

Terms of reference for task committee

International Gentofte

What is a task committee?

A task committee is a political working procedure passed by the city council (§17, subsection 4 committee) where citizens and politicians co-operate on different subjects. The task committees produce recommendations for policies and strategies related to subjects prioritized by the city council.

1. Background and purposes

International perspectives are present in many areas of life in Gentofte. We are part of the world, and the world is a part of Gentofte.

Internationally founded visions are in focus when for instance kindergartens, schools and high schools prepare our children and youth for a life in an international and complex world via language lessons, social insight and cultural exchange. And every year, when schools and families play hosts to children from Greenland, in order to strengthen their possibilities for better education. It applies to the companies in our municipality as well, who employ a diversity of international workers and co-operate across borders. Also, our cultural and leisure lives have many strong international contacts. And naturally they play a big part in our work with United Nations' 17 World Goals, which engages citizens and organizations, as well as companies and the municipality itself. Internally in the Gentofte Kommune organization, international knowledge and experiences are important to the way we develop our central service areas.

In Gentofte Kommune, we have gained valuable experiences from creating welfare in cooperation with our citizens, whether it be long-term strategies and directions, or more hands-on solutions that can be implemented right away. The city council sees a big potential in bringing international perspectives more effectively into the development of Gentofte Kommune. Among other things, this can be realized by having the 9,000 foreign citizens in the municipality bring their perspectives into play, and that the Danish citizens in the municipality share their international knowledge and experiences as well.

By establishing the task committee International Gentofte, the city council wishes to investigate how international perspectives can contribute further to new angles and new solutions in our lives – both “hands-on”, and from a higher strategic view. Basically, it is important to make it more attractive for foreign citizens and international companies to take active part in our local community.

2. The tasks of the committee

As a baseline for the committee's work, a survey will be carried out, in order to determine how international aspects are already a part of life in Gentofte. Besides, we will examine the typical

wishes and expectations that the 9,000 foreign citizens have in relation to their stay in Gentofte. Based on these references, the task committee's job is to:

- Produce recommendations on how to integrate international aspects further in Gentofte Kommune, and thus contribute to the development of Gentofte – realized in the form of activities among citizens, local clubs and associations, institutions and local governmental work
- Investigate present barriers and possibilities when foreign citizens and the local Danish population work together in order to unfold the international perspectives further in Gentofte. And, at the same time, come up with solutions and activities that meet existing barriers and possibilities.

3. The constitution of the committee

The task committee is constituted by the city council under the finance committee, according to §17, subsection 4 in the law of municipal government.

The task committee consists of:

- 4 foreign citizens residing in Gentofte - for instance employed by a Danish company, or whose spouses are Danish or work in Denmark
- 2 Danish citizens with international experience – for instance posted in foreign countries, employed by international companies or the like
- 4 citizens with interest in or experience with cooperation across nationalities and cultures, in connection with neighbour communities, activities in clubs and associations, cultural life, company work or school and educational activities.

The city council appoints the task committee's chairman and deputy chairman.

The secretarial responsibility is coordinated by the deputy municipal director.

4. The committee's working procedure

The committee arranges its own working procedure within the terms of the general statute, the organizational regulations for Gentofte Kommune and the decisions of the city council. The chairman is responsible for the necessary relations to other task committees, especially the task committee engaged with The United Nations 17 World Goals, and the work of the standing committees.

During the committee's first meeting, a meeting schedule will be proposed.

The committee must consider how to involve citizens, experts and other necessary collaborators that are not official members of the committee.

The committee must work out suggestions as to how the citizens of Gentofte can contribute to the realization of the initiatives developed by the committee.

Furthermore, the committee must consider how technological possibilities can be utilized in the undertaking of the committee's tasks.

5. Time schedule

The task committee's work begins in the second quarter of 2019, and ends in the fourth quarter of 2019.

6. Funding

Expenses related to the committee's work are covered by the existing budget.