

MINORITY ETHNIC COMMUNITIES ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
18 MARCH 2004  
MINUTE EXTRACT

## 79/03 Repositioning of Policy Directorate Services

A report of the Director of Policy was considered which stated that Council Cabinet, at its meeting on 16 March 2004 had approved a report on mainstreaming equality services within the Council and focussing work on the community cohesion agenda within Derby City Partnership. The report had been referred to this committee, among others, for consideration and comment.

The Committee made the following comments. There were concerns that focus on community cohesion would dilute race related equalities work and there were reservations about community cohesion being placed with the Community Safety Partnership. There was an acceptance that there was a logic of the employment / recruitment issues being within Personnel. However, they were concerned about delivery under the Race Relations Amendment Act and progress on the racial equality standard. There needed to be a more focused consultation on service delivery issues. Shokat Lal and Mohammed Sharief were not convinced that mainstreaming specialist posts was necessarily the best way forward. There were concerns, shared by Angella Mighty that decisions had been made by Council Cabinet before the Advisory Committees had been consulted. Councillor Carr explained the reason for this which was because staff were affected by the report and consultation had to start with them before the proposals could go out to consultation.

Shokat Lal and Mohammed Sharief felt that additional resources were required rather than mainstreaming. They believed that the changes would not achieve a greater focus and preferred the existing Equalities Unit to have additional resources. They also had concern about the loss of the profile of equalities. They stated that they would put their views in writing and Councillor Burgess agreed that any views submitted would be considered by Council Cabinet. Shokat Lal and Mohammed Sharief wished to thank Muzar Syed, Head of Equalities, for the work he had done over the last 20 years.

**Resolved to report the comments of the Committee to Council Cabinet.**

