

ADULTS AND COMMUNITIES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE	AGENDA ITEM No. 11
17 November 2020	PUBLIC REPORT

Report of:	Adrian Chapman, Service Director Communities and Partnerships	
Cabinet Member(s) responsible:	Cllr Irene Walsh, Cabinet Member for Communities	
Contact Officer(s):	Adrian Chapman, Service Director: Communities and Partnerships	Tel. 07920 160441

PROPOSAL FOR TASK AND FINISH GROUP TO EXAMINE ISSUES EXPERIENCED BY BAME COMMUNITIES IN ACCESSING COUNCIL SERVICES

RECOMMENDATIONS	
FROM: Adrian Chapman, Service Director Communities and Partnerships	Deadline date: n/a
<p>It is recommended that the Adults and Communities Scrutiny Committee</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Agree to the formation of a time-limited cross-party scrutiny task and finish group 2. Agree the Terms of Reference for the proposed task and finish group 3. Agree that the outcomes of the task and finish group should be presented back to the Committee at the relevant meeting 4. Makes any initial nominations from the scrutiny committee members to join the task and finish group 5. Consider and agree to the merging of this task and finish group with the similar group being proposed to progress the details of the motion presented by Cllr Walsh 	

1. ORIGIN OF REPORT

1.1 At the Full Council meeting of 21 October 2020, a motion presented by Cllr Walsh was agreed requesting the formation of a task and finish group to examine issues experienced by Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic (BAME) communities in accessing council services.

2. PURPOSE AND REASON FOR REPORT

2.1 This report sets out the proposed detail for the task and finish group agreed at Full Council on 21 October, to examine barriers experienced by BAME communities in accessing council services.

2.2 This report is for Adults and Communities Scrutiny Committee to consider under its Terms of Reference No. Part 3, Section 4 – Overview & Scrutiny functions, paragraph No 2 Functions determine by the Council

1. Equalities

3. TIMESCALES

Is this a Major Policy Item/Statutory Plan?	NO	If yes, date for Cabinet meeting	N/A
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4. BACKGROUND AND KEY ISSUES

4.1 At the Full Council meeting on 21 October, a motion presented by Cllr Walsh was agreed in which it was noted that:

- Peterborough City Council Members, Officers and Staff have worked proactively, over many years, with all of our communities to develop a clear understanding of their unique characteristics and to ensure they are able to access services and information in ways that make most sense to them, and to provide opportunities to learn, develop, achieve and celebrate their heritages in our city.
- Over the years, many areas across the UK have drawn on our experience and expertise. We have been recognised as leaders in this field by many different organisations, including the Government (such as our status as one of just five Integration Areas), national faith leaders, and Oxford University (as one of six cities originally chosen to form part of the Inclusive Cities network).
- Peterborough City Council is therefore concerned by the findings of recent reports which suggest ways in which certain groups are at greater risk of exclusion and harm than others.
- The recent Public Health England report, 'Disparities in Risks and Outcomes of COVID-19' (PHE) describes increased mortality rates amongst older people, men, those in certain professions and people living in more deprived areas. Perhaps most notable though, the report also describes increased mortality rates amongst Black, Asian, and Minority Ethnic communities.
- A second report, published by the Association of Directors of Adult Social Services, 'Adult Social Care: Shaping a Better Future', reflects that fundamental change is needed in this service area to address inequalities experienced by groups including BAME communities, many of whom are employed in this field of work.

4.2 Peterborough City Council is committed to ensuring all of our residents, regardless of their background, heritage or nationality, enjoy equal and meaningful access to services, support, information, and opportunities provided by it directly, or through partnerships. We recognise the opportunity we now have to reaffirm our existing commitment to ensure that our staff and residents are not excluded, disadvantaged, or abused as a result of their nationality, heritage or background.

The agreed motion stated that the council resolves to instruct the relevant scrutiny committee to form a cross-party Task and Finish group to investigate these matters with terms of reference that include:

- To develop a clear understanding of the findings of these reports as they relate to our own BAME communities, to ensure this disproportionality is not experienced in other factors that may affect the health, wellbeing and social mobility of our BAME residents
- To examine ways in which council services are accessed by, and made available to, all of our residents, to ensure that our BAME residents are not disadvantaged or prevented from accessing those services
- To examine key council service data to build an understanding of the ways in which BAME residents are impacted, positively or negatively, by council services examine the opportunities for our residents provided by the council for improving social mobility, to ensure that our BAME residents enjoy the same levels of access as others

The Adults and Communities Scrutiny Committee is therefore asked to agree to the formation of the task and finish group.

4.3

5. CONSULTATION

5.1 Not applicable

6. ANTICIPATED OUTCOMES OR IMPACT

6.1 It is anticipated that the Committee will agree to the formation of a time-limited cross-party scrutiny task and finish group. This will inform the approach the council takes to reduce barriers experienced by BAME communities or other protected characteristic groups.

7. REASON FOR THE RECOMMENDATION

7.1 The recommendations set out in this report follow agreement made at Full Council. In addition, recommendation 5 is made as there are similarities between the work of this proposed task and finish group and the group being proposed to consider the motion presented by Cllr Wiggin.

8. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED

8.1 Not applicable

9. IMPLICATIONS

Financial Implications

9.1 There are no immediate financial implications that arise as a result of this work. Any financial implications that do arise through the work of the task and finish group will be set out in the group's final report.

Legal Implications

9.2 There are no immediate legal implications that arise as a result of this work. Any legal implications that do arise through the work of the task and finish group will be set out in the group's final report.

Equalities Implications

9.3 There are no immediate equality implications that arise as a result of this work. Any legal implications that do arise through the work of the task and finish group will be set out in the group's final report.

Rural Implications

9.4 There are no immediate rural implications that arise as a result of this work. Any rural implications that do arise through the work of the task and finish group will be set out in the group's final report.

Carbon Impact Assessment

9.5 Neutral – this decision relates to the establishment of a task and finish group who will meet for a time limited period, likely virtually, and as such there are no direct carbon impacts identified.

10. BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Used to prepare this report, in accordance with the Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985

10.1 None

11. APPENDICES

11.1 Appendix 1 – Draft Terms of Reference

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