

BRIDGEND COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL
REPORT TO CABINET EQUALITIES COMMITTEE

10 NOVEMBER 2016

REPORT OF THE CORPORATE DIRECTOR – OPERATIONAL AND PARTNERSHIP SERVICES

ABERKENFIG MOSQUE AND BRIDGEND COUNTY BOROUGH'S MUSLIM COMMUNITY

1. Purpose of Report

The purpose of this report is to inform Cabinet Equalities Committee of the issues facing Bridgend county borough's Muslim community and to provide an overview of activities taking place at Aberkenfig Mosque.

2. Connection to Corporate Improvement Objectives/Other Corporate Priorities

2.1 The Strategic Equality Plan (SEP) 2016 - 2020 is a statutory plan impacting on the whole of the council. A strategic equality objective and associated actions within the SEP Action Plan links to fostering good relations, awareness raising and community cohesion.

2.2 This report also supports corporate priority 2 - helping people to be more self-reliant.

3. Background

3.1 Members of Cabinet Equalities Committee have previously expressed an interest in better understanding community relations in Bridgend county borough and the issues facing religious groups in the borough.

4. Current situation / proposal.

4.1 The mosque at Aberkenfig has been established for over 10 years. It has become integral to the local and wider communities as its membership includes Islam worshippers from across Bridgend. Members of Aberkenfig mosque will update Cabinet Equalities Committee on:

- The history of Islam in Bridgend county borough and the development of the mosque;
- The numbers of Islam worshippers and other groups attending the mosque;
- How the Muslim community and Bridgend County Borough Council can work together;
- The links between the mosque and local Bridgend schools and the awareness raising activities that take place and
- The support the Muslim community can give the council in resettling Syrian refugee families.

5. Effect upon Policy Framework & Procedure Rules

5.1 The report has no direct effect upon the policy framework or procedure rules.

6. Equality Impact Assessment

Whilst no Equality Impact Assessment has been carried out, this report will positively support the authority in meeting its equality duties.

7. Financial Implications.

7.1 There are no financial implications within this report.

8. Recommendation.

8.1 That Cabinet Equalities Committee receives and considers this report.

Andrew Jolley

Corporate Director – Operational and Partnership Services

Date: 26 October 2016

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Background papers: None.