

WOMEN'S ADVISORY COMMITTEE
23 MARCH 2004
Minute Extract

55/03 Exclusion of the Press and Public

Resolved to exclude the press and public from the meeting during discussion of the following item, on the grounds that it involved the likely disclosure of exempt information, as defined in paragraphs 1 and 11 of Part 1 of schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972.

Ann Webster left the meeting during consideration of the following item.

56/03 Repositioning of Policy Directorate Services

A report of the Director of Policy was considered, which stated that the Council Cabinet, at its meeting on 16 March 2004 had approved a report on mainstreaming Equalities Services within the Council and focusing work on the Community Cohesion Agenda within the Derby City Partnership. The report had been referred to this Committee for consideration and comment.

The Committee made the following comments.

Sue Preedy stated that though she would normally welcome mainstreaming in an organisation, she was concerned that this move would jeopardise losing the experience of an established team. She supported it in principle, but commented that she would not wish to see standards reduced and that the objectives of the new organisation would need to be clearly set and monitored closely. Councillor Gupta agreed with Sue's comments and stated that she would wish the Council to make sure that appropriate structures were put in place. However she welcomed the move to reinstate the 'Equalities Impact' title in the appendix of reports and subsequently greater inference on this. There was further comment that concern existed that the fracturing of equalities would take place as a result of the new proposal.

Isabella Stone – Assistant Director, Community Policy reported that the Equality Standard was a requirement that was taken very seriously by the Council, which it was working towards and was currently at Level One. This provided a performance monitored framework and would result in a robust performance management framework.

Councillor Redfern requested to know whether the staff that would be affected had been consulted. Isabella Stone and Councillor E Berry responded that the consultation period for staff had commenced on 25 February 2004 and would continue until 16 April 2004 and that staff were the first to be consulted on the new proposals. It was also reported that this report had been to the Minority Ethnic Communities Advisory Committee and would go to the

Disabled People's Advisory Committee for comment, which would be fed back with the comments of this Committee to the Council Cabinet.

Councillor Gupta requested to be sent a copy of the Equality Standard, which Isabella committed to do.

Resolved to:

- 1 report the comments of the Committee to the Council Cabinet.**
- 2 request the Director of Policy to report back to the Women's Advisory Committee after the consultation period the outcome.**

Minutes End