

ITEM 4

Time commenced - 6.30 pm
Time Finished – 8:30 pm

MINORITY ETHNIC COMMUNITIES ADVISORY COMMITTEE 12 JANUARY 2006

Present: **Representing Derby City Council**
Councillor Roberts – In the Chair
Councillor Burgess, Dhamrait, Richards and Willitts

Representing Communities
Lloyd Newby - Caribbean Community
George Mighty – Caribbean Community
Nezrine Hudson – Caribbean Community
Angella Mighty – Caribbean Community
Mohan S Manku – Indian Community
Nasreen Iqbal – Pakistani Community
Ferid Kevric – Bosnian Community
Fares Abdollah – Kurdish Community
Zigashane Zigy – Amnesty Congo Support

Community Advisors
Jarnail S Birring – Indian Community
Gurdev Singh Dhillon – Derby Race Equalities Council - REC
Tony Walsh – Derby Race Equalities Council - REC

Council Officers
Isabella Stone – Assistant Director – Community Policy
Rajesh Lall – Education Officer
Pam Thompson - Consultation Support Officer
David Romaine – Scrutiny and Complaints Manager
Pauline Campbell – Corporate Complaints Officer
Donna Norris – Corporate Recruitment Adviser
Susan Sanghera – Recruitment Officer Positive Action
Jackie Scruton – Young People's Consultation Officer
Carol Mee – Press and Public Relations Officer
David Enticott – Head of Technical Finance
Peter Price – Transport Policy Manager
Ray Cowlshaw – Chief Executive
Emma Bates – Community Development and Voluntary Sector
Support Manager
Heather Greenan – Planning and Performance Manager

54/05 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Jangir Khan, Balbir Sandu, Mohammed Sharief, Bhagat Shanker, Amier Kamal and Shirley Howard.

55/05 Late Items to be Introduced by the Chair

In accordance with Section 100(B)(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the Chair agreed to admit an item on Consultation on new primary care trust arrangements in Trent: Ensuring a patient-led NHS as the consultation would be over before the next meeting of MECAC.

Consultation on new primary care trust arrangements in Trent: Ensuring a patient-led NHS

A report of the Social Care and Health Commission was considered which gave details of the review that the Commission would be carrying out on the proposals for the reorganisation of Derbyshire Primary Care Trusts – PCTs. The report requested the Committee to nominate a member or members to give evidence to the review of the restructure of the PCTs in Derbyshire.

Resolved to nominate George Mighty to give evidence if he was available to attend.

56/05 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

57/05 Minutes of Previous Meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on 17 November 2005 were confirmed as a correct record, with the amendment that Nasreen Iqbal's apologies for the meeting be recorded.

58/05 Update on Minutes of Previous Meeting

An update report had been circulated on matters from the previous meeting.

Resolved to note the report.

59/05 Local Area Agreement

Heather Greenan, Planning and Performance Manager, gave an oral report on the Local Area Agreement. The background of the Local Area Agreement was explained. The Local Area Agreement was being refreshed and the first draft of the Agreement had been prepared. The final Agreement would be agreed in March.

A member asked what the representation in terms of Ethnic Minority Communities was across the areas. Heather Greenan replied that the Agreement was run through Derby City Partnership and that there were community representatives involved.

Resolved to note the report

60/05 Traffic on Normanton Road

George Mighty, Caribbean Community raised concerns regarding traffic problems on Normanton Road caused by a car park at the bottom of the road.

Peter Price, Transport Policy Manager replied that they were looking to improve this part of the Normanton District Centre. A new five year plan was being finalised. It agreed that Normanton Road had long be identified as a problem area for congestion, due to the small shops requiring access and parking, small measures could be looked at to see if they would help.

Resolved to asked the Director of Regeneration and Community to investigate possible measures to improve parking and traffic flow on Normanton Road and to report back to a future meeting.

61/05 Workforce Statistics – October 2005

Donna Norris, Corporate Recruitment Advisor, presented a report which detailed Derby City Council's workforce statistics for October 2005. The report covered employees in post at 1 October 2005. The data was taken from the Vision HR/Payroll system, which stored information about all Council employees. Donna Norris explained that there had been an improvement in the number of employees who had given details of ethnicity and there had been an increase in the number of Black and Minority Ethnic employees.

A member of the Committee asked whether Derby Homes was included in the statistics. Donna Norris replied that Derby Homes was an arms length organisation so was not included in the statistics.

A member of the Committee commented that there was no breakdown by Black and Ethnic Minority group for both promotions and leavers. Donna Norris agreed to bring this information to a future meeting.

Resolved:

- 1. to note the report**
- 2. to receive further information on the breakdown by Black and Minority Ethnic groups for both promotions and leavers at a future meeting.**

62/05 Forward Plan

Resolved to notify Pam Thompson of any items from the Forward Plan that Committee Members would like to see on a future work programme.

63/05 Recruitment Statistics April 2004 to March 2005

Donna Norris, Corporate Recruitment Advisor and Susan Sanghera, Recruitment Officer Positive Action, presented a report on recruitment statistics for April 2004 – March 2005. The report gave information about recruitment to the Council's vacancies that were advertised between April 2004 and March 2005. The report detailed the number of applications received from visible minority ethnic groups and reported that advertising and positive action initiatives were working to attract a good number of applicants from minority ethnic people.

Resolved to note the report

64/05 Equality Grants to Voluntary Groups Review

Emma Bates, Community Development and Voluntary Sector Support Manager presented a report on the equality grants to voluntary groups review. It was reported that the Council set aside £3,500 each year to assist voluntary organisations to promote equality of opportunity. Grants up to £500 were available for initiatives aimed at promoting good race relations and equality of opportunity for minority ethnic communities as well as other sectors of the community which faced discrimination. It was reported that the funding landscape in Derby had changed meaning there was now various other small pots of funding which could also be used by groups for removing barriers. The report recommended that the grant become focussed again on the original criteria which was to help voluntary and community groups implement equality within their organisation and to help remove barriers.

Tony Walsh commented that he felt that the grants had been necessary at the time, but the reason had gone as there were now a number of other funds available, so he felt the grant should be got rid of in its current form and that a more strategic view should be taken.

Councillor Burgess commented that there had been some excellent things supported recently by the grants and that he would like to see flexibility to allow citizens to use the grant as well as groups.

George Mighty commented that he had requested previously for the pot to be increased as its current size meant not much could be done with it.

Nasreen Iqbal commented that she still saw and experienced barriers, so there was still work to be done. She asked whether any monitoring of results took place to ensure the funding was being used appropriately.

Resolved to note the comments of the Committee and to feed the comments back into the review.

65/05 Feedback on Corporate Complaints Procedure

David Romaine, Scrutiny Complaints Manager, and Pauline Campbell, Corporate Complaints Officer presented a report regarding the Corporate Complaints Procedure. It was intended to revise the Corporate Complaints Procedure and the Committee was asked to indicate any amendments and improvements that members considered should be incorporated in the new procedure.

Resolved to notify David Romaine of any comments Committee Members had on the Corporate Complaints Procedure.

66/05 Derby's Young People's Website

Jackie Scruton, Young People's Consultation Officer gave an oral report on Derby's Young People's Website and Youth Forum Derby. It was reported that the Derby's Young People's Website was being launched in February. The website included moderated discussion forums and the hope was to involve as many minority groups as possible. It was reported that the Youth Forum had been going for five years and was a steering group of youngsters, however many were leaving to go to university or were reaching the age where they had to leave so new representatives were being looked for.

Resolved to note the report

67/05 Council Budget 2006/07 to 2008/09

Resolved to defer consideration of this item to a special meeting, to be arranged.

68/05 MECAC Newsletter

The Committee was asked to consider items for inclusion in the next MECAC newsletter.

69/05 Forced Marriage Consultation – the Community Safety Partnership

The Committee was provided with the response by the Community Safety Partnership to the consultation on Forced Marriage which included comments from the Committee.

70/05 Derby Consultation Events on Forced Marriage “A Wrong Not A Right”

The Committee was provided with information on Derby Consultation Events on Forced Marriage “A Wrong not A Right”.

71/05 MECAC Work Programme

The Committee considered MECAC's latest work programme.

Resolved to note the report.

Chair of the next ensuing meeting
at which these minutes were signed