

BRIDGEND COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL
REPORT TO CABINET EQUALITIES COMMITTEE
19 NOVEMBER 2018

REPORT OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVES DIRECTORATE

UPDATE REPORT ON THE MERGER OF BRIDGEND EQUALITY FORUM AND COMMUNITY COHESION GROUP (NOW BRIDGEND COMMUNITY COHESION AND EQUALITY FORUM)

1. Purpose of report

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to update Cabinet Equalities Committee on the progress to date in the merger of the Bridgend Equality Forum and the previously police-led Community Cohesion Group.

2. Connection to Corporate Improvement Objectives / Other Corporate Priority

- 2.1 The Bridgend Community Cohesion and Equality Forum links to following corporate priorities:

- **Priority 3: Smarter use of resources;** ensuring that all its resources (financial, physical, human and technological) are used as effectively and efficiently as possible and support the development of resources throughout the community that can help deliver the Council's priorities.

3. Background

- 3.1 In 2017, discussions took place between the police and BCBC on a proposed merger of the Bridgend Equality Forum and the Community Cohesion Group.
- 3.2 At this stage the Community Cohesion Group had not met for a period of time and attendance at the equality forum was also low. As attendance across both groups involved some of the same individuals or groups, it was decided to explore the merits of merging.

The aims of the merger included:

- a) Improving attendance and meaningful input / outcomes;
- b) Considering a joint approach with the Community Cohesion Group;
- c) Adding clarity to "shared responsibilities" of attendees;
- d) A further review of Bridgend Equality Forum's Terms of Reference (TOR).

- 3.3 Following the proposed merger being raised with both groups, and with both groups in agreement, an initial scoping meeting took place on 1 Feb 2018, this was attended by representatives from both groups. Logistical actions were agreed such as rotating venues and the time and frequency of meetings as well as a draft TOR and agenda. It was also agreed to do a piece of work around attendees to develop a single list of representatives.

4. Current situation / proposal

- 4.1 The first joint meeting took place on 27 April 2018. In this meeting a discussion took place around the role of the chair, vice chair, secretariat and terms of reference. In summary the following was agreed:
- Cllr Patel has taken the role of chair and Sam Gunnarson from Bridgend College has the role of vice-chair.
 - It was agreed that the role of chair should be held for a two year period.
 - BCBC currently hold the role of secretariat with a view that this rotates on an annual basis. This is due to be reviewed in April 2019.
- 4.2 The meetings are held quarterly, and since the initial meeting a further two meetings have taken place in July and October 2018.
- 4.3 The aim of each meeting is to have a main agenda item where a presentation is received that is relevant and informative to attendees. So far we have received presentations on Operation Guardian - County Lines, Hate Crime awareness and the role and work of Ethnic Youth Support Trust (EYST). All members are encouraged to propose main agenda items.
- 4.4 Each organisation in attendance is given the opportunity to update on their work and any partnership opportunities for engagement or training.
- 4.5 South Wales Police provide an update report that was previously presented to CCG. This report includes hate crime figures, use of force, figures on violence against women and girls, stop and search and complaints raised against the police and police misconduct. The role of the group is to receive this report and provide scrutiny to this report.
- 4.6 Current organisations include:
- Bridgend County Borough Council
 - South Wales Police
 - Bridgend College
 - Bridgend Coalition of Disabled people
 - The Vine Centre
 - Mental Health Matters
 - Holistic Vision
 - British Deaf Association
 - South Wales Fire and Rescue
 - Race Equality First
 - ABMU Health Board
 - Bridge Vision
 - The Stroke Association
 - Ethnic Youth Support Trust (EYST)
 - Public Service Board
 - Community Safety Partnership
 - Community Cohesion coordinator
 - Bridgend People First

All members have been encouraged to invite new attendees to the group in order to expand the scope of the group.

5. Effect upon Policy Framework & Procedure Rules

- 5.1 The report has no direct effect upon the policy framework or procedure rules but it enables us to effectively implement the council's statutory duties in relation to equalities and human rights.

6. Equality Impact Assessment

- 6.1 The report provides the committee with information that positively assists in the delivery of the authority's equality duties.

7. Financial Implications

- 7.1 There are no financial implications associated with this report.

8. Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 Assessment

- 8.1 This is an update report, therefore a Well-being of Future Generations Act (2015) assessment has not taken place in order to prepare this report.

9. Recommendation

- 9.1 That the Cabinet Equalities Committee receives and considers this report.

Darren Mepham

Chief Executive – Chief Executive's Directorate.

Date: 19 November 2018

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Background papers: None.