

Committee: Joint Consultative Committee with Ethnic Minority Organisations

Date: 27 January 2010

Agenda item: 7

Wards: All

Subject: Refresh of Merton's Black and Minority Ethnic Strategic Plan

Lead officer: Kate Martyn, Head of Policy, Partnerships and Communities

Lead Partner: Merton Unity Network (on behalf of Merton's BME Forum)

Lead member: Councillor Henry Nelles, Cabinet Member for Community Safety and Engagement

Forward Plan reference number:N/A

Contact officer: Evereth Willis(evereth.willis@merton.gov.uk)

Recommendations:

That the Joint Consultative Committee with Ethnic Minority Organisations:

- A. Notes progress to date in respect of the refresh of Merton's Black and Minority Ethnic (BME) Strategic Plan (2010 -2013).
 - B. Considers the issues, presented to date, and agrees key priority issues and thematic themes for inclusion within, and further development of, the Plan.
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1 PURPOSE OF REPORT AND EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1. To consult the Joint Consultative Committee with Ethnic Minority Organisations; giving the Committee the opportunity to participate in the development of the refresh of the BME Strategic Plan 2010-13.

2 DETAILS

- 2.1 This is the second report to the Joint Consultative Committee (JCC) on Merton's BME Strategic Plan (2010-2013). The first report was considered by the JCC at its meeting on the 21 October 2009, from which followed a series of consultation events and individual interviews held with partners from the voluntary, statutory and private sectors.
- 2.2 Consultation is still in progress and the Plan's development is on schedule for completion by the end of April 2010. In the interim, the first draft of the refreshed Plan will be produced by 17 February 2010 for consideration by the BME Forum and JCC members and a Seminar will be held with all stakeholders on Friday, 26th February 2010.

3 ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS

3.1 Not Applicable

4 CONSULTATION UNDERTAKEN OR PROPOSED

4.1. In developing the refreshed BME Strategic Plan, the Forum will involve and consult with a number of community, faith and equality groups and statutory agencies and the private sector.

5 TIMETABLE

5.1

JCC with Ethnic Minority Organisations	21 Oct 2009, 27 Jan 2010
Consultation period [includes Seminar with all stakeholders on 26 February 2010].	October – May 2010
BME Forum & JCC – Ethnic Minority Orgs. – Draft refreshed BME Plan	April 2010
Final Draft Plan	May 2010
Adopted by BME Forum	June 2010
Launch of Plan (submission to JCC)	July 2010

6 FINANCIAL, RESOURCE AND PROPERTY IMPLICATIONS

6.1 The Council's financial constraints may impact on the development of the refresh of the BME Strategic Plan.

7 LEGAL AND STATUTORY IMPLICATIONS

7.1. The BMES tragic Plan will contribute to the Council meeting its legal obligations relating to equalities legislation.

8 HUMAN RIGHTS, EQUALITIES AND COMMUNITY COHESION IMPLICATIONS

8.1. The BME Strategic Plan contributes to the Council meeting its statutory duties set out in the Corporate Equality Scheme and the proposed requirements of the Equality Bill.

9 CRIME AND DISORDER IMPLICATIONS

9.1. None

10 RISK MANAGEMENT AND HEALTH AND SAFETY IMPLICATIONS

10.1. There is a risk to the Council's reputation if it fails to support the Plan.

11 APPENDICES – THE FOLLOWING DOCUMENTS ARE TO BE PUBLISHED WITH THIS REPORT AND FORM PART OF THE REPORT

11.1 Presentation on the Refresh of the BME Strategic Plan – outlining the issues

12 BACKGROUND PAPERS

12.1 Merton's BME Strategic Plan 2006-2009 (summary)

http://www.mertonunitynetwork.org.uk/events_files/finalsummary.pdf

13 CONTACTS

- **REPORT AUTHOR**

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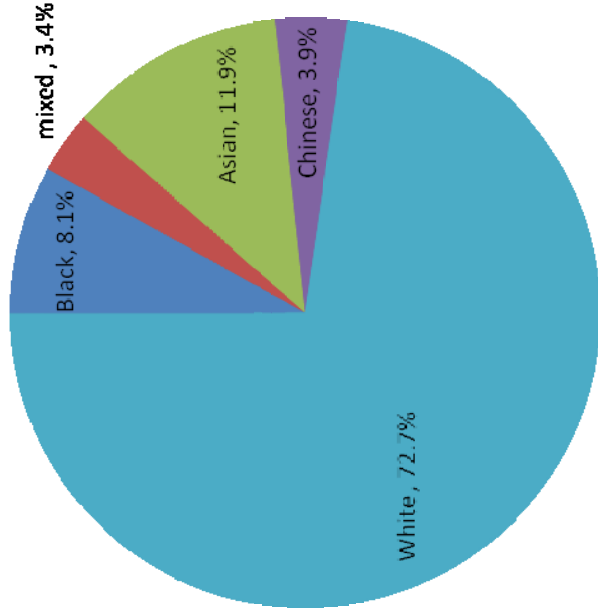
Joint Consultative Committee with Ethnic Minority
Organisations – 27 January 2010

REFRESH OF MERTON'S BME STRATEGIC PLAN

Presented by Patricia Anderson & Norman Urquia
for the BME Forum

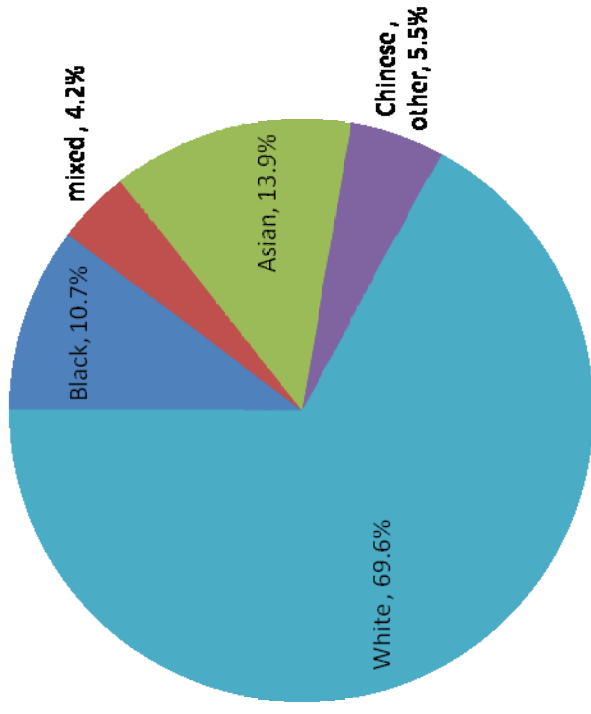
Merton Ethnic Profile

Ethnic Population breakdown in Merton 2007



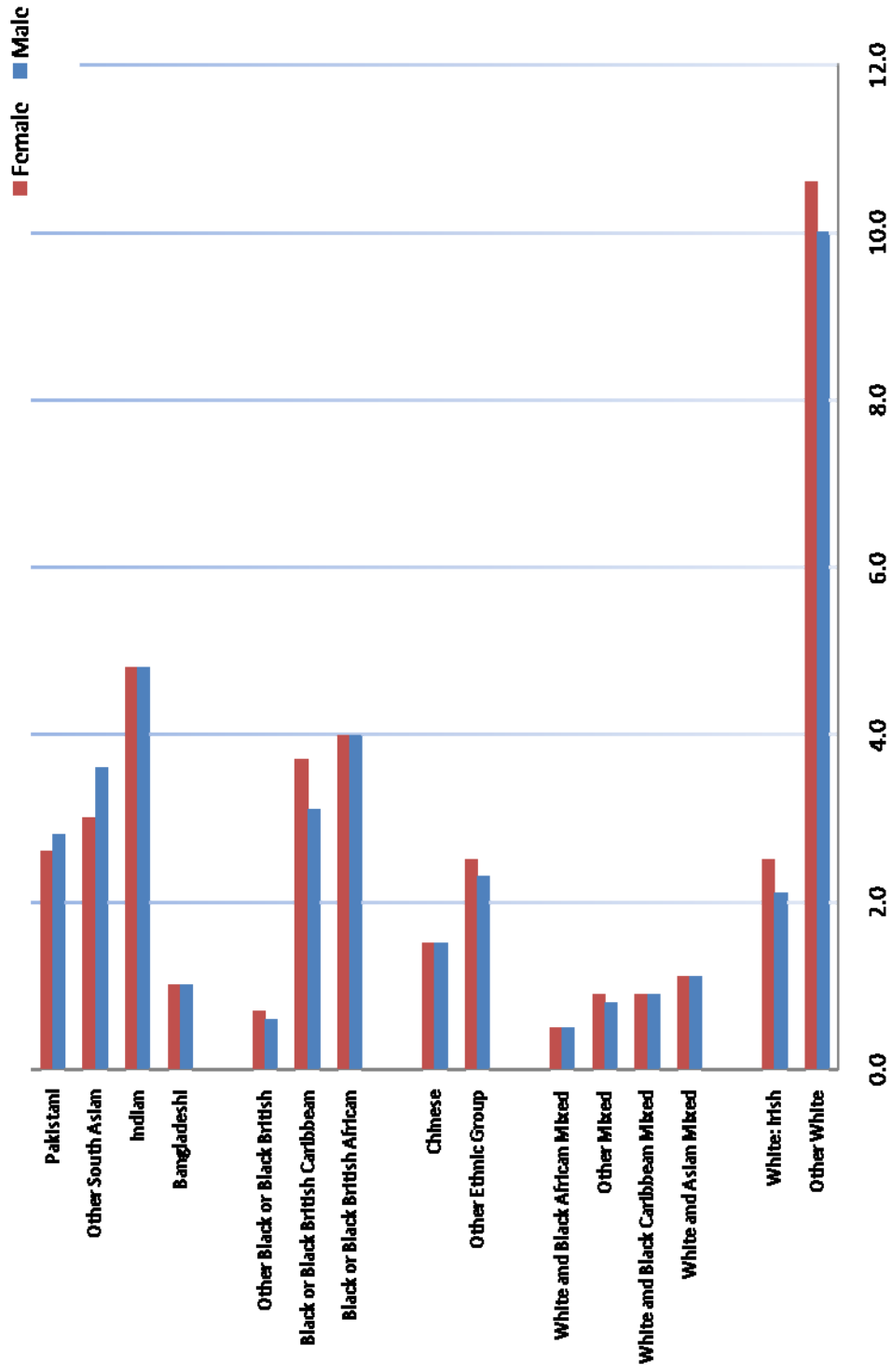
Source : ONS 2008
Mid – Year Estimate

GLA population projections for Merton 2011



Source : GLA 2008
Round Ethnic Group

Gender and ethnic breakdown in Merton 2007 mid year population estimate



Key priority issues identified at 2006:

For BME Organisations

- Ability to engage with key decision making structures and influence policies.
- Improve effectiveness: For the BME 'sector' to unite and speak with a collective 'voice': a BME 'sector' that is innovative, robust and aspirational.
- Coordinated service planning and delivery.
- Access to funding and improved relationship with funders.
- Access to appropriate support – other than funding, for example, ICT and premises.
- A BME 'sector' that is networked into borough-wide and region-wide structures; engaging with strong enabling partnerships.

Key priority issues identified at 2006:

For BME Communities

- Better access to education (for young people and adult development); for example, in deprived areas of East Merton
- Economic development – sustainable improvement; access to better employment and training
- Access to appropriate and affordable housing
- Better access to preventative health and social care
- Safer environment
- Greater take-up of, and access to, services
- Promotion of self-respect and independence
- Challenge the negative perceptions whereby BME people feel that policy makers and mainstream service providers view them as ‘a problem, as people in need and not able to do anything for themselves’. In fact, BME organisations want to be seen as part of the solution with processes that enable them to meaningfully engage.

BAME Voluntary Sector

“spirit of the times”

“Ethnic minorities are no longer always disadvantaged” “Target class not race”.

Communities Secretary John Denham 14 January 2010

“People from BME groups are disproportionately disadvantaged by their lack of skills and qualifications, particularly in the east”

Merton Community Plan 2005 – 2015 . Pg 40

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“The council does not hand out public money simply on the basis of ethnicity. However, we are proactive in ensuring that the diverse needs of our residents are met.....”

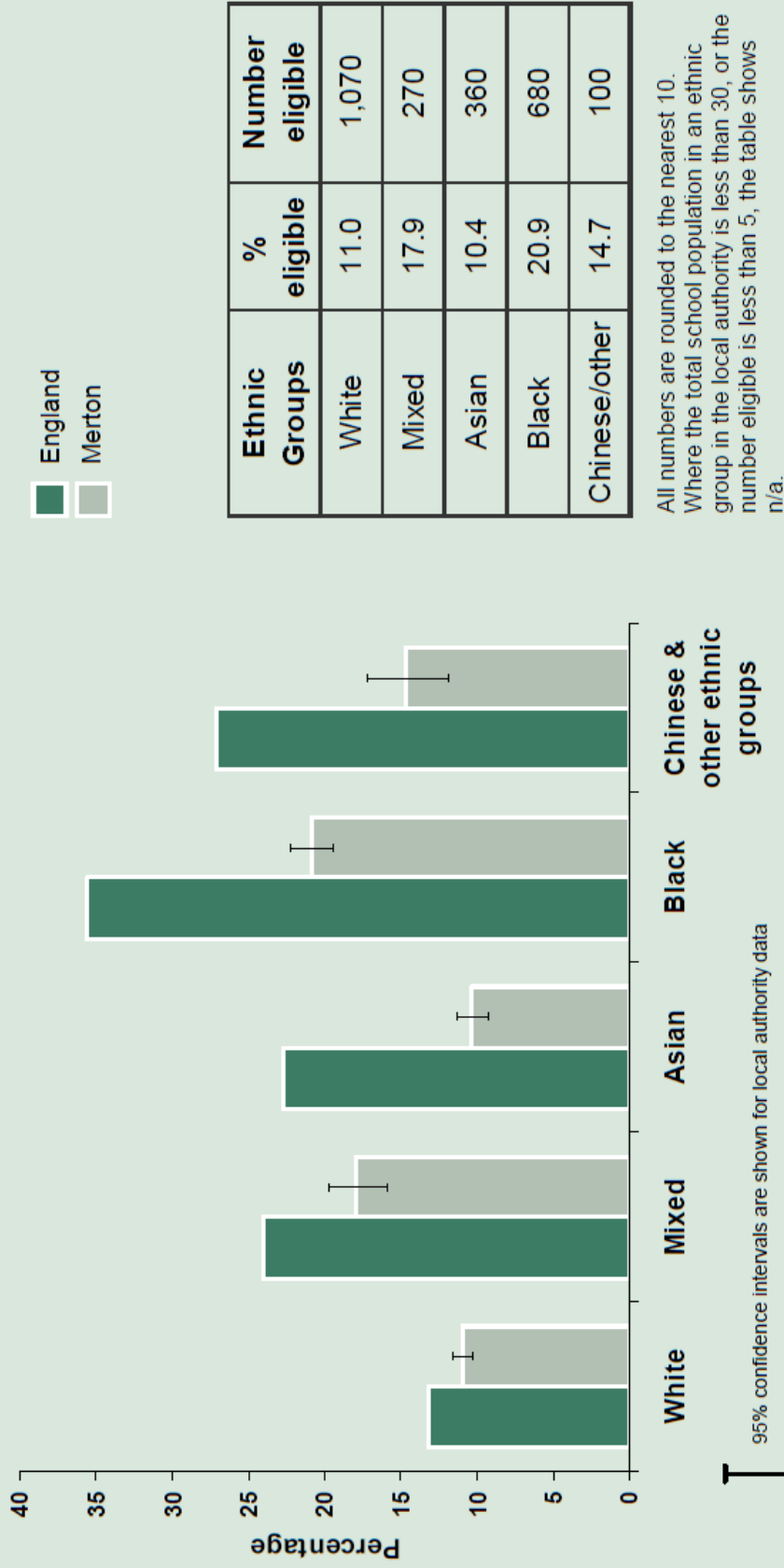
Cllr Henry Nelless, Cabinet Member for Community Safety & Engagement
Wimbledon Guardian – 16 Feb 2009

“The council recognises that the voluntary sector is a crucial part of the Merton community and, having won awards for our joint work, we are seeking to build on this by commissioning services from voluntary organisations rather than just handing out funding.”

Cllr Samantha George Deputy Leader
13 February 2009

Free school meals in Merton by Ethnicity 2008

This chart compares the percentage of children in each ethnic group who are eligible for free school meals (2008). Eligibility for free school meals is an indicator of deprivation, and people who suffer more deprivation tend to have poorer health. Comparing deprivation by ethnic group helps identify potential health inequalities between the groups.



2010

New/ emerging issues for BAME Organisations?

- 1. Increased need – reduced funding**
- 2. Skeptical political climate**
- 3. Rising profile of Religion - PREVENT**
- 4. What is BAME, minority ethnic? Strength in Unity or diluted message.**
- 5. Building Capacity with depleting resources**
- 6. Sustainability – Charismatic leaders**
- 7. Competition , “Survival of the fittest?” Clear identity and remit**
- 8. Changing nature of funding – commissioning services**
- 9. Imposed responsibility and agenda**
- 10. Engagement – voluntary sector relied on by statutory sector**

2010

New / emerging Issues for BAME Communities

1. Growing BAME population 30.3 % BAME (2011 GLA estimate)
2. Isolation – generation gap
3. Language support, ESOL, particularly for women, low income
4. Access to services and advice
5. Integration – cohesion - identity
6. Segregation- communities looking inward
7. Employment – careers, representation in senior roles
8. Housing – Overcrowding , families
9. Ageing population - adult care
10. Resurgence of Racism - Community tensions - Islamophobia

Challenges 2006 - 2009

- Background culture - ‘tribal views’
- Structural issues – within the voluntary and community sector overall, e.g. BAME representation
- BAME communities not accessing vital services, even during the current recession.

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Challenges 2010

- ?
- ?

What are the key priorities?

- ?
- ?

2010

Thematic Themes – What should they be for the BAME Sector?

- A place to live[housing, safety, natural environment, etc]
- A place to learn and play... [education, skills development, leisure facilities]
- A place to work and trade....[employment, social enterprises, business....]
- A place to share and care [health, etc]