

BRIDGEND COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL
REPORT TO CABINET COMMITTEE - EQUALITIES

29 SEPTEMBER 2010

**REPORT OF THE ASSISTANT CHIEF EXECUTIVE – CORPORATE
DEVELOPMENT & PARTNERSHIPS**

REPORT ON EQUALITY IMPROVEMENT FRAMEWORK

1. Purpose of report: -

- 1.1 To inform the Cabinet Equalities Committee about developments in relation to the WLGA Equality Improvement Framework.

2. Connection to Corporate Improvement Plan / Other Corporate Priority.

- 2.1 This report links with the strategic theme of strong communities and assists the Authority to meet its moral and statutory duties in respect of equality and human rights.

3. Background:-

- 3.1 In the Corporate Equality Scheme published in May 2009 the Authority made a commitment to attain *'improving authority'* status under the new *Equality Improvement Framework for Welsh Local Government* (EIF) by carrying out a self-assessment process in line with the WLGA guidance. This guidance was to follow the successful completion of developmental pilot projects being carried out by the WLGA Equalities and Social Justice Unit and three local authorities in Wales. It was linked to the implementation of the draft Local Government (Wales) Measure and the revised Wales Programme for Improvement which came into effect in Spring 2010.

4. Current situation / proposal :-

- 4.1 There has been a delay in completing the pilot projects which has impacted on the timescale for implementing the new framework by local authorities in Wales.
- 4.2 The WLGA Equalities and Social Justice Unit have advised the Authority that the framework will be up-dated following agreement with the Welsh Assembly Government with the aim to have a revised framework and guidance developed for local authorities by early November 2010. It is envisaged that the revised framework will be

more outcome focused and enable organisations to promote continuous improvement

4.3 Following this being agreed the WLGA will be developing a peer review process based on the model used in England and will be working with the Local Government Development and Improvement Agency to develop a training programme for peer reviews. The English model enables Authorities to develop 'building blocks'; this approach allows different parts of the organisation to achieve targets at different times. It is anticipated that the timescale for this will be May 2011.

4.2 These delays have impacted on the development of a meaningful self-assessment process for the Authority. Officers will continue to monitor this situation and are in contact with colleagues in the WLGA Equalities and Social Justice Unit to ensure that once the revised framework and guidance have been issued the Authority is able to respond positively.

5. Effect upon Policy Framework & Procedure Rules:-

5.1 The report has no direct effect upon the policy framework or procedure rules but does support the effective implementation of the Council's statutory duties in relation to equalities and human rights.

6. Equality Impact Assessment

6.1 No equality impact assessment has been carried out as this is an information report.

7. Financial Implications :-

7.1 There are no financial implications.

8. Recommendation: -

8.1 That the Cabinet Equalities Committee notes the information provided in this report.

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Background documents:-

The WLGA Equality Improvement Framework for Welsh Local Government.
Local Government (Wales) Measure 2009.