

JOINT CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE WITH ETHNIC MINORITY ORGANISATIONS
13 APRIL 2004

(7.15pm – 8.40pm)

PRESENT: Councillor Edith Macauley (in the Chair); Councillors Fiona Bryce, Judy Saunders and Amanda Ramsey.

ALSO PRESENT: Barbara Gallagher (South West London Cancer Network).

ORGANISATION	REPRESENTATIVE
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British Muslim Association of Merton	Mr M Rafique
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South London Irish Welfare Society	Sheila McAuliffe
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Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Tariq Ahmad, Chief Inspector Nick Lipscomb, Mr S Hassan, Mr T Hassan, Mrs Hannah Neale and Mr I A Shah.

849 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were none.

850 MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 3 FEBRUARY 2004 (Agenda Item 3)

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the meeting held on 3 February 2004 be signed as a correct record.

851 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES NOT OTHERWISE ON THE AGENDA (Agenda Item 4)

Minute No. 6 – Equalities Monitoring Scrutiny Review – It was confirmed that information about the Council's response to the Macpherson Inquiry had been circulated.

852 CANCER NETWORKS (Agenda Item 6)

The Chair welcomed Barbara Gallagher, the Co-ordinator of South West London Cancer Network. Ms Gallagher explained that the Network was an organisation set up by the Department of Health and covered cancer services in the whole of the south west London strategic Health Authority area. Cancer Networks were set up following a report published in 1995 which looked at the provision of cancer services across the country with the aim of ensuring best practice and trying to bring about more uniform service provision. Each Network was required to have a Partnership Board bringing together service users, carers, health care professionals and others, such as charities, to identify areas of patient care which needed to be addressed. As Co-ordinator Ms Gallagher was seeking to expand the Partnership Board and attract new members, particularly from least represented groups such as ethnic minority communities, and was willing to address any group that was interested.

It was agreed that the information sheet distributed by Ms Gallagher at the meeting

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would be copied to all members of the Committee.

853 CREATIVE CULTURES SOUTH LONDON (Agenda Item 7)

Iqbal Husain, Ethnic Arts Community Development Officer, circulated a briefing paper on this item and explained that the benefits of working in partnership with Kingston were to allow more effective uses of resources and to give artists a greater platform.

It was agreed that the paper would be circulated to all representatives on the Committee and that they be invited to submit any comments directly to Mr Husain.

854 CONSUMER AWARENESS TOOLKIT (agenda Item 8)

Steve Clark, Head of Planning, reported that since addressing the Committee in September 2003, presentations had been made to approximately half of the community groups. In the process he had become aware of new organisations but was confident that the plan to address each organisation that requested a visit would be completed in about six months time.

The Department of Trade and Industry had now rolled out funding for the programme to be extended across London and a further initiative, Consumer Direct, would be introduced in approximately one year. This would provide a single contact telephone number for the whole of London, which would allow the Council's Consumer Advice Team to deal with more complex issues specific to Merton.

855 EQUALITIES POLICY REVIEW (Agenda Item 9)

Monica Wambu, Equalities Policy Manager, advised that the Policy had last been updated in 2002 and the Council had a commitment to review it every two years. To begin the review process stakeholders and members of the community were being asked to comment on the current policy after which it would be revised, at the same time taking into account best practice as recommended by the equality commissions and DIALOG. The policy would then be recirculated for a second phase of consultation. Consultation would be as wide as possible and would include the use of MyMerton, the local Guardian and the Council's web site. Members of the Committee were asked to submit their comments using the questionnaire attached as appendix 2 to the report by 14 May.

In reply to questions about diversity training for councillors Ms Wambu undertook to ask the Human Resources department if evening sessions could be arranged.

RESOLVED: That (1) the proposed method of consultation with ethnic minority groups be approved;

(2) members of the JCC encourage their member to submit comments on the questionnaire provided by 14 May 2004: and

(3) in view of the low attendance at the meeting, members of the JCC be

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reminded by letter of the deadline of 15 May for the submission of reports

856 SCRUTINY REVIEW: EFFECTIVENESS OF EQUALITY MONITORING AND ANALYSIS IN MAKING A POSITIVE IMPACT ON SERVICE DELIVERY TO RESIDENTS – DRAFT REVIEW REPORT (Agenda Item 10)

Monica Wambu explained that Councillor Debbie Shears, Chair of the Review Task Group, had asked that the draft report be considered by the JCC to present an opportunity for comment on its recommendations prior to submission to the Overview and Scrutiny Commission and the Cabinet for approval. The Committee expressed its gratitude to the task group, particularly Councillors Debbie Shears and Nick Draper, for their work in carrying out the review.

Having noted that no comments had been received from members not present at the meeting it was –

RESOLVED: That members be reminded by letter that comments were invited on the report's recommendations.

857 EQUALITIES BRIEFING (Agenda Item 11)

Monica Wambu advised that the newsletter had been introduced as a means of sharing information outside the Council with stakeholder organisations and others. It would contain information on forthcoming events and meetings, key issues and give a taste of some of the work being done in the department with contact details for anyone wanting more detailed information.

Included in the newsletter was a summary of the Stephen Lawrence Action Plan and a detailed report would be submitted to the Council meeting on 28 April. Copies of the Scrutiny Review "The Past we Inherit – the Future we Build" had been sent to libraries with the request that they be displayed in a prominent position. A shortened version of the Race Equality Scheme would be available in libraries from May.

The newsletter had been circulated to the JCC, 150 community organisations and all Councillors. It would be also be available shortly on the Council's web site. The next issue would be published in July. It was requested that copies should be distributed to community centres, libraries and district offices.

858 ORAL REPORTS BY MEMBERS ON OUTSIDE BODIES (Agenda Item 12)

There were none.