

Meeting of the Social Inclusion Working Group **2 December 2009**

Report of the Director of People and Improvement

Social Inclusion Working Group (SIWG) - Work and Equality Impact Assessments Plan for January 2010 to March 2010

Summary

1. The report is for information and outlines the SIWG work plan for the period January 2010 to March 2010. The group are requested to note the report.
2. The work plan in [Annex 1](#), includes advance notice of equality impact assessments to be considered by the group for the first time.

Background

3. One of the three objectives of SIWG is to “advise the Executive on equality issues in general or in relation to major CYC projects and initiatives”. At the last Development Day in May 2009, the group decided that the objectives were still appropriate.
4. Until a year ago, SIWG discussions focused almost exclusively on general equality issues brought up during meetings by the groups that make up SIWG.
5. A year ago, SIWG started to consider equality impact assessments (EIAs) of key council projects and initiatives. The EIA process requires officers to consider the issue, discuss it with groups on SIWG (or other relevant groups such as the Valuing People Partnership, YorOK board etc), make planned improvements and track them so that they can report progress back to SIWG. Since December 2008, SIWG and its community groups have considered 34 EIAs (14 in 2008/9, 20 in 2009/10 so far). These EIAs have helped councillors and officers develop their understanding of equality and inclusion, so as to plan and deliver increasingly inclusive services as needed by people from the

equality strands. Feedback from community groups about meetings that have focussed on EIAs, has been overwhelmingly supportive with most participants stating that they wish to see more of this work mainstreamed in the SIWG work plan.

6. Currently there is an ever-growing number of requests for the group to consider EIAs. Whilst this is an excellent development, SIWG needs a planned approach to considering EIAs, otherwise the group will not be able to meet the other objectives it has, particularly “extending and building contact with groups and individuals involved in equality issues in York” .
7. To date there have been several ways for SIWG to consider EIAs:
 - SIWG scheduled evening meetings (open to the public), where big issues affecting all or most of the strands are considered. In the past these included the council corporate strategy, council communications, the housing strategy, or issues that the council was involved in and had attracted the interest of many equality strand groups (like the proposed ticket barriers at York railway station).
 - SIWG Development Days (not open to the public). Only one EIA (the council fairness and inclusion strategy and scheme 2009-12) has so far been discussed at a development day (May 2009).
 - SIWG Equality Impact Assessment Fairs (not open to the public). To date these have been open only to groups that are engaged with SIWG and on occasions other community groups they have recommended. Each group is invited to bring no more than 6 people so that the discussion can be in depth. There are usually nine EIAs considered at each Fair.
 - Additional EIA meetings (not open to the public). The first one ever, took place on 12 October 2009 and considered four EIAs from the More for York programme.
 - Officers attending one of the regular meetings of the groups that participate in SIWG, to discuss EIAs that affect specific strands only.
 - Officers organising city-wide consultations and inviting SIWG groups to attend e.g. the consultations organised for the

development of the Community Sustainable Strategy and the Local Development Framework

8. [Annex 1](#), outlines a list of EIAs to be considered by SIWG between now and end of March 2010. It is suggested that a similar programme should be put in place for the period April 2010 to June 2010 and for every three month period thereafter.

Consultation

9. Most of the areas covered in the work plan were suggested at the SIWG Development Day in May 2009.

Options

10. N/A

Analysis

11. N/A

Corporate Priorities

12. The work of SIWG contributes to actions that support the Inclusive City and Effective Organisation priorities of the Corporate Strategy.

Implications

13. **Financial** – None
14. **Human Resources (HR)** – None
15. **Equalities** – The council's fairness and inclusion objectives as well as SIWG objectives, require the council to engage with the equality community in a planned way to ensure that it works in an inclusive way.
16. **Legal** - Community engagement in planning and delivering council services (i.e. EIAs) is a requirement under equality legislation.
17. **Crime and Disorder** - None
18. **Information Technology (IT)** - None
19. **Property** - None

20. **Other** - None

Risk Management

21. As in paragraphs 4 and 6 above.

Recommendations

22. SIWG is requested to note the work plan in Annex 1

Reason: To provide information about the work of the group for the period December 2009 to March 2010.

Contact Details

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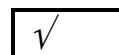
**Report
Approved**



Date

Wards Affected:

All



For further information please contact the author of the report

Annexes

Annex 1 - SIWG work plan December 2009 to March 2010