



Notice of meeting of

Social Inclusion Working Group

To: Councillors Jamieson-Ball (Chair), Cuthbertson (Vice-Chair), Fairclough, Sue Galloway, King, Potter and Scott

Date: Wednesday, 26 July 2006

Time: 7.00 pm

Venue: Guildhall

AGENDA

1. Declarations of Interest

At this point Members are asked to declare any personal or prejudicial interests they may have in the business on this agenda.

2. Public Participation

At this point in the meeting members of the public who have registered their wish to speak regarding an item on the agenda or an issue within the Panel's remit can do so. Anyone who wishes to register or requires further information is requested to contact the Democracy Officer on the contact details listed at the foot of this agenda. The deadline for registering is Tuesday 25th July 2006 at 10am.

3. Developing the Social Inclusion Working Group (SIWG) (Pages 1 - 6)

This report introduces the paper: "Social Inclusion Working Group, Questions and Answers". Its purpose is to give an overview of the purpose of the SIWG, its relationship to other bodies and how it can develop to achieve its purpose.

- 4. Budget** (Pages 7 - 8)
This report informs the Social Inclusion Working Group of the budget allocated for its work and invites the Group to consider how this can be most effectively used.
- 5. Forward Planning** (Pages 9 - 12)
This report suggest items that the Social Inclusion Working Group (SIWG) may like to consider at future meetings. The SIWG are invited to agree a forward plan.
- 6. Any other business which the Chair considers urgent under the Local Government Act 1972**

Democracy Officer:

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For more information about any of the following please contact the Democracy Officer on the details above.

- Registering to speak
- Business of the meeting
- Any special arrangements
- Copies of reports



Social Inclusion Working Group***26th July 2006***

Report of the Head of Performance Improvement

Developing the Social Inclusion Working Group (SIWG)**Summary**

1. This report introduces the paper: "Social Inclusion Working Group, Questions and Answers". Its purpose is to give an overview of the purpose of the SIWG, its relationship to other bodies and how it can develop to achieve its purpose.

Background

2. The Social Inclusion Working Group was established as part of the revised Constitution of the council in 2006. This paper is presented to the first meeting of the group to facilitate discussion about the way forward for the group.

Consultation

3. The Social Inclusion Working Group was established following extensive discussion and consultation by the ad-hoc Scrutiny Panel on Inclusive Decision Making. This discussion paper is based upon the recommendations of the Scrutiny Panel's final report..

Corporate Priorities

4. The Social Inclusion Working Group may decide to focus its discussions on any of the corporate priorities as they all have an equalities and social inclusion aspect to one degree or another. However the emphasis of the SIWG is to improve the effectiveness of the organisation in meeting the diverse needs of its customers. Hence the main corporate priorities that the paper address are:
 - Improve our focus on the needs of customers and residents in designing and providing services
 - Improve leadership at all levels to provide clear, consistent direction to the organisation
 - Improve the way the Council and its partners work together to deliver better services for the people who live in York

Implications

5. The attached paper makes no recommendations and is for information and discussion purposes only.

Risk Management

6. The attached paper makes no recommendations and is for information and discussion purposes only.

Recommendations

7. Members are asked to consider the attached paper and discuss the way forward for the effective development of the SIWG.

Contact Details

Author:
Julian Horsler
Equalities Officer
Chief Executives
551704

Chief Officer Responsible for the report:
Colin Mockler
Head of Performance Improvement

Report Approved

Date 7th July 2006

Wards Affected: *List wards or tick box to indicate all*

All

For further information please contact the author of the report

Background Papers:

Ad-Hoc Scrutiny Panel Inclusive Decision Making, Final Report.

Annexes

Social inclusion Working Group, Questions and Answers

Social Inclusion Working Group

Questions and Answers

1. What is SIWG's Purpose?

The Terms of Reference in the Council's constitution outlines the purpose and role of the group:

It is the role of this group to advise the Executive on all matters relating to equalities issues . It seeks to promote awareness of equalities issues and to ensure improved access and facilities for all service users . It is concerned both with improving the Council's own services and facilities and, by adopting good practice, to encourage other service providers to improve their services.

In that context the group will:

- i. advise the Executive on major projects and initiatives on equalities issues and on equalities issues generally in the City of York Council;
- ii. extend and build contact with groups and individuals in the area in order to facilitate input into equalities and provide opportunities for all citizens in the area;
- iii. provide a link with Ward Committees so that equalities issues which are raised can be taken further.

2. Who are members of SIWG?

The chair of the group is the Executive Member for Social Inclusion and Youth, Ceredig Jamieson-Ball. There are 6 other elected members on the group:

- Councillor Ian Cuthbertson (Vice-Chair)
- Councillor Bill Fairclough
- Councillor Susan Galloway
- Councillor Ken King
- Councillor Ruth Potter
- Councillor David Scott

The Group can decide to co-opt community representatives to ensure that each of the equality strands (disability, gender, ethnicity, age, religion and sexual orientation) are involved.

3. How will these community representatives be nominated?

The Group will invite the appropriate community forums to nominate a representative to attend. This would mean inviting the Older People's Assembly, the BME Citizens Open Forum, and the LGBT Forum to send a representative. There will be disabled

people's representative nominated by an independent disabled people's forum as soon as it is up and running. The Group would monitor the gender profile of representatives to ensure there is a fair gender balance.

Until such time as these forums have nominated a representative the SIWG will invite the relevant cooptees on the Ad-Hoc Scrutiny Panel to attend instead.

4. Will the SIWG have a budget?

Yes. There is £7,240 available this year to the group to help ensure that:

- The meetings are accessible and inclusive (eg provision of accessible information, to meet travel costs of community representatives, to pay for interpretation etc).
- The community representatives can effectively represent the views of the community forum.
- The community representatives can feedback to the community forums on the work of the SIWG.
- The community forums can communicate effectively with the wider communities of interest that they represent.

It will be for the SIWG to assess how best these resources can be spent to meet these aims.

5. What is the difference between the SIWG and the Inclusive York Forum?

SIWG will be focused on improving the Council's policy and practice on issues of equality and social inclusion. The Inclusive York Forum addresses the same issues but focuses on the city as whole and in particular the work of the Local Strategic Partnership. Given the similar issues of interest, albeit a different focus of activity, it would be sensible for both groups to have a relationship. Hence officers will ensure that both groups are kept informed of the work of the other group. The purpose should be to ensure that rather than overlapping, the two groups complement and strengthen the work of each other. The support the SIWG gives to the community forum should also be of assistance to the IYF, helping it to involve the community in its work and to help it meet its objectives for the community strategy.

6. What type of issues will the SIWG discuss?

The purpose of the SIWG would be to discuss issues of equality at a strategic level in a number of areas:

- **Employment:** how the council could make its workforce better reflect the diversity of the local population and to evaluate progress.

- **Service delivery:** council strategies and plans for making services more inclusive and accessible and to evaluate progress.
- **Community concerns:** issues about services raised by forums that have significant implications for the wider community.
- **Community involvement:** how the council can effectively involve people from disadvantaged communities in consultation to shape and evaluate services.

7. Can you give some specific examples of what we could discuss?

Topical examples of what would be discussed include:

- **Employment Equality Improvement Plans**– each year HR produce a plan that reports on the equality profile of the workforce and actions it intends to take to improve this. This plan could come to the SIWG so forums know how well CYC is doing and comment upon the actions proposed.
- **Local Development Framework** – this will include a vision as to what the city should look like and the principles that should underpin future planning decisions. The SIWG could usefully discuss what these principles should be. They could also comment on how communities should be involved in planning and development decisions in the future.
- **Equality strategy and schemes** – the Council has an equality strategy that incorporates its Race, Disability and Gender Equality Schemes. The Group could advise the council on what the priorities should be and to help the council to assess its effectiveness.
- **Traveller strategy** – the CRE has recommended that all council's develop a strategy to improve services for Gypsies and Travellers. The group could advise on the principles that should underpin this and to check that it is implemented.
- **Changing BME population** – how is this BME population in York changing and how should the Council respond to those changes?
- **Equality Consultation strategy** – The group could advise the council on its draft equality consultation strategy.
- **Inclusive living for disabled people** – the group may wish to discuss the implications of the white paper on the future of social and health care services and how changes in York could change to improve the life chances of disabled people.

8. So what would the group not discuss?

- The group is not a substitute for consultation with the community groups who are represented on the SIWG. If services need to consult those communities then they should do so directly. However the services may want to seek the SIWG's advice on how best to undertake major consultation activity.
- Complaints or concerns about individual services (unless there is concern about wider implications or there have been lots of similar complaints). These can be

dealt with using the council's complaints procedure, by referring the individual to the relevant section, or by using other established channels.

- Plans for new developments (building, road crossing etc) will be sent to disability organisations for comment.

9. How will community groups know what is going to be discussed?

The agenda would be based on a forward plan agreed at each meeting based upon suggestions made by the various community forums, elected members and council officers. The forward plan would be circulated to all forums so they had the chance to discuss the issues due to be raised in advance of the SIWG so representatives could contribute to SIWG discussions informed in advance of the views of the forum.

Community forums will be expected to notify their members of the work of the SIWG and to encourage them to share their views and experiences to help future discussions.

10. What will the meetings be like?

Meetings will try to be as informal as possible and to encourage the use innovative / creative ways to consider topics and reach decisions.



Social Inclusion Working Group

26th July 2006

Report of the Head of Performance Improvement

Budget

Summary

1. This report informs the Social Inclusion Working Group of the budget allocated for its work and invites the Group to consider how this can be most effectively used.

Consultation

2. The options for budget allocation proposed in this report are based upon the vision for the SIWG outlined in the Scrutiny Panel (Inclusive Decision-Making) final report.

Options

3. The SIWG has a budget allocation of £7,240 to assist it in its work. The Group are encouraged to consider how this can be most effectively used in this financial year.

A. Making meetings accessible and inclusive

The budget could be used to make meetings accessible and inclusive for the community representatives attending. This could be to pay for interpretation or to cover transport or child care expenses.

B. To support engagement with wider community

The budget could be used to help the community forums to inform the members of the community they represent of the work of the SIWG and to seek their views.

C. To facilitate forum meetings

Some forums have few if any resources and holding accessible and inclusive meetings can be difficult. The budget could be used to help pay for venue hire, publicity etc.

D. To support initiatives prioritised by the Group

The SIWG may wish to support wider community involvement initiatives, research the needs of particular groups or to facilitate the development of a new community project.

Corporate Objectives

4. The SIWG, by enabling effective community engagement with the development of council policies and strategies, will support the organisational effectiveness priorities of the Corporate Strategy. In particular:

“Improve our focus on the needs of customers and residents in designing and providing services”

Implications

- **Financial** - None
- **Human Resources (HR)** - None
- **Equalities** - None
- **Legal** - None
- **Crime and Disorder** - None
- **Information Technology (IT)** - None
- **Other** - None

Risk Management

5. If there are no known risks associated with this report.

Recommendations

6. The SIWG are recommended to consider the options for the use of the Group's budget allocation and invite proposals for a future meeting.

Contact Details

Author:

*Julian Horsler
Equalities Officer
Chief Executives
551704*

Chief Officer Responsible for the report:

*Colin Mockler
Head of Performance Improvement*

Report Approved **Date** 7th July 2006

Wards Affected: *List wards or tick box to indicate all*

All

For further information please contact the author of the report

Background Papers:

Ad-Hoc Scrutiny Panel Inclusive Decision Making, Final Report.



Social Inclusion Working Group

26th July 2006

Report of the Head of Performance Improvement

Forward Planning

Summary

1. This report suggest items that the Social Inclusion Working Group (SIWG) may like to consider at future meetings. The SIWG are invited to agree a forward plan.

Background

2. Agreeing a forward plan enables reports to be prepared (and made accessible and inclusive) whilst also enabling community forums to discuss the issues with their representative on the SIWG prior to the meeting.

Consultation

3. The issues for discussion proposed in this report are based upon the vision for the SIWG outlined in the Scrutiny Panel (Inclusive Decision-Making) final report.

Options

4. The following topics may be of interest to the SIWG for consideration and discussion.

A. Centre for Inclusive Living Feasibility Study

Last year the Disabled People's Advisory Group funded a feasibility study into the development of inclusive living services for disabled people. The SIWG could consider the findings of the report and advise on the next steps on the development of these services.

B. Local Development Framework (LDF)

The Council is currently developing its "Core Strategy" which outlines the planning vision for the future of the city – all future planning proposals and developments will have to be based upon this strategic vision. It covers issues such as:

- accessibility of buildings,
- type, quantity and location of housing,

- location of leisure, community, retail and employment facilities
- transport facilities and congestion.

C. Pride in our Communities Equality Strategy One Year Update and Review

Last year (2005) the City of York Council produced its first comprehensive Equality Strategy – “Pride in our Communities” (PIOC). This strategy provided a framework for moving beyond mere compliance with equality legislation and policy, towards embedding an equalities culture at every level of the organisation. It also outlined how the council would continue to implement the Equality Standard for Local Government, carry forward the work of the Council’s Race Equality Scheme and prepare the council for the introduction of the gender and disability equality duties. This is the first of review, one year on. Its purpose is to assess:

- whether we have done the things we said we would do;
- whether those actions have had the desired outcomes for people in York;
- what has changed in the last year that may affect the strategy in the future; and
- what we can change or prioritise in the strategy to make it more effective.

D. York’s Changing Black and Minority Ethnic Population

Figures from the Annual Population Survey have shown that the BME population is growing quickly and changing in its composition. BME people now comprise over 6% of the population and a much larger percentage of these are now from Asia or from Eastern Europe. The Council must respond to the change in the diversity of York to ensure that its positive potential is realised.

E. Inspection report –Learning Disability Services

The Social Care Inspection have recently assessed the learning disability services in York and the report of its findings and recommendations will soon be available.

F. Diversity of the City of York Council’s Workforce

The council seeks to ensure that its workforce reflects the diversity of the local population. It does this by analysing the equality profile of staff and identifying priority areas where we groups are under-represented. It produces plans (called Employment Equality Improvement Plans) that say what actions we will take to improve these areas. The areas we are currently focussing on are:

- We need to continue increasing the percentage of BME staff working for the council. This has increased from 2.2% to 2.8% but does not match the 6.1% in the local population.
- Women continue to comprise the majority of the workforce (73%) but only 51% of those on higher grades.
- The council employs a low number of disabled people and this number has fallen slightly over the last two years from 2.2% of the workforce to 2.1%.

G. York Central

York Central is the largest single development site we are likely to see in York in our lifetime: a 'once in a millennium opportunity'. The site is two thirds the size of York's walled centre and will contribute to York's future growth in employment and housing requirements to 2021. The vision for the site is:

- To ensure a high quality, attractive and exciting sustainable development with a mix of activity
- To create a modern central business district adjacent to the city centre
- To expand and diversify the urban economy, housing choice and cultural life
- To ensure that the development is complementary to the historic heart of York

H. Community Forum Reports and Feedback

The various community forums that send representatives to York may wish to bring items for consideration or to feedback on discussions or held in those forums or issues raised by forum members.

Corporate Objectives

5. The SIWG, by enabling effective community engagement with the development of council policies and strategies, will support the organisational effectiveness priorities of the Corporate Strategy. In particular:

“Improve our focus on the needs of customers and residents in designing and providing services”

Implications

- **Financial** - None
- **Human Resources (HR)** - None
- **Equalities** - None
- **Legal** - None
- **Crime and Disorder** - *None*
- **Information Technology (IT)** - *None*
- **Other**- *None*

Risk Management

6. If there are no known risks associated with this report.

Recommendations

7. The SIWG are recommended to consider the options for future discussion identified in this report (section 4) and agree a forward plan for the group.

Contact Details

Author:
Julian Horsler
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Chief Executives
551704

Chief Officer Responsible for the report:
Colin Mockler
Head of Performance Improvement

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