

ANTI-RACISM MOTION –PPF COMMITTEE MEETING ON 6 JUNE 2024

Purpose

Recommendation for Council to consider a motion to adopt an Anti-Racism Action Plan (the Action Plan) and the inclusion of Council representation on the working group being established by Pembrokeshire County Council (PCC) (the Working Group), which will be dedicated to monitoring and addressing issues related to racism in our community, and providing updates to Council (through the Town Council's representative).

Recommendation for Council to allocate some budget to use towards council engagement on a quarterly basis in the region of £300 per quarter (£1,200 per annum).

Background

The Anti-Racism Wales Action Plan aims to make Wales an Anti-Racist nation by year 2030, with the purpose to collectively make a significant change to the lives of Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic People.

Racism is when someone treats another person differently or unfairly because of their background, culture, or religious beliefs or how they live. Being anti-racist is not just about being not racist, it means doing something about racism and standing against it. It means changing our laws, policies, practices and the way we work across services, so people are treated fairly and their lives are better.

The Town Council is called upon to recognise the importance of foster an inclusive and anti-racist community (as part of what will be a much wider initiative as other town and community councils adopt the Action Plan) that values diversity in all respects and promotes equality. Recent events locally have highlighted the need for proactive measures to address racism and to ensure that our community remains a welcoming and safe place for all residents of different faiths and ethnicity.

On 9 May 2024, PCC adopted the Action Plan, which followed an earlier motion submitted to their Council on 7 March 2024.

The Action Plan put forward to Council is set out below.

Council is asked to recognise that some elements of the Action Plan will not be unique to the Town Council and will have a greater probability of being achieved through collaboration with the Working Group i.e. anti-racism training, and collaboration with local organisations, community leaders, and residents to develop and implement anti-racist initiatives and programmes. This will avoid a duplication of effort as the Action Plan is gradually adopted by other towns and community councils.

The Action Plan

“Haverfordwest Town Council (the Council) reaffirms its commitment to promoting anti-racism and fostering of an inclusive environment within Haverfordwest, Pembrokeshire, and Wales.

The Council will:

- 1) actively work to eliminate racial discrimination and prejudice, both within its own operations and in the wider community.
- 2) collaborate with local organisations, community leaders, and residents to develop and implement anti-racist initiatives and programmes.
- 3) review and strengthen existing policies to ensure they are inclusive and address any systemic issues that may contribute to racial disparities.

- 4) Provide anti-racism training for staff, elected officials, and community leaders to raise awareness and promote cultural competence.
- 5) Participate, through Council member(s) representation, in a working group dedicated to monitoring and addressing issues related to racism, with regular updates provided to the Council through such Council member(s) representation.
- 6) Celebrate diversity in all respects and promote cultural awareness through events, education, and community engagement initiatives.
- 7) The Council commits to engagement with the community to listen to the experiences and concerns of residents affected by racism and to take appropriate actions to address these concerns.”

Conclusion: this motion reflects the Council’s commitment to building a more inclusive and anti-racist community. By taking these steps, Council aims to foster understanding, unity, and equality to all residents in Haverfordwest.

RECOMMENDATION

PPF to recommend the adoption of the above motion and Action Plan by Full Council and for £1,200 to be allocated from the Administration budget to a new budget sub-heading i.e. Engagement

Town Clerk
06/06/24