

BRIDGEND COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL
REPORT TO CABINET EQUALITIES COMMITTEE

14 JULY 2016

REPORT OF THE CORPORATE DIRECTOR – OPERATIONAL AND PARTNERSHIP SERVICES

COMMUNITY RELATIONS IN BRIDGEND COUNTY BOROUGH

1. Purpose of Report

The purpose of this report is to inform Cabinet Equalities Committee of current intelligence surrounding community relations within Bridgend County Borough.

2. Connection to Corporate Improvement Objectives/Other Corporate Priorities

2.1 The Strategic Equality Plan (SEP) 2016 - 2020 is a statutory plan that impacts on the whole of the council. The SEP outlines equality objectives that are linked to fostering good relations, awareness raising and community cohesion.

2.2 This report also supports the following corporate priorities:

- Priority 2: Helping people to be more self-reliant
- Priority 3: Smarter use of resources

3. Background

3.1 Members of the Cabinet Equalities Committee previously expressed an interest in having a better understanding of community relations in Bridgend County Borough and whether there is evidence of any community tensions in the county borough

4. Current situation / proposal.

4.1 South Wales Police has a Hate Crime Officer covering Bridgend County Borough and the Vale of Glamorgan. The Hate Crime Officer will provide members with:

- a definition of community tensions and an explanation of what this means;
- the reasons why community tensions need to be monitored in our area;
- the types of incidents, events and occurrences that can impact community dynamics;
- an overview of community cohesion in Oldham;
- a practical hypothetical example and
- examples of the current tensions in Bridgend County Borough.

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: 24 June 2016

Contact Officers:

Sarah Kingsbury

Head of Human Resources and Organisational Development

Email: Sarah.kingsbury@bridgend.gov.uk

Telephone: 643212

Paul Williams

Equality Officer

Email: Paul.williams2@bridgend.gov.uk

Telephone: 643606

Background papers: None.