

**BRIDGEND COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL**  
**REPORT TO CABINET COMMITTEE EQUALITIES**

**7 OCTOBER 2020**

**REPORT OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE**

**USE OF THE NAME PICTON IN STREET NAMES AND BUILDINGS THROUGHOUT  
BRIDGEND COUNTY BOROUGH – UPDATE REPORT**

**1. Purpose of report**

The purpose of this report is to provide Cabinet Committee Equalities with information on the use of the name Picton in street names and buildings across Bridgend County Borough.

**2. Connection to corporate well-being objectives / other corporate priorities**

2.1 The Strategic Equality Plan sets out our objectives to comply with the Equality Act 2012 and the Public Sector Equality Duty general duties:

- Eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation;
- Advance equality of opportunity and;
- Foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.

2.2 This report assists in the achievement of the following corporate well-being objective/objectives under the **Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015**:

1. **Supporting a successful sustainable economy** – taking steps to make the county borough a great place to do business, for people to live, work, study and visit, and to ensure that our schools are focussed on raising the skills, qualifications and ambitions for all people in the county borough.
2. **Helping people and communities to be more healthy and resilient** - taking steps to reduce or prevent people from becoming vulnerable or dependent on the Council and its services. Supporting individuals and communities to build resilience, and enable them to develop solutions to have active, healthy and independent lives.
3. **Smarter use of resources** – ensure that all resources (financial, physical, ecological, human and technological) are used as effectively and efficiently as possible and support the creation of resources throughout the community that can help to deliver the Council's well-being objectives.

**3. Background**

3.1 The Equality Act introduced a General Duty for public bodies to:

- Eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation;
- Advance equality of opportunity and;
- Foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.

3.2 The Equality Act also introduced specific duties which include:

- Setting Equality Objectives and publishing a Strategic Equality Plan;
- Ensuring it engages with people who have an interest in how the Council's decisions affect them and;
- Carrying out Equality Impact Assessments and publishing the results if there is a substantial impact on the Council's identified.

3.3 An initial report was presented to Cabinet Committee Equalities on 24 August 2020, which recommended that further research be undertaken by a local historian. The report also recommended that Cabinet Committee Equalities await the outcome of the Welsh Government audit of Wales' historic monuments and statues, and the names of streets and public buildings before further consideration is given to action needed within the county borough.

3.4 This report outlines progress made since the last report.

#### 4. Current situation / proposal.

##### 4.1 Streets named 'Picton' in Bridgend County Borough

###### **Bridgend:**

<b>Street name</b>	<b>Number of properties</b>
Picton Gardens	61
Picton Avenue	9
Picton Close	9

###### **Porthcawl:**

<b>Street name</b>	<b>Number of properties</b>
Picton Avenue	48
Middleton Court, Picton Avenue	60

###### **Kenfig Hill:**

<b>Street name</b>	<b>Number of properties</b>
Picton Street	39

###### **Nantyllyn:**

<b>Street name</b>	<b>Number of properties</b>
Picton Place	18
Picton Street	116

4.2 We are currently working with the following organisations to establish capabilities to carry out further research:

- The Royal Commission
- Glamorgan Archives
- Two independent historians

4.3 Welsh Government have commissioned an audit of Wales' historic monuments and statues, and the names of streets and public buildings, and identify those sites and names that are associated with the history of black communities in Wales, and in particular the slave trade.

Two meetings have been held and the group aim to present the audit and accompanying narrative report to the First Minister by the end of October 2020. This report will be used to inform a second stage of the project that will identify appropriate responses to the information gathered by the audit. Welsh Government will appoint a task and finish group to carry out the second stage of this work.

4.4 Carmarthenshire County Borough Council have published a Public Memorials Consultation. The survey asks for views and comments, in particular on the monument to General Thomas Picton in Carmarthen Town.

The survey asks (extracted from survey):

**Do you think Carmarthenshire County Council (and key partners) need to take any steps in response to the recent public discussion about the Sir Thomas Picton monument?**

If respondents answer Yes, they are then asked 'What steps do you think should be taken?'

If respondents answer No, they are then asked 'What comments do you wish us to consider?'

The consultation period is 21 August to 30 September 2020.

## **5. Effect upon policy framework and procedure rules**

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

## **6. Equality Impact Assessment**

6.1 This is an information report to Cabinet Committee Equalities therefore an Equality Impact Assessment is not required at this stage. Further consideration may be given following the outcome of the Welsh Government audit of Wales' historic monuments and statues, and the names of streets and public buildings.

## **7. Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 implications**

- 7.1 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. Further consideration may be given following the outcome of the Welsh Government audit of Wales' historic monuments and statues, and the names of streets and public buildings.

## **8. Financial implications**

- 8.1 There would be significant financial implications for the local authority and residents associated with changing street names which would include changes to street signage, legal fees and consultation costs. The exact costs would be unknown until the extent of any changes are determined.

## **9. Recommendation**

- 9.1 That Cabinet considers the update report and awaits research from a local historian and the outcome of the Welsh Government audit before further consideration be given to actions that may need to be taken within Bridgend County Borough.

**Mark Shephard**

**Chief Executive**

**Date: 7 October 2020**

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### **Background papers:**

Use of the name Picton in street names and buildings throughout Bridgend County Borough – 24 August 2020