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**Race Equality Taskforce – progress update**

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**Purpose of the Report**

1. To brief the Committee on the work and progress of the Race Equality Taskforce in addressing racial inequality and racial injustice in Cardiff.

**Structure of the Papers**

2. Attached to this Scrutiny cover report for Members preparation are:

**Appendix A** – Presentation to Committee

**Appendix B** – Race Equality Taskforce Update, including:

**App 1** – Terms of Reference of the Taskforce

**App 2** – Presentation of evidence to inaugural Taskforce meeting

**App 3** – Work stream proposal template

**Appendix C** – Cabinet report establishing the Race Equality Taskforce

**Appendix D (i) & (ii)** – Correspondence between the Covid-19 Panel and the Leader of the Council in relation to the Race Equality Taskforce

**Background & Context**

3. Over the summer of 2020 tragic events brought to the fore the historic and current challenges that Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic (BAME) communities face in achieving racial equality. In response the Leader of the Council committed to establishing a taskforce that would work to advance racial equality in Cardiff.

6. In July 2020 the Covid-19 Scrutiny Panel undertook pre-decision time critical scrutiny of the Leader's proposal to establish a Race Equality Taskforce for Cardiff prior to a report to Cabinet on 16 July 2020. (**Appendix C**)
7. Following the scrutiny, commenting on governance of the Taskforce going forward, the Panel wrote to the Leader recommending that the Policy Review and Performance Scrutiny Committee be afforded an insight into the Taskforce's activities and requested that representatives attend Committee once Terms of Reference and plans were in place.
8. In his response the Leader welcomed the future insight of the Policy Review and Performance Scrutiny Committee in supporting the Taskforce's effectiveness and suggested an update would be valuable once the Taskforce had set the direction for what it wanted to achieve.
9. The correspondence can be found at **Appendix D** and therefore this scrutiny follows up on the Covid-19 Scrutiny Panel request in a timely manner.

## **Progress**

10. Members are referred to the suite of papers attached at **Appendix B** (supported by **Appendices 1-3**) for a full account of the creation, development and activities of the Race Equality Taskforce to date.
11. The briefing includes the full Terms of Reference of the Taskforce (**Appendix 1**), the public appointment process for membership, public consultation undertaken on setting Taskforce priorities, evidence presented to the inaugural meeting (**Appendix 2**) regarding race equality in Cardiff, including data on themes such as population, deprivation, employment by ethnic group, employment and gender by ethnic group, education, housing and health.
12. The progress report clarifies that the Taskforce will meet quarterly and, to advance its work, will create work streams whose membership will include representation from Taskforce members with particular expertise in the relevant field, Council officers and other stakeholders from across the public, private and voluntary sector as appropriate for each theme.
13. Prior to the Taskforce meeting next on 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2021 each work stream will undertake an initial scoping exercise prioritising research to investigate and propose evidence-led short, medium and long term actions (**Appendix 3**).

## **Way Forward**

14. Members will receive a presentation on progress to date as attached at **Appendix A**. In attendance to answer Members questions will be the Chair of the Taskforce, Councillor Saeed Ebrahim, Head of Performance and Partnerships, Gareth Newell, and Operational Manager with responsibility for Cohesion and Community Engagement, Sian Sanders.

## **Legal Implications**

15. The Scrutiny Committee is empowered to enquire, consider, review and recommend but not to make policy decisions. As the recommendations in this report are to consider and review matters there are no direct legal implications. However, legal implications may arise if and when the matters under review are implemented with or without any modifications. Any report with recommendations for decision that goes to Cabinet/Council will set out any legal implications arising from those recommendations. All decisions taken by or on behalf the Council must (a) be within the legal powers of the Council; (b) comply with any procedural requirement imposed by law; (c) be within the powers of the body or person exercising powers of behalf of the Council; (d) be undertaken in accordance with the procedural requirements imposed by the Council e.g. Scrutiny Procedure Rules; (e) be fully and properly informed; (f) be properly motivated; (g) be taken having regard to the Council's fiduciary duty to its taxpayers; and (h) be reasonable and proper in all the circumstances.

## **Financial Implications**

16. The Scrutiny Committee is empowered to enquire, consider, review and recommend but not to make policy decisions. As the recommendations in this report are to consider and review matters there are no direct financial implications at this stage in relation to any of the work programme. However, financial implications may arise if and when the matters under review are implemented with or without modifications. Any report with recommendations for decision that goes to Cabinet/ Council will set out any financial implications arising from those recommendations.

## **RECOMMENDATION**

The Committee is recommended to:

- I. consider the progress report on the Race Equality Taskforce; and
- II. relay any concerns, observations and recommendations to the Chair of the Taskforce in correspondence.

**DAVINA FIORE**

**Director of Governance & Legal Services**

**14 January 2021**