

A Black and Minority Ethnic Housing Strategy for Derby

This leaflet sets out how we intend to improve housing and related services for people from Black and Minority Ethnic, BME, households in Derby. It will tell you:

- why Derby needs a BME Housing Strategy
- information about BME communities living in Derby
- some information about the housing needs of BME communities
- how we will meet those needs through the Strategy's Action Plan.

Why Derby needs a BME Housing Strategy

Derby has a large and growing BME population that includes many cultures and religions. The BME population traditionally do not find it as easy to access good quality housing as the white population in Derby and it is these inequalities that we need to address. We can do this by:

- eliminating unlawful discrimination and promoting equality of opportunity and good relations between people of different groups, now enforced through the Race Relations Amendment Act 2000
- facilitating an understanding of the needs of vulnerable people from BME communities through the promotion of appropriate housing schemes as specified in the East Midlands Regional Housing Strategy
- fully exploring and addressing the specific housing needs of BME groups and the housing inequalities that exist amongst the different ethnic groups within the city.

Black and Minority Ethnic Communities in Derby

- The 2001 Census indicates that about 12.5% of Derby's population belongs to the BME community with large numbers of that community living in the Arboretum and Normanton wards.
- Derby has well established BME communities with newer ones emerging all the time. We must constantly review the needs and priorities of all of our BME communities.
- From 2001, Derby has actively participated in the Government's Asylum Seeker dispersal programme resulting in a range of new communities originating from a diverse range of countries, with very different needs and priorities.

Information about BME Housing Needs

During the first half of 2003, a comprehensive study was conducted to explore the housing needs and aspirations of BME residents in Derby. This study was based on the general Housing Needs and Market Study conducted in 2001 and focused on the needs of Pakistani, Indian and African Caribbean households. It is recognised that further research should be undertaken to look at other BME groups and their needs in the light of this report. Some of the key findings from this report are outlined here:

- 43% of BME households surveyed are in housing need compared with 20% of white households
- 34 % of BME households are identified as being overcrowded compared with 20% of white households
- 42% of BME overcrowded households have an annual income of less than £12,000 a year, compared with 25% of white households.

How we intend to meet those needs

The BME Strategy and its Action Plan set out a number of ways that we can work in partnership across the city to meet the needs of BME households. These are some of the key points:

- develop and implement a BME Housing Strategy for Derby which will be subject to constant review
- improve consultation and monitoring among BME households
- make sure that both the allocations policy and the Derby Homefinder system are not disadvantaging BME groups
- make sure that applicants from BME communities have equality of access to the housing register and that the register is representative of the BME population of Derby
- encourage and support Registered Social Landlords to improve their policies and procedures, for promoting improved racial harassment services
- develop an ongoing programme of cultural understanding and equality training for all housing staff and Tenants and Residents Associations
- investigate the emerging BME communities from the asylum seeker and refugee populations in Derby.

What we want you to do

We would like to have your views on the BME Housing strategy. We plan to hold a series of consultation events, including presentations, at local community venues during Autumn 2004. We will let you know about these events as soon as we have more details.

Please contact us if you would like more information on the strategy and consultation plans. We can use Language Line if you are not able to speak to us in English.

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When it is published, the strategy will also be available to download from our website at www.derby.gov.uk/housing/bmestategy