



DERBY CITY COUNCIL

## MINORITY COMMUNITIES DIVERSITY FORUM 29 MARCH 2007

Report of the Director of Corporate and Adult Social Services

### Equality Forums - progress report

#### RECOMMENDATION

- 1.1 To note the report.
- 1.2 To make suggestions on items to be included in the work programme.
- 1.3 To consider arrangements of a formal launch of the Forums in June 2007.

#### SUPPORTING INFORMATION

- 2.1 In January 2007, the Council agreed the working protocols for each of the Diversity Forums. The proposals included:
  - Improved representation from the diverse communities – membership will change
  - Increased involvement and consultation
  - Introduction of quality assurance
  - Providing new more flexible ways for the new Forums to operate
  - Reviewing the operation of the Forums after one year.
- 2.2 The Forums have been operating in a transition stage. Following Council approval, there needs to be a formal closure of the Advisory Committees and an official launch of the new Forums. This formal closing and opening will mark the change in membership and herald new ways of working. Recruitment of the new membership will take a little while but will be mainly in place by the next round of meetings in June.
- 2.3 The Champion of each Forum will write to all the Advisory Committee members to formally thank them for their support over the years. The Champions will also write to all organisations represented on the new Forums to officially welcome them to the Forum and invite them to formally notify the Council of their named representative.
- 2.4 There will be an official launch of the Forums possibly to coincide with the June meetings and Derby City Partnership week – 25 June -1 July 2007.
3. **New membership**

- 3.1 Organisations represented on the new Forums will need to decide on the process they will use to identify their representative. However, the review process agreed the following guidelines.
- 3.2 Disabled People's Diversity Forum:
- Representatives of organisations of disabled people
  - New organisations to include representatives of people with mental health and people with learning difficulties.
- 3.3 Gender Diversity Forum:
- Representatives from organisations for women, men and transgender
  - No individual representatives.
- 3.4 Minority Communities Diversity Forum:
- The number of representatives are to be in accordance to the size of the community
  - To encourage gender and age balance with no less than 2 representatives for each organisation
  - No advisors
  - New organisations will be invited to become members.
4. We are also consulting with the Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual communities through Derbyshire Friend, Arc and Derby Community Network cluster group.

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<b>Background papers:</b>	None

**IMPLICATIONS****Financial**

- 1.1 The costs of administering the Forums are being met from existing budgets.

**Legal**

- 2.1 The Disability Discrimination Act 2005 requires the Council as a public authority to promote disability equality. The Council when carrying out its functions must have due regard to the need to eliminate discrimination, and promote equal opportunities. The Council also has a legal duty to encourage participation of Disabled people in public life.
- 2.2 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.
- 2.3 The Equality Bill will introduce a gender equality duty for all public authorities. From April 2007, when the duty is likely to come into force, all public bodies will be legally bound to eliminate sex discrimination and promote gender equality.
- 2.4 The Local Government Act 1999 requires the Council to consult its citizens on its general direction and on issues relating to specific services. The Council must also show how the results have been used to improve services.

**Personnel**

- 3.1 The Consultation Support Team will continue to co-ordinate the work of the Forums.

**Equalities impact**

- 4.1 The work of the Forum will be equality impact assessed regularly to make sure what does not work well is addressed.

**Corporate priorities**

- 5.1 The work of the Forum has the potential of covering all Council activities and priorities...
  - improve the quality of life in derby's neighbourhoods
  - encourage lifelong learning and achievement
  - build health and independent communities
  - deliver excellent services, performance and value for money.