

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY BOARD

6th August 2020

IDENTIFYING AND ADDRESSING RACIAL DISPARITIES TASK GROUP

Relevant Portfolio Holder	Councillor Geoff Denaro
Portfolio Holder Consulted	Yes
Relevant Head of Service for Overview and Scrutiny	Claire Felton – Head of Legal, Equalities and Democratic Services
Wards Affected	All
Ward Councillor Consulted	All Ward Councillors were invited to join the Task Group
Non-Key Decision	

1. SUMMARY OF PROPOSALS

- 1.1 At the previous meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Board held on 6th July 2020, the Identifying and Addressing Racial Disparities Task Group was established, with Councillor P. McDonald being appointed as Chairman.
- 1.2 As agreed Members (with the exception of Members of the Cabinet) were contacted, requesting that anyone who had an interest in becoming a Member of the Task Group contact the relevant officer within a set timescale.
- 1.3 Group Leaders were also informed of the establishment of the new Task Group.
- 1.4 Eight Councillors have shown an interest in joining the Task Group; Councillors M. Glass, A. Kriss, A. Beaumont, H. Jones, H. rone-Clarke, J Till, C. Spencer and J. King. The Overview and Scrutiny Board Inquiry/Task Group Guidelines (approved by the Board at its meeting held on 1st March 2011) recommend that task groups must be at least 4 but no more than 7 Members (including the Chairman). It is at the Board's discretion as to whether the eight Councillors who have shown interest in the Task Group are appointed Members.
- 1.5 It should be noted that with effect from 1st April 2016 and in line with the Members' Allowances Scheme, the Chairman of a Task Group is paid a special allowance of £1,331 pro rata for the length of a Task Group, upon completion of the work. A special allowance is no longer paid to Task Group Members.
- 1.6 Members are requested to consider in detail the terms of reference (see Appendix 1 'Possible Key Objectives') in order to ensure the Board is clear as to what they expect the Task Group to achieve. The Board can make amendments to the terms of reference if it wishes. Please note that the Task Group members, at the first meeting, will also be given the

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opportunity to discuss the terms of reference. However, should they wish to make any significant changes, these would need to be approved by the Board.

- 1.7 Members are reminded that when setting a timescale for a Task Group, it is usually expected that a Task Group will conclude its investigations within four to six months from the date of the first Task Group meeting. However, the Board can decide that certain topics require more time to ensure complex issues are properly scrutinised.
- 1.8 It is vital that appropriate officer support is provided to help ensure an effective investigation is undertaken leading to strong recommendations. Taking this into consideration, it is suggested that the Task Group commences its investigation as soon as officer support is available

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

2.1 Members are requested to:

- (a) **consider and agree the terms of reference of the Identifying and Addressing Racial Disparities Task Group (see attached Overview and Scrutiny Exercise Scoping Checklist at Appendix 2);**
- (b) **consider and agree the membership of the Task Group;**
- (c) **decide upon the length of time the Task Group will have to carry out its investigations (Task Groups are normally expected to conclude their investigations within six months from the date of the first meeting); and**
- (d) **request the Task Group to commence its investigation as soon as possible.**

3. KEY ISSUES

Financial Implications

- 3.1 There are no financial implications directly relating to this report.

Legal Implications

- 3.2 There are no legal implications directly relating to this report.

Service/Operation Implications

- 3.3 None for the purpose of this report.

Customer / Equalities and Diversity Implications

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3.4 There are no implications directly relating to customer/equality and diversity within this report.

4. RISK MANAGEMENT

4.1 None for the purpose of this report.

5. APPENDICES

Appendix 1 – Identifying and Addressing Racial Disparities Task Group Topic Proposal

Appendix 2 - Overview and Scrutiny Exercise Scoping Checklist

6. BACKGROUND PAPERS

None

7. KEY

None

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