

ITEM 4

Time Commenced: 18:30

Time Finished: 20:35

MINORITY COMMUNITIES DIVERSITY FORUM 16 SEPTEMBER 2010

Present: Councillors Davis (in the Chair) and Roberts.

Representing Communities

Michael Mudzamiri	ZimDerby Community Group
Tirathpal Naute	Derby Millennium Network
Abdullah Muhammad	Community Care Group
Abdullah Shajan	Bangladesh Association
Tony Walsh	Derby Irish Association
Lloyd Newby	DWIEA
Nasreen Sabir	Hadhari Nari Project
Angella Mighty	DWICA
George Mighty	DWICA
Ann Watts	Derby Refugee Advice Centre
Ferid Kevric	Derby Bosnian-Herzegovina Community Association

Representing Derby City Council

Pam Thompson	Consultation Support Officer
Rod Wood	Director of Human Resources
Ann Webster	Equality and Diversity Manager
Rajesh Lall	Education Officer
Tariq Iqbal	Performance and Learning Advisor
Perveez Sadiq	Director of Putting People First
Catherine Martin	Transport Planning Project Officer
Jenny Lister	Transport Technician
Julian de Mowbray	Derby City Council Bereavement Service
James Beale	Temporary Housing Development Officer
Ian Chennery	Voluntary and Community Sector Partnerships Manager

In Attendance: John Gluszkowski
Mark Sobey

Derby Safeguarding Children Board

14/10 Appointment of Chair

In the absence of the Chair and Vice-Chair, Councillor Davis was appointed Chair for the meeting.

15/10 Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Jennings and Naitta, Kirit Mistry, Hazel Simpson, Nasreen Iqbal, John Pearson, Father Tim O'Sullivan, Zbigniew Wojcik and Nezrine Hudson.

16/10 Late Items to be Introduced by the Chair

There were no late items.

17/10 Minutes of meeting of 15 July 2010

The minutes of the meeting of 15 July 2010 were agreed as an accurate record, subject to:

Minute 07/10, paragraph three reading "Tirathpal Naute asked whether BME funding would be ring-fenced. Councillor Jennings responded that given the requirement on the Council to make savings, BME funding could not be ring-fenced, although this would be subject to the same value for money scrutiny as other funding areas".

Minute 07/10 paragraph four reading "Tirathpal Naute asked whether equality impact assessments would be done before cuts to funding for BME groups were decided. Councillor Jennings and Ann Webster replied that they were unsure, however Ann Webster added that the Council was aware of the Southall Black Sisters successful challenge in the courts against Ealing Council about funding cuts, equality impact assessments and breach of the Race Relations Amendment Act. She reported that the officers responsible for the community grants budget would be made aware of this too".

18/10 Updates from Previous Meeting

Voluntary and Community Sector Grant Review Actions

Ian Chennery updated the Forum on the draft terms of reference of the Voluntary and Community Sector Reference Group for Grant Review Actions. It was reported that the Reference Group would include 6 to 8 representatives from a range of voluntary and community sector organisations and Derby City Council grant funding areas, and members of the Forum were invited to join the group. It was added that the group would provide input on the draft documents and procedures for awarding grants, produced by the Compact Implementation Network. These would then be circulated to the wider community who would be invited to make amendments and suggestions before finalisation by the reference group.

Members of the Forum raised concern that the wider community would only be involved at the second stage rather than the first and that stressed that the consultation should be meaningful. It was added that whilst public sector involvement was welcomed there needed to be people active at grass routes involved in the process. Officers reported that the Reference Group would seek to recruit a range of different types of Voluntary Organisations, including large groups, smaller or grass roots organisations and special interest groups. It was noted that they opted to use a smaller group at first as this would be more practical in the detailed work of developing the first draft of the various documents required. The wider Voluntary and Community Sector would be involved at a later stage,

commenting on the second draft. The Forum enquired as to how the representatives on the Reference Group would be determined if it was over subscribed and it was reported that this decision would be taken at the Compact Forum.

Agreed:

- 1. That Abdullah Shajan would attend the Community Sector Reference Group.**
- 2. That members of the Forum would contact Ian Chennery or Pam Thompson if they wished to join the Reference Group.**

19/10 Work Programme 2010/2011

Pam Thompson reported that from the next meeting, the 2010/11 work programme would come into effect. Members were invited to give feedback on the 2009/10 work programme and suggest items for inclusion on the 2010/11 programme.

Agreed:

- 1. Members to contact Pam Thompson with any feedback on the 2009/10 work programme and suggest items for inclusion on the 2010/11 programme.**

20/10 Question and Answer Session

New Parking Restrictions on Charnwood Street

Joe Kupranec notified the Forum that a change parking restrictions on Charnwood Street, where a community centre is based, meant that parking tickets were required until 8pm rather than 6pm. He expressed concern that this would significantly affect community groups, which may have to delay meetings or pay higher charges. The Forum agreed with his concerns and it was suggested that an official objection be sent to the Parking Services department on behalf of the Forum explaining the impact that this change in restrictions would have on community groups.

Agreed:

That the Forum would send an official objection to the Head of Parking Services expressing concern at the impact the change of parking restrictions would have on community groups.

Dispute Resolution Process for Voluntary and Community Sector Grants

Officers tabled the draft dispute resolution process, which provided an example of one of the documents that would be included in the Standard Document Set being developed as part of the Grant Review Action Plan. Members of the Forum expressed concern about the draft dispute resolution process for voluntary and community sector grants and officers commented that the Forum would have the

opportunity to comment on this through the Voluntary Sector Reference Group. Tirathpal Naute raised concern at the Compact Forum being involved in the dispute procedure stating that it was not an independent body and has collaborative relationship with officers. Councillor Roberts stated that this was a sensitive issue that should be dealt with fully and properly, which included receiving paperwork in advance of the meeting. Officers clarified that the Compact Forum was a joint group with members drawn equally from the voluntary community sector and key statutory sector agencies.

Agreed:

- 1. That Voluntary and Community Sector Grants Review Actions would be placed on the Agenda of the next Forum meeting.**
- 2. Officers to circulate the Compact Agreement to the Forum with the Compact Forum Terms of Reference.**

21/10 Child Protection and Safeguarding Children in BME Communities – Part 2

The Forum received a presentation from Mark Sobey of the Derby Safeguarding Children Board. He reported that the Children's board had produced leaflets and brochures with guidance on child protection for families who did not speak English as a first language. It was also stated that a barrier to successful work was the underreporting of domestic violence and other sensitive issues and that work with the Community Safety Partnership could help in this matter. It was noted that the Children's trust was being replaced by a partnership of various agencies and that the challenge was now to identify priorities. Feedback was invited from the group on the work of the Board.

Mark Sobey was asked whether funding would still be available for interpretation services and he responded that as the Board does not deliver services itself he could not comment, however the Board had provided training on interpretation services.

The Forum noted the presentation.

22/10 Muslim Burials

The Forum received a presentation from John Gluszkowski, who shared his personal experience of the Muslim burial of a relative in 2007. He expressed disappointment at the lack of information available on Muslim burials and the state of the area of the cemetery set aside for such burials, which was slippery and dangerous. He added that workmen had said they were unable to help him with digging the grave due to health and safety reasons and that they were not made aware of the facility of a water pump. He also referred to a letter of complaint from another family with a similar experience in 2009, who had complained about the poor organisation of the event, the lack of health and safety supervision and the resultant hurt and embarrassment felt. John thanked Councillor Davis for taking up this issue with the officers in charge of the cemetery and requested that more be

done to make information and equipment available and ensure that his experience is not repeated.

Members of the Forum thanked John for sharing his experiences and Abdullah Shajan stated that the Derby Muslim Forum would consider this issue further. Julian de Mowbray of the Derby City Council Bereavement Service added that the Council deeply regretted the experiences cited and that it wanted engage with the Forum to help improve the situation.

Agreed:

- 1. To request a written report from Derby City Council on the situation regarding Muslim Burials for the next Forum meeting.**

23/10 Local Transport Plan 3

Members received a presentation from Catherine Martin and Jenny Lister on the new Local Transport Plan consultation. It was reported that the plan is a statutory document that would broken down in to 4 themes: Active Travel, Public Transport, Traffic Management and Asset Management. The Forum was invited to submit feedback on suggested priorities for the plan and a volunteer to complete an equalities impact assessment on the plan was sought.

Agreed:

- 1. Abdullah Shajan to volunteer to complete an equalities impact assessment of the plan.**
- 2. Catherine Martin to establish a sub-group of Forum members to consider the Local Transport Plan.**
- 3. Members of the Forum to contact Pam Thompson or Catherine Martin if they wish to join the sub-group.**

24/10 BME Housing Charter Review

James Beale reported that Derby City Council is conducting a review of the BME Housing Charter to analyse its effectiveness. It was reported that the review would include interviews with tenants of registered social landlords, interviews and surveys of members of the Minority Communities Diversity Forum, secondary data analysis and a policy review in the light of new Coalition Government policy. Members of the Forum felt that they needed more background information before commenting on the charter.

Agreed:

- 1. James Beale to establish a sub-group of Forum members to comment on the BME Housing Charter Review.**

- 2. Members of the Forum to contact Pam Thompson or James Beale if they wish to join the sub-group.**
- 3. James Beale to circulate the figures relating to the Performance Indicators in Appendix 1 to the Forum.**

25/10 Any Other Business

Tirathpal Naute asked whether he could have a copy of the Equalities Impact Assessment for Derby Millennium Network. Pam Thompson responded that she would make the relevant officers aware of the request.

NOTES END