

# ITEM 4

Time commenced - 6.30 pm  
Time Finished – 7:55 pm

## MINORITY COMMUNITIES DIVERSITY FORUM 29 MARCH 2007

Present: **Representing Derby City Council**  
Councillor Roberts – In the Chair  
Councillors Dhamrait, Higginbottom, R Khan, Richards

**Also Present:** Councillor Turner

**Representing Communities**  
Kamal Amier – Somalian Community  
Nasreen Iqbal – Pakistani Community  
Shirley Howard-Johnson – Caribbean Community  
Ferid Kevric – Bosnian Community  
Lloyd Newby – Caribbean Community

**Community Advisors**  
Kelly Kiteng – Congolese Association  
Kirit Mistry – Derby Racial Equality Council

**Council and Other Officers**  
Stephanie Hernandez – Cultural Diversity Arts Officer  
Tony Hurrell – Derby Community Safety Partnership  
Rajesh Lall - Education Officer  
Debbie Maltby – Conservation and Built Environment Officer  
Katherine Taylor – Constitutional Services Officer  
Pam Thompson - Consultation Support Officer  
Ann Webster - Equality Standard Project Manager  
Rod Wood – Assistant Director – Human Resources

### 56/06 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Webb, Javed Ahmed, Jules Bappa, Gurmail Bolla, Farhad Neghipooran, Theresa Peltier and Balbir Sandhu.

### 57/06 Late Items to be Introduced by the Chair

The Chair introduced the following late items for consideration by the Forum:

Tony Hurrell, Derby City Partnership, attended the meeting to update the Forum on progress with the Community Cohesion Strategy. He circulated copies of the delegate pack to members of the forum and told them that the consultation conference on 20 March had been well supported. Tony said that he expected to have completed the first draft of the strategy in the next few weeks and would be brought back to a future meeting of the forum.

Stephanie Hernandez, Cultural Diversity Arts Officer, circulated a copy of the programme of Arts Events taking place in Derby to commemorate the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the abolition of the slave trade. She also informed the forum that Arts Council funding for her post would be finishing in September 2007 and listed a number of projects she would be working on before then.

Kamal Amier circulated a booklet containing stories from Derby's Somali Community to the forum.

**Resolved to note the report.**

## **58/06      Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

## **59/06      Minutes of previous meetings**

The minutes of the meeting held on 11 January 2007 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

## **60/06      Equality Standard Progress Report**

The Forum received a report of the Director of Corporate and Adult Social Services, setting out information about the Council's progress against the Equality Standard for Local Government. It was noted that work is still outstanding if the Council is to achieve Level 3 of the five levels and the report included its strengths and areas for improvement.

The auditors will visit during September 2007 to interview employees and representatives from external challenge groups. Ann asked for six volunteers from the forum to attend one of two groups and also to take part in any equality impact assessments.

**Resolved to:**

- 1. agree that Kirit Mistry, Shirley Howard-Johnson, Kamal Amier, Nasreen Iqbal, Kelly Kiteng and Ferid Kevric would attend a reference/challenge Group with the auditors for Level 3 assessment of the Equality Standard.**
- 2. accept the volunteers' offer to take part in equality impact assessments with officers.**
- 3. ask members of the forum to contact Ann Webster if they have any comments on completed equality impact assessments.**

## **61/06      A New Look at the City of Derby Local List**

The Forum considered a report of the Corporate Director for Regeneration and Community on a review of the City of Derby Local List of Buildings of Historic or Architectural Importance, which was started in January 2007 in partnership with the Conservation Area Advisory Committee and other interested parties.

Debbie Maltby explained the process by which people could submit nominations and drew the forum's attention to the criteria for inclusion on the Local List, which was attached at Appendix 2 of the report. Appendix 3 included the proposal form and Debbie told the forum that proposals could also be made via the Council's website or the 'Your City, Your Say' consultation web page.

The Chair encouraged members of the forum to nominate buildings and structures for inclusion on the Local List.

**Resolved to note the report.**

Councillor Roberts left the meeting at this point and Councillor Higginbottom took the Chair.

## **62/06 Equality Forums – Progress Report**

The Forum received a report of the Director of Corporate and Adult Social Services updating the members of the transition from Advisory Committees to Diversity Forums. Pam Thompson advised the Forum of plans to have an official launch of the Forums during the Derby City Partnership week in June 2007.

The report highlighted the guidelines for each forum, which for the MCDF included the number of representatives, encouraging gender and age balance, that no advisors would be members and a number of new organisations would be invited to become members.

Concern was raised by a number of members of the forum with regard to the changes being made, the barriers to involvement experienced by some minority community members and the commitment to the forum shown by certain members. Concern was also expressed that feedback on progress with items raised at meetings is not always given.

Pam responded that provision would be made on future agendas for an item to update members on actions from the previous meeting's minutes.

Pam advised the forum that in certain cases it is possible for forum members to get support with costs for childcare or caring for vulnerable adults in order to permit them to attend meetings. She asked members to contact her for further information after the meeting.

**Resolved to**

- 1. Receive a summary report covering the attendance in the last year at the former advisory committees be provided at the next meeting.**
- 2. ask the Consultation Support Officer to draft a satisfaction questionnaire for inclusion with the letters to be sent thanking the former advisory committee members for their support.**

## **63/06 Items for Inclusion in Diversity Matters**

The Forum were invited to include information in the 'Diversity Matters' newsletter about any forthcoming community events that would be taking place before June 2007. Pam Thompson asked for submissions to be made to her by 10 April.

**Resolved to note the request.**

## 64/06 Derby Pointer Panel Survey Results – October 2006

The Forum received a report from the Director of Corporate and Adult Social Services setting out the results of the Derby Pointer Panel.

**Resolved to note the results and that the proposed service improvements will be reported to panel members in the next 'Panel News' newsletter, which will be sent out to panel members with the May 2007 survey.**

## 65/06 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.**

MINUTES END