

THE VALE OF GLAMORGAN COUNCIL

COUNCIL: 26TH JULY, 2021

REFERENCE FROM CABINET: 5TH JULY, 2021

**“C625 CONSULTATION RESPONSE: WELSH GOVERNMENT’S RACE
EQUALITY ACTION PLAN FOR AN ANTI-RACIST WALES – (L/PR) (SCRUTINY –
CORPORATE PERFORMANCE AND RESOURCES) –**

The report summarised key aspects of the Welsh Government’s draft Race Equality Action Plan for an Anti-Racist Wales (REAP) and brought to the attention of the Cabinet a draft response to the consultation on the Plan (Appendix A).

The Welsh Government had issued a consultation document outlining draft proposals for a Race Equality Action Plan with many actions relevant to Local Authorities. This was informed by research, existing evidence, engagement with community leaders and stakeholders, and shaped by people’s lived experience.

The Welsh Local Government Association (WLGA) has produced a document (Appendix B to the report) highlighting where there would be work for Local Authorities.

To inform the Council’s draft response to the consultation, comments from officers across Council Services, the Ethnic Minority Staff Network and the Equalities Consultative Forum had been sought. These had been incorporated in the draft response (Appendix A to the report).

The consultation period ends on 15th July, 2021.

Councillor Gray said the report contained important messages. He had attended the Welsh Government consultation launch event and a wide array of organisations and ethnic minorities were in attendance from across Wales. They had been uniform in agreeing that that was the right message and direction and it was up to all concerned to commit to making the country anti-racist. It was important to engage and debate the issues and felt the response was comprehensive.

Councillor Burnett looked forward to the Learning and Culture Scrutiny Committee being able to give the report due consideration. She had taken the education consultation response to a meeting of the Education Cabinet Members in the Consortium and the contributions were a catalyst for discussion and hoped that the same would be the case at Scrutiny Committee.

The Leader said that similarly to Project Zero, this would be an ongoing matter for discussion.

Councillor Williams said he had attended the Ethnic Minority Group in the Vale of Glamorgan where there had been a diverse range of attendees who were positive and constructive about the need for change and was interested to hear alternative points of view being put forward.

This was a matter for Executive decision.

Cabinet, having considered the report and all the issues and implications contained therein

RESOLVED –

- (1) T H A T the content of the report and appendices be noted.
- (2) T H A T the draft consultation response as described in Appendix A to the report be approved.
- (3) T H A T the use of the Urgent Decision Procedure set out in Section 14:14 of the Council's Constitution in order to meet the deadline set by the Welsh Government of 15th July, 2021 be approved.**
- (4) T H A T any comments received from the Learning and Culture Scrutiny Committee and Equalities Champion be forwarded to Welsh Government to supplement the Council's submitted response.

Reasons for decisions

- (1) Having the opportunity to consider the Council's draft consultation response to the Welsh Government's Draft Plan.
- (2) To gain approval for the Council's consultation response.
- (3) The reporting of the use of the Urgent Decision Procedure is a requirement of the Council's Constitution.**
- (4) To enable any views of the Learning and Culture Scrutiny Committee and the Council's Equalities Champion to be submitted to Welsh Government having regard to the scheduling of the Scrutiny Committee's meeting."