

# Luton's approach to stronger, inclusive communities, citizen participation and community cohesion.

**SALAR Conference, Improving democracy through dialogue and participation , 17-18th May 2018**

**Nicola Monk, Service Director – Policy, Communities and Engagement, Luton Council**

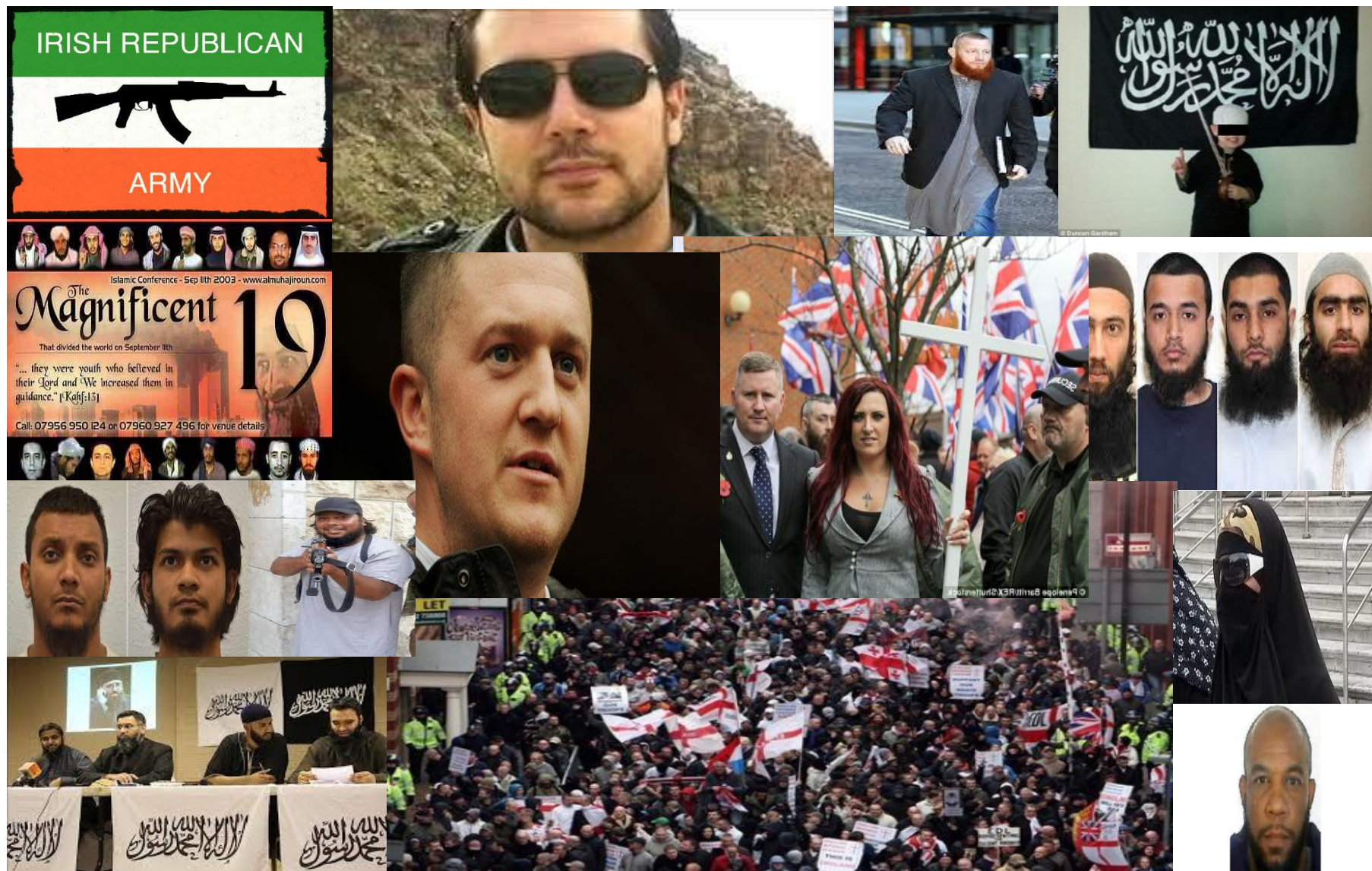
**Marek Lubelski, Community Coordinator, Strategic Community Services, Luton Council**



## Luton - the place

- 214,700 (2015 ONS estimate)
- Super diverse – 55% Black and Minority Ethnic Population
- Strong religious identification: 100+ churches, 37 mosques, 2 Temples, 2 Gudwaras....
- 130+ languages / dialects spoken
- Significant in migration over the last 10 years
- 12 High Schools
- 92% of children attend good or excellent schools
- High young population including 11,000 students (University of Bedfordshire)
- Social mobility – improving picture
- Transient population and workforce (30-50% population churn)
- Over crowded – density higher than many London Boroughs
- Over a quarter of households can be classed as living in poverty (59<sup>th</sup> most deprived LA (out of 326)
- Unemployment rate is 1.8% (lower than national (1.9%))
- Excellent access and infra structure – Road, rail and air
- National priority area for Prevent and Counter-Extremism

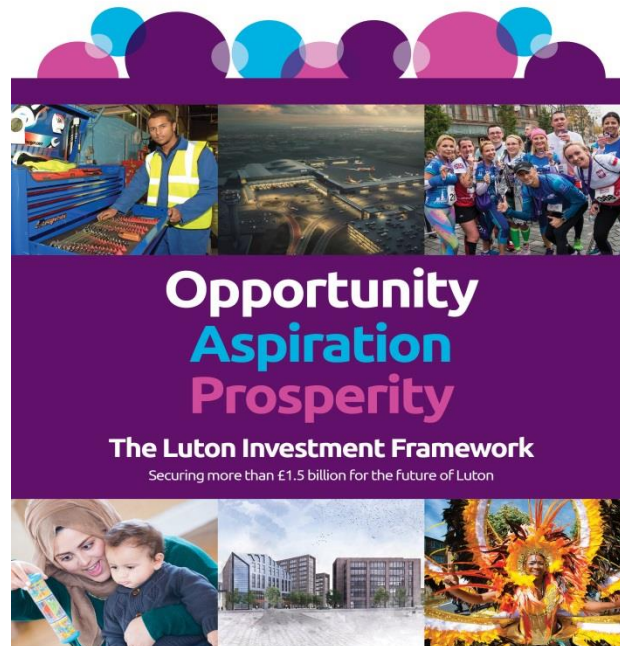
# Extremism in Luton: an enduring picture





# The Luton Investment Framework – changing the narrative

- £1.5 billion programme to transform Luton
- Building economic growth and prosperity
- Enhancing skills and education
- Improving health and wellbeing
- Developing quality homes and infrastructure
- Supporting safe, strong and cohesive communities





# Stronger communities framework

## Our Vision

**Stronger Inclusive Communities  
at the heart of Luton's Investment Framework**

## Our Values

**Equality  
Opportunity**

**Cohesion  
Aspiration**

**Inclusion  
Prosperity**

## Our Message

**“Many Voices, One Town”**

## Our Priorities

**Promote  
and enable  
equality  
and  
cohesion**

**Involve and  
engage our  
citizens and  
communities**

**Develop civic  
pride and  
identity based  
on shared  
Luton values**

**Counter  
prejudice,  
hatred, and  
extremism  
in all its  
forms**

**Strengthen  
community  
resilience  
together  
with our  
partners**

**Safeguard  
communities  
and  
vulnerable  
individuals**

# Stronger communities in Luton

- Bringing young people together to create greater mutual understanding, respect and new skills
- Critical thinking and personal resilience
- Bringing disenfranchised communities closer to the job market - 100-200 grassroots projects and larger initiatives

Building resilience to support individuals and communities vulnerable to radicalisation

## Universal provision

## Specialist targeted provision

- Leadership
- Partnerships
- Shared values
- Communications

Luton In Harmony (civic events and community festivals)

Participatory budgeting and Member Led Engagement programme

- Peer mentoring (BSBT)
- Football for Peace (BSBT)
- Me and You
- Community Led Local Development

- Community Cohesion Contingency Planning Group
- Special Interest Group for Countering Extremism
- Community Mediation
- Venue bookings

- Luton Tigers
- Mother Circle
- Kikit Pathwayz

- Proactive
- Reactive
- Preventative
- Disruptive

LOW

Risk/vulnerabilities

HIGH

- 84% of residents get on well with people from different backgrounds

- 500 grassroots community projects supported
- £700k community investment
- Thousands of beneficiaries
- Open, transparent local democracy

- No civil unrest in Luton due to robust tension monitoring, contingency planning and partnership working
- 70 trained mediators



# Community Leadership and Participation

- Highly successful ‘Your Say, Your Way’ participatory budgeting programme - community decision days across the Town
- 500 grassroots community projects, £700K investment, many thousands of beneficiaries
- Embracing new approaches to the challenges of 21<sup>st</sup> century community leadership – long term culture change
- Councillor’s take the lead to make engagement work for local residents – digital, online and face to face
- Community led local development – bringing disenfranchised communities closer to the job market
- Using PB to generate 100 – 200 voluntary and community sector led projects and larger initiatives over 2 years
- National programmes and partnerships – ‘Building a Stronger Britain Together’ and Special Interest Group on Countering Extremism



# Cohesion in Luton: an enduring picture





# Luton in Harmony

Many voices,  
one town



Thank you to all the local people pictured above, and others who have signed the pledge to support the campaign

Find out more at [www.luton.gov.uk/harmony](http://www.luton.gov.uk/harmony)

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**Luton**



## Learning points

- Stronger communities and democratic participation in a policy continuum- a whole systems approach is essential
- Strong political leadership
- Understanding the profile of your locality and horizon scanning in a globalized context
- Effective partnership working – strong community governance arrangements and new dynamic networks
- Communications and participation – developing the narrative, dialogue and conversations that work locally
- Complex social policy area – be brave and innovate!



Thank you

Any questions?

[nicola.monk@luton.gov.uk](mailto:nicola.monk@luton.gov.uk)

[marek.lubelski@luton.gov.uk](mailto:marek.lubelski@luton.gov.uk)