

## **THE BUDGET ADVISORY GROUP FOR EQUALITY** **TERMS OF REFERENCE AND MEMBERSHIP<sup>1</sup>**

### **1. BACKGROUND**

1.1 The primary purpose of this group is to assist the Welsh Government with its commitment to embed equality into the budgetary process. The Budget Advisory Group for Equality will be accountable to the Minister for Finance and Leader of the House.

1.2 The name of the group will be the Welsh Government Budget Advisory Group for Equality (BAGE).

1.4 The Minister for Finance and Leader of the House is committed to improving the equality evidence base and analysis to improve the equality impact assessment and equality considerations in future budgets. The BAGE will report to the Finance Minister and Leader of the House.

1.5 The BAGE will not only consider evidence and impact on protected characteristics as detailed in the Equality Act 2010; it will also consider the evidence and impact of public spending on different socio-economic groups. The Welsh Government is committed to taking this broader approach to better understand the nature of inequality and to ensure alignment with the Welsh Government's Tackling Poverty Action Plan.

### **2. THE REMIT FOR THE BUDGET ADVISORY GROUP FOR EQUALITY**

2.1 The remit of the Budget Advisory Group for Equality is:

- to provide advice and support to improve equality considerations for successive budgets;
- to help to map and improve the equalities and socio-economic evidence base in order to inform future budgetary equality and socio-economic considerations (both in partnership and in separation);
- to assist in the analysis of equality evidence and strengthen the understanding of inequalities in Wales in order to improve Welsh Government's future Equality Impact Assessment of its Budget;

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<sup>1</sup> The Terms of Reference were agreed by the BAGE on 15 July. They have not yet been amended to reflect changes in the membership or format of the group. For example, the BAGE is now jointly chaired by the Minister for Finance and Government Business and Minister for Communities and Tackling Poverty. The BAGE has also agreed to meet on a quarterly basis. The BAGE is due to discuss the Terms of Reference at its next meeting in January.

- to contribute to increasing the commitment and awareness of mainstreaming equality and poverty considerations in future budgets across the Welsh Government and wider Welsh public sector; and,
- to assist in the continued review required in order to ensure the Equality Impact Assessment of the Budget remains a live, representational document, accurately reflecting the impacts of the Welsh Government spending decisions.

### **3. MEMBERSHIP**

3.1 Membership of the BAGE will include: -

- Minister for Finance and Leader of the House
- Amelia John, Head of Equality, Diversity and Inclusion division, Welsh Government
- Jonathan Price, Chief Economist, Welsh Government
- Jo Salway, Head of Strategic Budgeting, WG
- Bethan Bateman, Head of Child Poverty Unit, WG
- Caroline Joll, Economist, Cardiff University
- Representative from WEN Wales
- Helen Wilkinson, WCVA
- Andrew White (Stonewall), WCVA Coalition
- Martyn Jones (AGE Cymru), WCVA Coalition
- Paula Walters, NHS Centre for Equality and Human Rights
- Naomi Alleyne, Director for Equality & Social Justice, WLGA
- Julie Cook, Wales TUC
- Aliya Mohammed (Race Equality First), Ministerial Advisory Forum for Race
- Rhian Davies (Disability Wales), Ministerial Advisory Forum for Disability

**As required:**

- Kate Bennett, EHRC National Director for Wales

**Secretariat:**

- Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Division

### **4. WORKING ARRANGEMENTS**

4.1 The group will be accountable and report to the Minister for Finance and Leader of the House. The Minister of Finance and Leader of the House will attend at least one meeting of the group during the year.

4.2 The dialogue between the Budget Advisory Group for Equality, Welsh Government's Strategic Budgeting team and Equality, Diversity and Inclusion

will assist in the development of the group and contribute to the continuous improvement agenda.

4.3 The group members will be reviewed annually.

4.4 There will be at least two meetings of the group each year.