	Being able to speak to the right people or groups and/or people/groups not informing the working group of their real views.	High	Consider the most effective way to engage each of the identified groups that the working group wishes to speak to.
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Date Agreed:		Date Updated:	
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**Timetable:**

<b>Meeting</b>	<b>Activity</b>
13 August 2015	Discuss and agree draft terms of reference
10 September 2015	Present working group terms of reference to Corporate and Public Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee for approval
Sept – Dec 2015	Meet with witnesses. 1. Corporate witnesses on approach and achievements 2. Community representatives on impact of approach
Jan-Feb 2016	Review evidence and follow up leads
March 2016	Draw conclusions and draft final report and recommendations
14 April 2015	Present final report and recommendations to Corporate and Public Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee