

**Watford Borough Council Overview and Scrutiny Committee
Scrutiny Task Group Scope and Terms of Reference**

Scrutiny review title	Watford's Black, Asian, and Minority Ethnic (BAME) community
Scrutiny proposer	Overview and Scrutiny Committee, Councillors Favour Ezeifedi and Asif Khan
Details of specific area for review	<p>Early in the COVID 19 pandemic, it became clear that the virus has disproportionately impacted BAME communities with certain communities hit particularly hard. The Public Health England review of June 2020 concludes that the unequal impacts of COVID 19 may be explained by social and economic inequalities.</p> <p>The Black Lives Matter (BLM) movement of recent months has also focussed on the experiences of the Black community across the globe and the history of its struggles, including the legacy of slavery and oppression.</p> <p>It is recognised that the BAME communities have specific areas of concern, including, but not limited to, the factors which appear to have led to worse health outcomes during the pandemic and the memorialisation of aspects of history which do not reflect Watford's values or the community we aspire to be.</p> <p>It is proposed to investigate the issues that matter to members of our BAME communities and work with them to develop recommendations that will take these issues forward.</p> <p>One of the issues, agreed by Full Council on 14 July, is the authority's policy for naming its streets. It is suggested that the task group reviews several street names.</p>
Which council priorities it supports	The scrutiny suggestion supports the council's priority to celebrate and support our local communities.
Desired outcomes / indicators of success	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An understanding of the local BAME communities. • An overview of the issues which concern residents who belong to BAME communities in particular. • The development of recommendations which enable these issues to be taken forward by relevant groups, authorities or services. • Recommendations for any changes to the council's equalities statement and policy. • Recommendations for any changes to the street naming policy. • Suggestions on any changes to the council's street naming policy and process for altering current street names.

Timescale and key dates	<p>24 Sept: Task Group outline, membership and chair to O&S</p> <p>Oct: Preparation with Chair to agree witnesses, draw up and arrange a schedule of meetings and meeting formats. Send out and publicise survey.</p> <p>Nov: Establish evidence base on the issues raised in the surveys</p> <p>Dec: Meetings with witnesses</p> <p>04 Feb: Final report and recommendations to O&S</p> <p>01 Mar: Final report and recommendations to Cabinet</p>
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10 September 2020