

Time commenced - 6.30 pm
Time Finished – 8:35 pm

MINORITY COMMUNITIES DIVERSITY FORUM 12 JULY 2007

Present: **Representing Derby City Council**
Councillor Roberts – In the Chair
Councillors Afzal, Jennings, and Webb

Representing Communities

Kamal Amier	Somalian Community
Divine Mensah	Derby African Association
Francis Ngosa	Derby African Association
Ferid Kevric	Bosnian Community
Nasreen Iqbal	Pakistani Community Centre
Shokat Lal	Pakistani Community Centre
Zbigniew Wojcik	EMAC
John Pearson	Derby Irish Association
Tony Walsh	Derby Irish Association
Farhad Neghipooran	Persian Cultural Association
Anna Gautama	Indian Community Centre
Julian Mushuku	Derbyshire Black Police Association
Lloyd Newby	Derby West Indian Community Association
Tendai Mutyambizi	Communities Point Zimbabwe Community Association
Peter Nyoni	Derby Zimbabwe Community Group
Angella Mighty	Derby West Indian Community Association
Balbir Sandhu	Indian Community Centre

Community Advisors

Kirt Mistry Derby Racial Equality Council

Council and Other Officers

Rajesh Lall - Education Officer – Children and Young People
Pam Thompson - Consultation Support Officer
Rod Wood – Assistant Director – Human Resources
Susan Sanghera – Positive Action - Human Resources
Dawn Robinson Ruane Community Safety Partnership
Andrew Auld – Head of Communications and Consultation
Sue Jacklin – Derby City Partnership
Jonathan Guest – Corporate Director – Regeneration and Community

Observers

Carol McBean
Arshia Iqbal

01/07 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Dhindsa, R Khan and Richards, Father Tim O'Sullivan, Fares Abdullah, Mohammed Sharieff, Janghir Khan, Ntalemwa Zigy, Naddifo Dehr, George Mighty, Nezrine Hudson, and Abdul Ghaffor

02/07 Late Items to be Introduced by the Chair

There were no late items.

03/07 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

04/07 Minutes of previous meetings

The minutes of the meeting held on 29 March 2007 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

05/07 Update on Actions from the Previous Meeting

An update report had been circulated on matters from the previous meeting.

Resolved to note the report

06/07 Diversity Forums Launch Feedback

The Forum considered a report on Feedback from the Launch event held on 28 June 2007. Various issues had been raised and the following actions had been undertaken:

1. The forums would agree achievable draft work programmes for the next 12 months, based on the prioritisation agreed at the launch event.
2. The Deputy Leader of the Council, Dave Roberts, would continue to chair MCDF as recognition of the complexity of the agenda facing the BME communities and in particular the emergent communities.
3. The Chief Executive, Ray Cowlshaw, or another chief officer would regularly attend MCDF.
4. Prem Chera, chair of the Disabled People's Diversity Forum (DPDF), would act as champion for disabled people in Council and try to address concerns about public realm projects.
5. Lisa Higginbottom, chair of the Gender Diversity Forum (GDF) would work with Rachel Dickinson, senior officer on this forum, to establish a clear and focused work programme for this new group.
6. Pam Thompson and Dawn Robinson-Ruane would agree links between forums and Community Cohesion Unit and make sure there are regular updates on the Community Cohesion strategy to the forums. Discussions at the forums would also feed in to the work on community cohesion.

7. Andrew Auld would explore the possibility of the forums raising questions in full Council or would identify an alternative approach for effectively influencing policy.

Resolved to note the report.

07/07 MCDF Work Programme

The Forum considered the latest work programme. Pam Thompson invited members to suggest items for inclusion in the work programme and said that she would be happy to discuss any ideas they have with them.

Resolved to note the report.

08/07 Community Item – Bosnian Community Centre

A report on the relocation of the Bosnian Community Centre had been circulated which gave details of the history of the Bosnian Community Centre, as well as activities and numbers of people using the centre.

Resolved to arrange a meeting to discuss the needs of the Bosnian and other emerging communities to try and find suitable premises.

09/07 Small Change Grant to Community and Voluntary Groups

The Forum received a report from the Director of Regeneration and Community which stated that Small Change was Derby City Partnership's small grants scheme which aimed to help community and voluntary groups in the 12 neighbourhood priority areas of Derby make changes in their local communities. The Forum welcomed the continuation of the small change grant fund as it was beneficial to groups. There was concern that some groups were not able to access the grants.

Resolved to note the 76 grant awards made through the main small change programme to community and voluntary groups, a total of £203,368.

10/07 Community Cohesion Strategy: Update of the Strategy

Dawn Robinson - Ruane gave an update on the community cohesion strategy. Concerns that communities were not getting along were not borne out at a local level. There was a great deal of co-operation and harmony which needed to be built upon. Tensions existed but they tended to be very localised. The Community Safety Partnership would take the lead in implementing the strategy. The strategy would be developed by a multi agency team which would help prevent and monitor any community tensions. The forum would have a role in this work as well as being provided with regular updates.

There was a need to assist people who fell outside the system or were trapped within it. It was suggested that Local Authorities needed to look at the issues strategically and prepare actions plans. Regular reports would be brought to the forum about progress on the strategy. Reservations were expressed by the community reps about the Community Safety Partnership taking the lead role in respect of the strategy and whether sufficient resources were available to implement it. A view was also expressed that communities needed to work together as well as looking to the Council and its partners to provide 'magic' solutions.

Resolved to receive a further update at a future meeting.

11/07 Black Employees Support Network – BESN

The annual report of the Black Employees Support Network was considered. It was suggested that Chief Officer Groups and the Assistant Director Group should receive regular updates. There was concern about the how Derby compared with other authorities in the region on the numbers of employees from minority groups.

Resolved to request statistical information at the next meeting relating to employment of people from minority groups in Derby.

12/07 New Single Equality Law: Consultation

It was reported that Ann Webster had invited people to be involved in the consultation on the New Single Equality Law.

13/07 BME Housing Strategy

Resolved to defer this item to the next meeting.

14/07 Dates of Future Meetings

A proposed schedule of meetings had been circulated.

**Resolved to approve the schedule of meetings to be held on
27 September 2007,
22 November 2007,
31 January 2008,
27 March 2008 and
12 June 2008**

15/07 Members Attendance

Information relating to Member Attendances has been circulated.

Resolved to note the attendances.

Chair of the next ensuing meeting
at which these minutes were signed