

Time commenced – 6.30pm
Time Finished – 8.30pm

MINORITY COMMUNITIES DIVERSITY FORUM 22 JANUARY 2009

Present: **Representing Derby City Council**
Councillor Naitta (in the Chair)
Councillor Nath
Councillor Khan

Representing Communities

Jasmin Faril – Community Safety Partnership
Hazel Simpson – Family Action
Joga Thind - ICCA
Kirit Mistry – Derby REC
George Mighty – DWICA
Nezrine Hudson – DWICA
Irka Wolociuha – Ukrainian Association
Joe Kupranec – Ukrainian Association
Lloyd Newby – DWICA
Jangir Khan – Pakistan Community Centre
Agniescka Stawecka – E-EMAC – Derby Ltd
Zbigniew Wijcik – Eastern European Migrants Advocacy Committee
Ferid Kevric – Derby Bosnian – Herzegariug County Association
Mohammed Jaqub – Pakistan C C
Tony Walsh – Derby Irish Association
Vinnie Sanghera – Derbyshire Black Police Association

Council and Other Officers

Ray Cowlshaw – Derby City Council
Tariq Iqbal – Derby City Council
Jody Shelton – Derby City Council
Pam Thompson – Derby City Council
Ann Webster – Derby City Council
Yvonne Wilkinson – Derby City Council
Rod Wood – Derby City Council

32/08 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Holmes, Shanker and Roberts, Father Tim, Shokat Lal, Rajesh Lal and John Pearson.

33/08 Election of vice-chair

Resolved to appoint Kirit Mistry as Vice Chair of the forum.

34/08 Notes of the meeting held on 13 November 2008

The notes of the meeting held on 13 November 2008 were agreed as a correct record.

35/08 Work Programme 2008/2009

The forum considered a report from Pam Thompson, Consultation Support Officer on the 2008/08 Work Programme.

The forum noted the report.

36/08 Questions and Answer session

The question that was raised by a forum member would be addressed during consideration of minute no 39/08.

37/08 Progress on the Pakistani Recruitment Project

The Forum considered a report from the Director of Resources on Progress on the Pakistani Recruitment Project. The Council's annual workforce and recruitment statistics showed reductions in people from this community securing employment and this was beginning to have a negative impact on representation. Positive action measures were needed as a priority because this community is the largest minority ethnic community according to 2001 Census and it is also one of the long established communities in Derby.

Members of the forum suggested that the Pakistani Centre be used for future workshops of the project and that members of the forum receive details of future events. It was also requested that statistics of people engaging with the project were provided to forum members.

The forum thanked Tariq Iqbal for his continued work on the recruitment project.

Resolved to note the report.

38/08 Derby Campaign Against Racism and Fascism DCARF

The Forum received an oral report from Zbigniew Wojcik on the Derby Campaign Against Racism and Fascism Conference. Members of the forum were invited to attend the conference on Saturday 21 February at the St James Centre. The campaign was launched in August t campaign on a wider basis against racism and fascism in the Derby areas.

Members noted the oral report.

39/08 Community Grants Budget

The forum received a presentation from Katy Wing, on the Grant Funding for Minority Communities. It was reported that grant funding was a partnership approach and aimed to support positive outcomes for communities. The forum were informed that Council grant funding currently supporting minority communities includes the Community Grants Budget and Adult Social Services grant funding. It was noted that around 23% of the Community Grants Budget goes to BME community groups and 56% of the funding to BME groups targets all BME Communities but the remaining 44% targets specific BME Communities. Details of how to apply for grant funding were provided to the forum.

Members of the forum raised concerns that the same community groups were accessing funding year on year. It was reported that in order to fund new priorities either additional funding needs to be found or some organisations currently funded would need to be decommissioned. It was noted that, although some organisations have received funding for a long time, this does not necessarily mean that their services are no longer needed.

Members noted that the process to apply for funding needs to be simple as community groups who were applying didn't have the correct skills to fill in complicated forms. It was explained by the officer that the application forms had recently been changed to make the process as clear as possible.

Members were informed that a review process is carried out by officers during the final year of funding to decide whether to recommend to Cabinet to continue, change or stop the funding. Members asked for the details of the groups that have been funded over recent years to be provided to forum members.

It was suggested that there should be a mechanism to support new communities who should be guided and supported into mainstream funding.

The Forum asked for details of grants to be brought to the next meeting, with a breakdown of who the recipients are; how much they are receiving and for how long; as there was a suggestion that the process should be opened up.

Resolved to note the presentation and receive feedback from the chair and Katy Wing at a future meeting of the forum.

40/08 Regeneration funds coming to Derby and the impact on BME communities

The forum agreed to defer this item to a future meeting.

41/08 Open discussion

Members of the forum requested than item on homelessness be added to current work programme to include details of the night shelter on Green Lane.

42/08 Next Forum Meeting: 12 March 2009
 Pre-meeting: 16 February 2009 – 5.15pm

The forum noted that three representatives should attend the next pre meeting.

MINUTES END