

NEIGHBOURHOODS, COMMUNITIES & EQUALITIES COMMITTEE	Agenda Item 58 Brighton & Hove City Council
Subject:	Racial Harassment Forum Memorandum of Understanding
Date of Meeting:	Monday the 14th of March 2016
Report of:	The Director of Public Health
Contact Officer: Name:	Peter Castleton Tel: 29-2607
Email:	Peter.castleton@brighton-hove.gov.uk
Ward(s) affected:	All

FOR GENERAL RELEASE**1. PURPOSE OF REPORT AND POLICY CONTEXT**

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to confirm that the Racial Harassment Forum and the council will work collaboratively with BME and faith communities to address racist and religiously motivated incidents and for the council to be held to account for its performance by those communities.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS:

- 2.1 That the committee agrees the memorandum of understanding attached at Appendix 1.

3. CONTEXT/ BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 3.1 The Racial Harassment Forum was established in 1999 in response to the recommendations in the Steven Lawrence Inquiry, it is community led with statutory service involvement and support.
- 3.2 The Forum is a named partner in the Safe in the City Partnership and plays a key role in maintaining trust and confidence with BME and faith communities by fulfilling a scrutiny function in relation to statutory partners roles in addressing racist or religiously motivated crimes and incidents.
- 3.3 The Forum has previously been co-ordinated and serviced by the council Community Safety Team. The forum has recently made a decision that it wants to become a community owned and led group that will work collaboratively with the council. There are a number of benefits in doing this, one of the main drivers being increased opportunities to bid for funding.
- 3.4 The Forum is seeking reassurance that its working relationship with the council will be maintained if it stands independently. The memorandum seeks to confirm and strengthen the collaborative working arrangements between the council and the forum.

4. ANALYSIS & CONSIDERATION OF ANY ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS

- 4.1 The memorandum is considered by the forum to be the most effective way of agreeing working arrangements. The forum is not asking the council to consider any other options at this stage although as the forum develops it may consider whether it could be commissioned to undertake work in this area.

5. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT & CONSULTATION

- 5.1 The council Community Safety Team has worked closely with the Forum to agree the Memorandum of Understanding.

6. CONCLUSION

- 6.1 The Memorandum of Understanding will provide the Forum with a secure footing which will enable it to move forward confidently to provide a community led service to address racist and religiously motivated crimes and incidents alongside the council and other key partners.

7. FINANCIAL & OTHER IMPLICATIONS:

Financial Implications:

- 7.1 There are no financial implications in relation to this report.

Finance Officer Consulted:

Date:

Legal Implications:

The proposals in the memorandum of understanding will help the Council is discharging its duties under the Equalities Act 2010 and the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 as well as supporting the Councils objectives of tackling inequality and discrimination.

Lawyer Consulted: Abraham Ghebre-Ghiorghis

Date 25/02/2015

Equalities Implications:

- 7.3 The adoption of the memorandum evidences the council's commitment to address racially and a religiously motivated incidents in collaboration with BME and faith communities.

Sustainability Implications:

- 7.4 There are none to this report for information. These will continue to be considered by the Substance Misuse Programme Board.

Any Other Significant Implications:

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION

Appendices:

1. Racial Harassment Forum: Memorandum of Understanding

