

## **MAJOR REVIEW – COMMUNITY COHESION**

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### **REASON FOR ITEM**

To consider a draft scoping report in respect of the review into Community Cohesion which the Committee agreed to undertake at its last meeting.

The Council's Stronger Communities Officer and the Chair of the Strong and Active Communities Partnership will be in attendance to provide Members with the background to community Cohesion in Hillingdon.

### **OPTIONS OPEN TO THE COMMITTEE**

1. Question the witnesses.
2. To consider the draft scoping report (appendix 1) and to make amendments if necessary
3. To make a note of possible recommendations for the review

### **INFORMATION**

1. At the last meeting of the Committee held on 24 July 2012 Members were provided with a presentation and a report which provided the background to Community Cohesion in the Borough.
2. After a presentation from officers the Committee agreed that the aim of the review should be around examining how Council services are working in order to mitigate against the potential risk factors that can impact upon community cohesion. Particular emphasis would be around building upon the many positives Borough that underpin resilience in communities within the Borough. To reflect the discussion a draft scoping report has been produced for Members to discuss.

### **Witness**

3. For this meeting the Committee will be provided with information from the Council's Stronger Communities Officer and the Chair of the Strong and Active Communities Partnership, Carole Jones who will provide the Committee with details on the positive contributions to community cohesion which are taking place and which underpin the resilience within communities.

## Background

4. In April 2009 the Strong and Active Communities Partnership was established as a theme group of the Local Strategic Partnership. It was responsible for developing and monitoring actions to deliver the key priorities within the Sustainable Community Strategy around strong and active communities.
5. Main aims of the partnership are:
  - Building stronger communities;
  - Delivering through community partnerships with an emphasis on building relationships and working with young people, schools and communities; and
  - Strengthening communities and promoting models of good practice as well as ways of working
6. For Members information, some of outcomes and achievements to date include:
  - Implemented community tensions monitoring process with monthly assessment meetings
  - Developed an intelligence/ information tool to better understand community cohesion issues in the borough and support development of local response – not only mapping the risk factors but also the positive factors that counter the risks. The department for Communities and Local Government citing this as a model of good practice and seen as leading the way in use of intelligence/ information in assessing community cohesion factors.
  - Implementing targeted area action plan response based upon intelligence and local community cohesion / tensions assessment.
  - Working with schools to develop models of best practice on community cohesion: established the Hillingdon Schools Community Cohesion Partnership - a local Head Teacher, who is also chairs the Strong and Active Communities Partnership took part in the National College of School Leadership community cohesion advocates project developing national best practice on the duty for schools (selected as one of 9 nationally as exemplars of best practice)
  - Working with faith communities and BAME communities: enabling communities to work together to identify common issues and shared experiences to inform and improve access to local services.
  - Supporting Hillingdon Inter Faith Network to develop a programme of activities that promotes greater understanding and community cohesion including: Faith leader breakfast meetings, London Week of Peace events, Youth Inter Faith activities in partnership with schools (Hillingdon Inter faith network identified nationally as delivering models of best practice in inter faith working – and particularly the unique relationship in partnership

working between the community and the local authority and in the work with schools)

- Government Office for London recognised some exemplars of best practice and approaches being delivered in the borough which led to delivering a presentation at a European conference in Sweden on immigration and integration.

7. Members will be provided with more detail at the meeting.

### **PAPERS WITH THE REPORT**

Scoping Report (Appendix 1)