



DERBY CITY COUNCIL

MINORITY ETHNIC COMMUNITIES ADVISORY COMMITTEE
30 MARCH 2006

Report of the Director of Policy

BME Housing Strategy 2005 – 2008 Second Round Consultation Update

RECOMMENDATION

- 1.1 To comment on the progress made on the Action Plan and agree further actions based on the consultation carried out with new and emerging BME groups not consulted before

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

- 2.1 Since the launch of the BME Housing Strategy in May 2005 significant progress has been made in achieving the objectives of the Action Plan.
- 2.2 We have recently re-visited the Indian, Pakistani and West Indian Communities to give an update on the progress made so far and to identify any further areas we need to include in the Action Plan.
- 2.3 In addition we have also now completed our consultation with the new and emerging BME groups in the city through focus groups with the following communities:
 - Iraqi – Kurdish
 - Afghani
 - Somali
 - Iranian/Persian
 - Polish
- 2.4 The attached report gives a summary of the findings of the research.

2.5 In Feb/March 2006 we re-visited the Indian, Pakistani and West Indian Communities in order to give them an update on the progress made on the Action Plan. A report is attached giving details on all completed actions we have completed so far. In summary these include:

- Monitoring systems for Housing Advice services have been established to ensure all BME groups are able to access services
- Domestic Violence services are now monitored at various locations to ensure advice reaches all BME groups
- Domestic Violence literature has been translated into the seven cluster languages and distributed
- An ongoing equality and cultural understanding training programme has been developed
- We have increased energy awareness in BME communities through holding awareness events in the Norman/Peartree areas and by distributing energy advice leaflets in other languages.
- Increased benefit take-up by BME households. Meetings and presentations have taken place with a range of BME communities including refugee groups

2.6 Though we have made significant progress, the following actions remain outstanding:

- Develop a training programme for all RSL's to enable them to be up to date with the various options available to those suffering from Domestic Violence
- Promote sheltered housing amongst BME groups. At the feedback sessions in February we promoted the tour of the Rawdon Street scheme and existing Derby Homes schemes in the spring
- The allocations policy is currently under review to ensure that the policy is not disadvantaging BME Groups. This will be completed by September 2006.
- The Derby Homefinder system is also under review at the moment and will be more accessible to BME households. 100% nominations from RSL's will be operated once the new system is in place. This system should be in place by the end of the year.
- To work with the Derby Association of Community Partners to plan and host an event in by June 2006 'Tenants Against Racism'.

2.7

- Bring forward larger accommodation in areas with high levels of BME need through both our LGA Grant Programme and the ADP. Bids for funding have been submitted to the Housing Corporation and we will know by the end of March if we have been successful.

It is requested that MECAC note the attached report giving details of findings of the 2nd round consultation and give comments on the progress with the Action Plan.

2.6 **For more information contact:** John Sheil 01332 258524
List of appendices: Appendix 1 – Implications
Appendix 2 - 2nd round consultation report
Appendix 3 – Action Plan

IMPLICATIONS

Financial

- 1.1 The cost of 2nd round consultation will be met from existing budgets.

Legal

- 2.1 The Race Relations (Amendment) Act 2000 puts a legal obligation on all public authorities to promote racial equality and good race relations between different racial groups.
- 2.2 Under the general statutory duty, the Council must make sure access to information and services is provided in a way that promotes race equality.
- 2.3 The Disability Discrimination Act 1995 puts a legal obligation on service providers to make information available in a range of formats

Personnel

- 3.1 A temporary project officer has been recruited to work on the 2nd round consultation for 50% of their time up to the end of March 2006.

Equalities impact

- 4.1 To further promote equalities throughout our diverse communities.

Corporate objectives and priorities

- 5.1 The proposal comes under the Council's objectives of providing **healthy, safe and independent communities and a shared commitment to regenerating our communities.**
- 5.2 The proposal furthers the priority **working in partnership to achieve socially cohesive communities**