



Report of the Convener of the Community Cohesion Scrutiny Working Group

20 June 2018

Community Cohesion Scrutiny Working Group

Purpose:	To look at progress with Community Cohesion as it affects residents of Swansea.
Content:	Q&A session looking at Community Cohesion
Councillors are being asked to:	Consider the information provided and make the panels views known to the Cabinet Member via a Conveners Letter
Lead Councillor:	Cllr Elliot King, Convener Community Cohesion Scrutiny Working Group

1. Background

1.1 The Scrutiny Programme Committee agreed to set up a working group to look at community cohesion and hate crime in Swansea at their meeting in June 2017. A meeting of the Working Group took place on the 14 November 2017 which mainly looked at the hate crime aspects. The Working Group agreed to convene a further meeting to consider those aspects specific to community cohesion.

2. Community Cohesion in Swansea

2.1 The following people have been invited to attend the meeting:

- Cllr Will Evans, Cabinet Member for Stronger Communities
- Declan Cahill, South Wales Police
- Paul Thomas, Resilience
- Jane Whitmore, Poverty and Prevention Swansea
- Riaz Hassan, Regional Community Cohesion Coordinator (Swansea, N&PT, Bridgend)

2.3 The following questions, agreed by the Working Group, have been sent to all those invited to attend so that they can prepare for this Q&A session.

1. The Panel heard their our last meeting about the working definition of Community Cohesion which includes *enabling of different groups of people to get on well together* and *developing respect in the differences in our society?* They would like more information on these aspects. Particularly some detail on the projects that make up these aspects along with any outcomes you have noted.

2. They would like further information on the barriers experienced in improving Community Cohesion and how we are addressing or mitigating them.
3. Can you let them know how we monitor the success of our efforts in relation to Community Cohesion, what are the measurable parts of the Community Cohesion strategy? Can they have an example of some of this data?
4. How is partnership working around the community cohesion aspect actually working? Can improvements be made and how?
5. At the last meeting they looked at the Community Cohesion Delivery Plan, they commented that most of the objectives are national, could they have more information on Objectives and Outcomes that relate to Swansea specifically or how we translate them in the local context?
6. Do we have any mechanism for working with and feeding back to ward councillors about the objectives and outcomes in their local areas?
7. How are local ward Councillors involved community cohesion projects?
8. On one of the original presentation slides it mentions the *Key Achievements in Mainstreaming Community Cohesion*. Can you please provide some examples of these that are benefiting local residents/communities on the ground?

3. Conclusions

- 3.1 The Scrutiny Panel are asked to discuss and consider the evidence gathered from this exercise and to give their views via a Conveners letter to the Cabinet Member for Stronger Communities.