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Cabinet Member for Policing and Equalities

26<sup>th</sup> July 2018

**Name of Cabinet Member:**

Cabinet Member for Policing and Equalities – Councillor A Khan

**Director Approving Submission of the report:**

Deputy Chief Executive (People)

**Ward(s) affected:**

None

**Title:**

*Report of the Cabinet Member for Policing and Equalities – Disability Equality Advisory Panel (DEAP)*

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**Is this a key decision?** No

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**Executive Summary:**

Disability Equality Advisory Panel (DEAP) is appointed at the Annual meeting of the Council with Terms of Reference. The panel meets three times a year and representatives of various groups and invited by the chair to attend. DEAP is not open to the public.

As a working proactive panel the DEAP has always been well attended by invited members. Councillor Christine Thomas has been Chair for two years. Each year the panel has been reassessed to ensure that new people are invited that represent a diverse cross section of Coventry residents, Charities/Voluntary Organisations and service users who meet to work together as an effective, proactive, working panel. The panel deals with different issues at every meeting as well as providing updated information on ongoing issues.

**Recommendations:**

The Cabinet Member for Policing and Equalities is requested to:

1. Following the successful format, approve the continuation of the Disability Equality Advisory Panel (DEAP) for a further 3 years from July 2018 to July 2021 to act as a formal advisory panel to the Cabinet Member with responsibility for equalities.
2. Accept and note the DEAP work and achievements as set out in the Report over the last 3 year

**List of Appendices included:**

*Terms of Reference*

**Background papers:**

*None*

**Other useful documents**

*None*

**Has it been or will it be considered by Scrutiny?**

*No*

**Has it been or will it be considered by any other Council Committee, Advisory Panel or other body?**

*No*

**Will this report go to Council?**

*No*

## **Report title: Continuation of the Disability Equality Advisory Panel**

### **1. Context (or background)**

#### **1.1. DEAP Chair's update - Councillor Christine Thomas**

- 1.1.1. As Chair of the Disabled Equality Action Partnership (DEAP) I have been very encouraged by the way that this panel has raised and in certain circumstances been able to support community initiatives in relation to equality issues brought to the panel by members. One example was that a panel member raised the issue of pavement parking with regard to the difficulties it caused him and others due to his sight loss. The panel discussed the issue which was then picked up by the students of Hereward College who then took it forward with support from officers, myself and Cabinet Member for Equalities Councillor Abdul Khan. The students of Hereward College have now developed and launched a pavement parking initiative with a campaign highlighting the problems all people with disability have due to thoughtless pavement parking. This and other initiatives undertaken by the panel confirms, to a high degree, the best value of this panel.
- 1.1.2. DEAP has also supported and publicised the 'near miss' survey of cyclists, skateboarders and mobility scooter users having had near misses with pedestrians as part of the Public Space Protection Order (PSPO)
- 1.1.3. Over the past year the DEAP has worked very effectively as a conduit for information and discussion about Coventry City Council's aspirations for the City. Members have been consulted on the masterplan of the redevelopment of the train station, bus services, and taxis and more recently Coventry City South redevelopment.
- 1.1.4. As a working, proactive panel the DEAP has always been well attended by its invited members. As Chair, I have been in place now for two years. Each year the panel has been reassessed to ensure that new people are invited that represent a diverse cross section of Coventry Residents, Charities and Service Users who meet to work together as an effective, proactive, working panel. The panel deals with different issues at every meeting as well as providing updated information on on-going issues
- 1.2. The Disabled Equality Advisory Panel has been in place since 2007 (although the Disabled People's advisory group to the council existed for some years before this). The advisory panel has advised the Cabinet Member with overall responsibility for equalities. The approval for this group was granted up until April 2018.
- 1.3. The Disabled Equality Advisory Panel agreed to protocols for the new panel to strengthen its membership each year. The aim of the panel is to improve services, enable, empower, involve and educate various community organisation's representing persons with disability who would otherwise struggle to put across their views thereby improving the quality of people life for people from the particular "communities of interest" they represent.

### **2. Options and Recommended Proposal:**

#### **2.1. Cease the DEAP Panel.**

The first option would be to cease the DEAP Panel. This is not the recommended option.

#### **2.2. Continue the DEAP Panel**

The second option would be to continue with the DEAP Panel. The reasons why this is the recommended option are set out below:

### **2.2.1. Purpose of the Group and what it achieves:**

- To inform and assist the Cabinet Member with responsibilities for equality in improving access for disabled people to Council services and employment opportunities.
- To identify issues that are significant in order to meet the needs and aspirations of disabled people.
- To provide feedback to the Cabinet Member with responsibilities for equality on key developments and policy proposals
- To harness the skills, knowledge and abilities of panel members to strengthen working together to identify and resolve issues.
- To provide a conduit for collating and disseminating key messages to disabled people
- To ensure young disabled people and other disability forums are working collaboratively with the panel
- To identify key areas where services and partner agencies could deliver improvements
- Representatives from different groups input into the panel
- Officers are able to utilise this group for input and feedback in service delivery e.g. Shared spaces

### **3. Results of consultation undertaken**

None

### **4. Timetable for implementing this decision**

- 4.1.** Three year extension starting June 2018 and ending in June 2021. The Disability Equality Advisory Panel will meet at least three times a year. The expected outcomes are improved communication and services for disabled people.

### **5. Comments from Director of Finances and Corporate Services**

#### **5.1. Financial implications**

There are no additional financial implications arising from the report

#### **5.2. Legal implications**

Under section 149 of the Equality Act 2010 the Council must in the exercise of its functions, eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation and advance equality of opportunity and foster good relations between those who have and do not have a protected characteristic. Disability is a protected characteristic under the Act.

## **6. Other implications**

### **6.1. How will this contribute to the Council Plan ([www.coventry.gov.uk/councilplan/](http://www.coventry.gov.uk/councilplan/))?**

Improving the quality of life for Coventry people – helping to maintain their independence and supporting them when they need help. A diverse cross section of Coventry residents, charities and service users to meet, to work together as an effective, proactive, working panel with the aim of improving the quality of life of disabled persons living in Coventry.

### **6.2. How is risk being managed?**

No implications

### **6.3. What is the impact on the organisation?**

The Panel will provide an opportunity to discuss issues relating to disabled people. Officers have the opportunity to present information and receive authentic feedback from the group.

### **6.4. Equalities / ECA**

Disability is one of the listed protected characteristic within the Equality Act 2010.

### **6.5. Implications for (or impact on) the environment**

No implications

### **6.6. Implications for partner organisations?**

The aim of the panel is to improve services, enable, empower, involve and educate various community organisation's representing persons with disability who would otherwise struggle have their voices heard thereby improving the quality of life for people from the particular "communities of interest" they represent

**Report author(s):**

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