

Committee: Joint Consultative Committee (JCC) with Ethnic Minorities

Date: 27 March 2019

Wards:

Subject: Membership of the JCC

Lead officer: John Dimmer, Head of Policy, Strategy and Partnerships

Lead member: Councillor Edith Macauley, Cabinet Member for Community Safety, Equalities and Engagement

Contact officer: Evereth Willis, Equality and Community Cohesion Officer

Recommendations:

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1. That Members of the JCC note and comment on the contents of the report.
 2. That Members of the JCC approve the Polish Family Association becoming a member of the JCC
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1 PURPOSE OF REPORT AND EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1. To discuss the membership of the JCC and approve the Polish Family Association to become a member organisation.

2 DETAILS

- 2.1. The JCC is a constituted council committee that provides a platform for Ethnic Minority organisations to make recommendations on strategic policy issues relating to their respective communities (see appendix 1).
- 2.2. The JCC meets quarterly and is currently chaired by Councillor Edith Macauley MBE. In recent years there has been a steady decline in the number of member organisations attending the meeting.
- 2.3. Concern has been expressed by community representatives and councillors in attendance at the meetings that efforts need to be made to increase the attendance levels of member organisations.
- 2.4. In November 2018 Councillor Macauley wrote to member organisations urging the representatives to attend meetings more regularly or send a deputy (see appendix 2). Additionally some of the councillors on the committee have actively been encouraging community representatives to attend the meeting.
- 2.5. Evereth Willis has also added organisations to the email distribution list and has tried to encourage community representatives who she comes across in her day-to-day work to attend the meeting.
- 2.6. The Polish Family Association has worked in the borough for many years and in the past a representative of the organisation attended the JCC

meetings. However, the association is not officially a member of the JCC but would like to be included in the membership.

- 2.7. The Polish Family Association works in partnership with the council and other voluntary organisations to support members of the Polish and Eastern European communities. In recognition of the vital work the organisation does to support minority communities in the borough it is recommended that the JCC approves the membership of the Polish Family Association.
- 2.8. Consideration should also be given as to the approach to adopt to recruit more member organisations.

3 ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS

The committee could continue as it is without approving new organisations to its membership, but this may result in the attendance levels continuing to decline.

4 CONSULTATION UNDERTAKEN OR PROPOSED

- 4.1. None proposed other than the discussion at the JCC meeting.

5 TIMETABLE

- 5.1. None.

6 FINANCIAL, RESOURCE AND PROPERTY IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1. The management of the JCC meeting is undertaken within existing resources.

7 LEGAL AND STATUTORY IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1. On 6 April 2011 the Equality Act 2010 introduced the Public Sector Equality Duty (PSED) which requires the Local Authority, when exercising its functions, to have due regard to the need to eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation and to advance equality of opportunity and foster good relations between persons who share a “protected characteristic” and those who do not. “Protected characteristics” are age, disability, gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex and sexual orientation.
- 7.2. Adding the Polish Family Association to the JCC membership contributes to the council delivering the Equality Duty.

8 HUMAN RIGHTS, EQUALITIES AND COMMUNITY COHESION IMPLICATIONS

- 8.1. Adding the Polish Family Association to the JCC membership will ensure that the communities the organisation serves will have an input into strategic issues that affect them.

9 CRIME AND DISORDER IMPLICATIONS

- 9.1. None.

10 RISK MANAGEMENT AND HEALTH AND SAFETY IMPLICATIONS

- 10.1. None

11 APPENDICES – THE FOLLOWING DOCUMENTS ARE TO BE PUBLISHED WITH THIS REPORT AND FORM PART OF THE REPORT

- Appendix 1 - Constitution
- Appendix 1 – Letter sent to member organisations
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12 BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 12.1. None

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