

BRIDGEND COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL
REPORT TO CABINET EQUALITIES COMMITTEE
21 NOVEMBER 2019

REPORT OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE

UPDATE REPORT ON THE WORK OF 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 work of the Bridgend Community Cohesion and Equality Forum

2. Connection to Corporate Improvement Objectives / Other Corporate Priorities

- 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 Bridgend County Borough Council on a proposed merger of the Bridgend Equality Forum and the Community Cohesion Group. The first meeting of the Bridgend Community Cohesion and Equality Forum (BCCEF) took place on 27 April 2018. Since then the group has met quarterly.
- 3.2 This is the second report presented to Cabinet Equalities Committee on the progress and the work of BCCEF. The first report was presented in November 2018.
- 3.3 The meeting is currently chaired by Cllr Dhanisha Patel and the BCBC Equalities Team hold the secretariat role for the meeting.

4. Current situation

- 4.1 The first BCCEF meeting took place on 27 April 2018.
- 4.2 The meetings are held quarterly, and since the last update report meetings have taken place in January, April July and October 2019
- 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.

In 2019 we have received presentations on:

- Promoting apprenticeships to under-represented groups including BAME, people with additional learning needs, more girls studying Science Technology Engineering and Maths (STEM) subjects
- EU Exit community tensions
- Update on accessible transport and taxis
- Update on “scores on the doors” in Bridgend
- The Cwm Taf Morganwg Health Board Strategic Equality Plan consultation
- BCBC Budget Consultation 2019

All members are encouraged to propose main agenda items for each meeting.

- 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 Community Cohesion Group. 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 New organisations/representatives that have joined the forum in 2019 include:
- BAVO;
 - Cwm Taf Substance misuse services;
 - Citizens Advice Bureau;
 - Show Racism the Red Card ;
 - Bridgend Neath Port Talbot Community Cohesion coordinator.

All members continue 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 The well-being goals identified in the Act were considered in the preparation of this report. It is considered that there will be no significant or unacceptable impacts upon the achievement of well-being goals/objectives as a result of this report.

9. Recommendation

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

Mark Shephard

Chief Executive – Chief Executive’s Directorate.

Date: 21 November 2019

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Background papers:

- Update Report on the Merger of Bridgend Equality Forum and Community Cohesion Group (Now Bridgend Community Cohesion And Equality Forum) November 2019