

Time commenced - 6.30 pm  
Time Finished – 8:21 pm

## MINORITY ETHNIC COMMUNITIES ADVISORY COMMITTEE 17 NOVEMBER 2005

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

**Representing Communities**  
Fares Abdollah – Kurdish Community  
Kamal Amier - Somalian Community  
Farhad Neghipooran – Persian Cultural Association  
J Maurice Bappa – Derby African Association  
Lloyd Newby - Caribbean Community  
George Mighty – Caribbean Community  
Shokat Lal – Pakistani Community  
Zigashane Zigy – Amnesty Congo Support

**Community Advisors**  
Tony Walsh – Derby Race Equalities Council - REC  
Shirley Howard - Caribbean Community  
Bhagat Shanker – Indian Community

**Council Officers**  
Rajesh Lall – Education Officer  
Sue Glithero - Director of Policy  
Pam Thompson - Consultation Support Officer  
Mark Edwards – Corporate Training and Development Adviser  
Mohammed Jakhara – Project Manager, Social Services  
Hazel Lymbery – Children’s Planning and Commissioning  
Manager  
John Sheil – Housing Strategy Officer

**Also present**  
Anna Gautamo – Hindu Temple

### 40/05 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Willitts, Angela Mighty, Nezrine Hudson and Kelly Kiteng.

### 41/05 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 the Local Area Agreement from Tony Walsh as the Local Area Agreement consultation would be underway before the next meeting of MECAC.

Tony Walsh asked for a report about the Local Area Agreement giving details on what it is about to be brought to the next meeting of MECAC in January.

**Resolved to receive a report on the Local Area Agreement at the next meeting.**

#### 42/05      Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

#### 43/05      Minutes of Previous Meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on 8 September 2005 were confirmed as a correct record, with the amendment that Mr Manku's apologies for the meeting be recorded.

#### 44/05      Update on Minutes of Previous Meeting

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

**Resolved to note the report.**

#### 45/05      Connexions

Geoff Bright, Equal Opportunities and Diversity Manager at Connexions Derbyshire gave a presentation detailing the services the Connexions team provided to Black and Minority Ethnic Communities.

**Resolved to note the report.**

#### 46/05      Positive Action Update - Training

A report of the Director of Policy was considered which have an update on Positive Action Update – Training. The report gave information on the training courses that had been held for job seekers on interview skills and also detailed positive steps regarding the BME Management Development Programme.

**Resolved to note the report and receive further updates at future meetings.**

#### 47/05      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.**

## 48/05      Review of Children in Need Services to Children and Families from Black and Minority Ethnic Communities

A report on the review of Children in Need services to children and families from black and minority ethnic communities was considered which have details on the review which started in January 2005 and is aimed to accurately map levels of service provision to members of all communities and make recommendations for any development needs identified.

**Resolved to note the report.**

## 49/05      A Vision for Ageing

A report of the Director of Policy was considered on a Vision for Ageing. The Vision for Ageing was the overarching partnership strategy for older people in Derby. The report set out the next steps proposed for developing a Vision for Ageing in Derby, In the context of the proposal to establish an Older People's Strategic Planning Partnership for Derby within Derby City Partnership's City of Opportunity.

**Resolved to note the report.**

## 50/05      Home Office Consultation on Forced Marriage

A report of the Director of Policy was considered which gave details of the Home Office Consultation on Forced Marriage. The Consultation was asking whether or not forced marriage should be made a specific criminal offence. MECAC was asked if they would like to respond to the consultation.

**Resolved to respond to the consultation saying that the Committee felt that it would not accept forced marriages but that it recognises different cultures and this must be carefully considered as a very sensitive issue.**

## 51/05      Black and Minority Ethnic Housing Strategy 2005 – 2008 Second Round Consultation

A report of the Director of Policy was considered which gave details of the second round consultation on the Black and Minority Ethnic Housing Strategy 2005 – 2008.

A member commented that there were gaps in the communities being consulted such as the Bangladeshi Community and the Western Central African Communities. Another member asked whether the new asylum seekers expected in Derby in January would be fed in. John Sheil, replied that he was aware of the new asylum seeker expected and there would be the mechanisms in place to look into it. There would be specific focus groups.

**Resolved to note the report.**

## **52/05 MECAC Newsletter**

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

A member gave details of Somalian Education Welfare Foundation who had been receiving Heritage Lottery Funding for over a year. It was a good story that showed what newer communities were setting up and running themselves.

## **53/05 MECAC Work Programme**

The Committee considered MECAC's latest work programme. Pam Thompson reported that the Advisory Committees were currently undergoing a review and some of the members of the committee may be contacted to go on to a focus group.

**Resolved to note the report.**

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