

NOTICE OF MOTION REGARDING ANTI-RACISM

Council	10 December 2020
Report Author	Nick Hughes, Committee Services Manager
Portfolio Holder	Councillor Whitehead, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Housing and Community Services
Status	For Decision
Classification:	<i>Unrestricted</i>
Key Decision	No
Ward:	All Wards

Executive Summary:

This Council will consider a notice of motion requiring the Council to acknowledge the mood in the community to defeat racism, and to take the steps detailed within the motion to support and further this cause.

Any motion on notice that proposes the taking of a decision where Council has not received a report from the officers setting out the technical, legal and financial implications of taking the decision in question shall only be debated.

Recommendation(s):

Council is invited to consider whether to debate the motion.

Corporate Implications

Financial and Value for Money

None arising directly from this report.

Legal

Council Procedure Rule 3.7 states that: "the Member whose name appears first on the notice will move the motion during his or her speech and call for a seconder. If seconded, a Member from the controlling political group will be entitled to a reply, after which the motion shall stand referred without further discussion to the Cabinet or appropriate committee for determination or report unless the Council decides to debate the motion in accordance with Rule 16" (*rules of debate*)

In accordance with Council Procedure Rule 3.8 iv., the motion on notice would, if adopted, constitute the exercise of an executive function, therefore the motion must be referred to the Cabinet (or relevant Cabinet portfolio holder as appropriate) for decision.

Corporate

Council Procedure Rule 3 provides the opportunity for Councillors to give advance notice of motions to be put to Council.

Equality Act 2010 & Public Sector Equality Duty

Members are reminded of the requirement, under the Public Sector Equality Duty (section 149 of the Equality Act 2010) to have due regard to the aims of the Duty at the time the decision is taken. The aims of the Duty are: (i) eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment, victimisation and other conduct prohibited by the Act, (ii) advance equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and people who do not share it, and (iii) foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and people who do not share it.

Protected characteristics: age, sex, disability, race, sexual orientation, gender reassignment, religion or belief and pregnancy & maternity. Only aim (i) of the Duty applies to Marriage & civil partnership.

There are no specific equalities issues arising from this report.

CORPORATE PRIORITIES

This report relates to the following corporate priorities: -

- *Communities*

1.0 Introduction and Background

1.1 The following motion has been received from Councillor Rawf in accordance with Council Procedure Rule No. 3:

“Thanet council notes the mood for change amongst the community to defeat racism.

In recent months Thanet has seen two peaceful, socially distanced, community led marches in support of the cause of anti-racism.

The council also notes that:

- ***Nationally there has been a surge in hate crimes since July 2016***
- ***The council understands the importance and deep reliance we have on tourism to support the health of the local economy. This council believes that our future prosperity as a tourist destination is inextricably linked with our ability to stamp out the scourge of racism. This council further believes that we have a historic opportunity to shape the area into one that is attractive to all sectors of our diverse community and the wider country.***

Thanet council resolves to:

1. ***acknowledge and support the work of local groups such as Calling Time on Racism, the People Dem Collective and Everyday Racism (We note and welcome the outreach work currently being undertaken with the aforementioned groups by officials of the council).***
2. ***build a campaign to mark a cultural shift toward businesses taking a more active role in shaping an anti-racist community calling on the experience of these local groups.***
3. ***Review our obligations under the Equality Act making explicit the working links between all the departments and functions of the council.***
4. ***Support the work of all the council's community facing functions with due regard for the council's legal obligations as stated under the General Duty of the Public Sector Equality Duty to:***
 - a. ***Eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation***
 - b. ***Advance equality of opportunity***
 - c. ***Foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not***
5. ***Create a task force/working group if none already exists to oversee implementation of this vitally important area of work. The task group will include councillors, council officers, community activists and organisations and external expertise when required."***

2.0 Options

- 2.1 To debate the motion and if adopted, refer the motion to the Cabinet (or relevant Cabinet Portfolio Holder as appropriate) for decision.
- 2.2 Not to debate the motion, in which case the motion will fall.

3.0 Decision Making Process

- 3.1 It is for Council to decide whether or not to debate the motion.
- 3.2 As adoption of the motion would require the exercise of an executive function, if adopted, the motion would need to be referred to the Cabinet (or the Relevant Cabinet Portfolio Holder as appropriate) for decision.

Contact Officer: Nick Hughes, Committee Services Manager
Reporting to: Tim Howes, Director of Corporate Governance

Annex List

There are no Annexes with this report.

Background Papers

There are no Background Papers with this report.

Corporate Consultation

Finance: Chris Blundell, Head of Financial Services

Legal: Tim Howes, Director of Corporate Governance & Monitoring Officer