



DERBY CITY COUNCIL

MINORITY ETHNIC COMMUNITIES ADVISORY COMMITTEE 7 September 2006

Report of the Director of Corporate and Adult Social Services

Update on proposals to change the three Equality Advisory Committees

RECOMMENDATION

- 1.1 To note the progress on the proposals to change the Advisory Committees into Equality Forums.
- 1.2 To nominate members of this Advisory Committee and representatives of the extended membership, to form a sub group to agree the new protocols for the Minority Ethnic Communities Equality Forum.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

- 2.1 The three Advisory Committees have been under review since September 2005 and two focus groups and a Members' seminar were held to help shape the current proposals for change.
- 2.2 The proposals to change the three Advisory Committees to three Equality Forums were agreed by Council Cabinet on 1 August 2006.
- 2.3 The next stage is for the proposals to go to Council on 13 September 2006. The changes to the Advisory Committees will take immediate effect, if approved by Council.
- 2.4 To create a smooth change over from Committees to Forums, there is an additional proposal for an interim process, where we will work with working groups to agree the new protocols.
- 2.5 The working groups are to be established from members of the current Advisory Committees and representatives of the extended membership to prepare the new guidelines for the Equality Forums.
- 2.6 The new Equality Forums will continue to carry out the work programmes of the Advisory Committees, and offer advice on reports presented until the new protocols have been approved in January 2007.
- 2.7 It is proposed that the Champions will be appointed at full Council on 13 September so they can lead the new Equality Forums straight away.
- 2.8 A review of the proposed changes will be carried out a year after implementation.

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Background papers: Notes of consultation
List of appendices: Appendix 1 – Implications

IMPLICATIONS

Financial

- 1.1 The costs of administering the Forums will continue to be provided by Constitutional Services.

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 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.
- 2.3 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 manage the Forums.

Equalities impact

- 4.1 The proposals outlined in this report will benefit the three equality target groups in the city in the way we consult with them.
- 4.2 The proposed changes will make sure that the Forums are as representative of their target group as much as possible.

Corporate priorities

- 5.1 The proposal has the potential of coming under all the Council's current priorities to
 - improve the quality of life in Derby's neighbourhoods
 - encourage lifelong learning and achievement
 - build healthy and independent communities
 - deliver excellent services, performance and value for money.