

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

**8 NOVEMBER 2021**

**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 Committee Equalities on the work of the Bridgend Community Cohesion and Equality Forum.

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

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

- **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 In 2017, discussions took place between the police and Bridgend County Borough Council (BCBC) 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 fourth report presented to Cabinet Committee Equalities on the progress and the work of BCCEF. Previous reports were presented in November 2018, November 2019 and December 2020.

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/proposal**

4.1 The meetings of the BCCEF are held quarterly and since the last update report meetings have taken place in December 2020, March, June and September 2021. Due to the impact of Covid-19 all of these meetings have taken place via Microsoft Teams.

4.2 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 the last four meetings presentations were received on:

- Working on well-being
- BCBC Fit for the Future - consultation
- Dangos
- BAVO – Black Asian and Minority Ethnic outreach work
- Hate Crime
- Domestic Abuse services
- All Wales Race Equality Action Plan – consultation
- BCBC Replacement Local Development Plan - consultation
- People First Bridgend Projects
- BCBC Shaping Bridgend's Future Budget - consultation

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

- 4.3 At every meeting each organisation in attendance is given the opportunity to provide an update on their work and any partnership opportunities for engagement or training.
- 4.4 South Wales Police provide an update report that was previously presented to the 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 BCCEF is to receive this report and provide scrutiny to this report.
- 4.5 All members continue to invite new attendees to the group in order to expand the scope of the group.

## **5. Effect upon policy framework and 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 Act 2010 implications**

- 6.1 The protected characteristics identified within the Equality Act, Socio-economic Duty and the impact on the use of the Welsh language have been considered in the preparation of this report. As a public body in Wales, the Council must consider the impact of strategic decisions, such as the development or the review of policies, strategies, services and functions. This is an information report, therefore it is not necessary to carry out an Equality Impact assessment in the production of this report. It is considered that there will be no significant or unacceptable equality impacts as a result of this report.

## **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. The following is a summary to show how the five ways of working to achieve the well-being goals have been used to formulate the recommendations within this report:

**Long-term** - The consideration and approval of this report will assist in supporting equalities objectives in the short-term and in the long term.

**Prevention** – BCCEF aims to identify issues that are relevant in our community or workforce and aims to prevent problems disproportionate impact to any protected characteristic groups, on socio-economic disadvantage or on the Welsh Language.

**Integration** – BCCEF supports all the well-being objectives and ensures integration for all people with protected characteristics.

**Collaboration** – BCCEF is a collaborative meeting with interested bodies across the county borough.

**Involvement** - Publication of the report ensures that the public and stakeholders can review the work that has been undertaken.

## **8. Financial implications**

8.1 There are no financial implications associated with this report.

## **9. Recommendation**

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

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**8 November 2021**

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**Background papers:**

None