

JOINT CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE WITH ETHNIC MINORITY ORGANISATIONS
9 JUNE 2010

7.15 TO 8.45 PM

PRESENT: Councillors Edith Macauley, Agatha Akyigyina, David Simpson
Mr Hadi, Mr Islam, Mr Karim, Ms Anderson, Ms Mintah-Sem,
Mr Ejaz, Mr Sheikh, Dr Urquia.

ALSO PRESENT: Acting Chief Inspector Jim Cook.
Evereth Willis (Diversity and Community Cohesion Manager),
Sarah Amenyio (Corporate Policy Support Officer), Susanne
Wicks (Democratic Services Officer).

1 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations were made.

2 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Councillor Laxmi Attawar, Mr Savage and Mr
Mohammed Shuaib Sheikh.

3 ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIR FOR THE MUNICIPAL YEAR 2010/11

RESOLVED: That Mr Karim be appointed vice-chair for the municipal year
2010/2011.

4 MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 27 JANUARY 2010

Dr Urquia pointed out that his name was incorrectly spelt throughout the minutes.

RESOLVED: That, subject to the amendment shown above, the minutes are
agreed as an accurate record of the meeting.

5 MATTERS ARISING

Item 5: Evereth Willis explained that officers from HR will report back fully to this
committee upon completion of the council's restructure. The report will deal with the
impact on BME employees and will provide the most up to date figures.

As a general point, Mr Islam highlighted the poor attendance at recent meetings of
this committee and suggested that attendance should be encouraged. Evereth Willis
agreed, and asked JCC members to let her have their suggestions for improvement.

6 UPDATE ON RACE AND FAITH CRIME AND BURGLARY STATISTICS

Acting Chief Inspector Jim Cook introduced this report and invited comments and
questions.

Mr Sheikh noted that it would be helpful for more details to be supplied in future

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reports regarding the faith hate crimes, such as where the crimes occurred. Jim Cook agreed that further data should be presented, including information about offenders, local trends and greater analysis of the data, and undertook to request that this be provided in future.

Report received.

7 NOMINATION OF JCC MEMBERS TO OTHER BODIES

Mr Sheikh advised that the Housing Partnership Board for Vulnerable People has changed its name to the Accommodation Steering Group for Adults. He gave a short briefing on the body, and recent projects it has delivered.

Ms Mintah-Sem gave a briefing on the last Schools Forum meeting she attended, which dealt with feedback from a consultant on the funding formula applied to Merton when calculating the DSG (dedicated schools grant).

The committee requested that Mr Sheikh and Ms Mintah-Sem be contacted well in advance of future meetings, in order to ascertain if they would be presenting reports from the bodies, so that this item could be added to the agenda.

RESOLVED: That Mr Sheikh is appointed to the Housing Partnership Board for Vulnerable Adults for the municipal year 2010/11 and that Ms Mintah-Sem is appointed to the Schools Forum for the municipal year 2010/11.

8 REFRESH OF MERTON'S BAME STRATEGIC PLAN (2010-13)

Ms Anderson introduced this item, explaining the background to the plan. She highlighted that, although the plan has been embraced by Merton Council, it is not a council document. She asked that all communities work together in unity to produce the refresh of the plan and to put their support behind it.

Ms Anderson explained that the draft plan has already been considered by the Merton Partnership Executive Board. At that Board's recommendation, each thematic partnership of the Merton Partnership will be looking at the priorities in the plan, discuss if the actions outlined in the plan can be delivered. After the thematic partnerships have met, they will report back to the Executive Board's meeting in September.

Ms Anderson asked all present to look carefully at the relevant section of the plan and identify any gaps or issues not covered, and to consider how the actions in the plan can be delivered.

Dr Urquia clarified the issue of the use of BME or BAME. He advised that the BME Forum, whilst fully supporting and embracing the abbreviation "BAME", do not wish to change their name.

Dr Urquia gave further details of the consultation that has taken place. He pointed

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the committee to each of the key action sections of the plan, and asked the members to feed back on their views, and to give suggestions on other individuals or groups that should be consulted.

Dr Urquia invited all presented to the forthcoming BME Forum event on 29 June "Linking Communities and Linking Agendas". He advised that if the Vestry Hall is not a suitable venue, consideration may be given to finding a more appropriate location.

Members of the JCC raised a number of points, as follows:

The Asian community is not well represented on Merton Council;

The Ethnic Minority Centre should contribute to the consultation on the plan;

The Chinese community are included within the Asian community due to classification by the Office for National Statistics, and this is not useful.

Councillor Edith Macauley asked that further updates are brought back to the JCC in the future.

Report received.

Following this item, there followed a short discussion on the membership of and rates of attendance at JCC meetings. Councillor Edith Macauley asked those present to encourage attendance amongst current members, and for council officers to contact all organisations, to ensure the appropriate representatives were listed. Evereth Willis acknowledged the points made, and also suggested that JCC members could suggest agenda items for future meetings.

Mr Karim asked if it is appropriate for the JCC to discuss international issues at meetings. Evereth Willis advised that where an international situation impacted upon the local stage in Merton it would be appropriate to discuss it, otherwise it would not.