

City of York Council

*(draft)* Committee Minutes

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MEETING	SOCIAL INCLUSION WORKING GROUP
DATE	8 JULY 2008
PRESENT	<p>COUNCILLORS VASSIE (CHAIR), ASPDEN, BROOKS, GUNNELL AND LOOKER (VICE-CHAIR)</p> <p>JACK ARCHER (NON-VOTING CO-OPTED MEMBER),  SUE LISTER (NON-VOTING CO-OPTED MEMBER), PETER BLACKBURN (NON-VOTING CO-OPTED MEMBER),  RITA SANDERSON (NON-VOTING CO-OPTED MEMBER),  DARYOUSH MAZLOUM (NON-VOTING CO-OPTED MEMBER),  JAN JAUNCEY (NON-VOTING CO-OPTED MEMBER) AND  LYNN JEFFRIES (NON-VOTING CO-OPTED MEMBER)</p> <p>GEORGE WRIGHT – YORK HUMANIST ASSOCIATION  CLAIRE NEWHOUSE – HIGHER YORK  STEVE ROUSE – CYC</p>
APOLOGIES	<p>SARAH FENNELL AND  PAUL WORDSWORTH (NON-VOTING CO-OPTED MEMBERS)</p>

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## 1. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Members were invited to declare at this point in the meeting any personal or prejudicial interests they might have in the business on the agenda.

No interests were declared.

## 2. **MINUTES**

Rita Sanderson referred to Minute 48 (Community Forum Reports and Feedback) and the reference in the BME Citizen's

Open Forum's update that a funding application to the Equality and Human Rights Commission had been unsuccessful as no evidence had been available to prove that it was needed. She confirmed that YREN had been commended for their equality work but that no evidence could be produced that additional work was needed.

Lynn Jeffries requested further details in connection with the reference in the sheet attached to the agenda "About City of York Council Meetings" that "We can provide the agenda or reports in large print, electronically (computer disk or by email), in Braille or on audio tape. Some formats will take longer than others so please give as much notice as possible (at least 48 hours for Braille or audio tape)." Officers confirmed that they would provide this information to members of the group by email.

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the last meeting of the Social Inclusion Working Group held on 14 May 2008 be approved and signed by the Chair as a correct record and the "easy read" version be noted.

### **3. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

It was reported that there had been no registrations to speak at the meeting under the Council's Public Participation Scheme.

### **4. INTRODUCTIONS AND WELCOME**

Councillor Vassie spoke of his new role as Chair of the Social Inclusion Working Group, as part of his new Executive portfolio, which covered Leisure, Culture and Social Inclusion. He stated that he was looking forward to this new area of work. Councillor Looker confirmed that she was the new Vice Chair of the Group and Shadow representative for the Leisure, Culture and Social Inclusion portfolio and that she was looking forward to working with the Group.

### **5. COMMUNITY FORUM REPORTS AND FEEDBACK**

Members received verbal updates, including reports about the use of Social Inclusion Working Group grants, from members of the community forum's involved in the Group's work.

The update from the Older People's Assembly included details of their 50+ Festival, which was to take place between 27 September and 5 October 2008. This year's Festival would include reduced price tickets for Buddy Holly at the Grand Opera House in October, a rag rug display at the Spurriergate Centre, a pre-counselling service, an information fair with 30 stands and the 50+ games. If any member of the Group wished to include an event in the Festival they were requested to contact Sue Lister, the deadline for receipt of information was mid July.

An update was also given of the last Older People's Assembly meeting when details had been received of a motor scooter knocking down a pedestrian on the footpath. The Police had investigated but reported that no offence had been committed. It was pointed out that motor scooters of this type did not have to be registered or insured. It was understood that Don Parlabeau, Chair of the Assembly, was hoping to take this up at national level.

The update from the BME Citizen's Open Forum included the circulation of a CYC Social Working Group background and progress report for July 2008, which included further details of the YREN Senior Citizen's Ethnic Elders Social Group.

The update from the LGBT Forum related to their meeting held on 3 July 2008 and to their Summer Newsletter circulated at the meeting. Details were given of the York Pride Picnic, which would be a family event and to which all members of the Group were invited. The Picnic would include live music, community stalls and a dog show. It was reported that the Scarborough LGBT Forum were looking at the possibility of setting up an Older LGBT Conference either at the end of this year or early next. Leeds would probably be the venue to accommodate visitors from all over the country.

It was reported that the Disabled Peoples Forum was still in the process of development. University of York student volunteers were assisting in developing a voice for disabled people in York following the 'Disabled People Together Day' on 28 March. Project findings would be reported back in late Autumn 2008. Reference was made to the problems of acoustics in some buildings/venues and the need to ensure that hearing loops or microphones were used to make all meetings etc accessible.

Reference was also made to various transport experiences mainly related to buses not stopping at the kerb to assist the disabled in boarding. Other problems experienced included taxi's refusing to carry guide dogs and wheelchairs not being adequately secured in vehicles. Officers confirmed that all drivers received training on these issues. They also reported that the young people involved with PACT were at present examining the issue of accessible transport. This included buses and taxi's and he confirmed that when the information was available it would be circulated to the Group.

The update from York Interfaith referred to the grant made by the SIWG, which was helping finance booking rooms at Priory Street for their meetings on the first Wednesday of each month and improving access. It was confirmed that their meeting at the Mosque had gone well. A copy of their questionnaire requesting details of the current work and concerns of faith and belief groups in York and their equalities and diversity form, were circulated at the meeting and it was reported that there had been a good return.

## **6. DRAFT EQUALITIES IMPACT ASSESSMENT (EIA) FROM THE MARKETING AND COMMUNICATIONS TEAM**

Consideration was given to a report, which detailed the draft Equalities Impact Assessment (EIA) from the Council's Marketing and Communications team.

The group were reminded that the Authority were required by law to carry out EIA's to cover all six equality strands to analyse the potential or actual effects of a policy and to establish whether the policy had a different impact on different groups of people. The aim of EIA's was to eliminate discrimination and produce positive outcomes for equality.

Matt Beer, Head of Marketing and Communications, stated the report detailed the policies that he was responsible for and he confirmed that it was still in draft form but welcomed the Groups input. He confirmed that the EIA would be completed and published in October 2008. He also confirmed that actions from the EIA would be included as part of his Departments Service Plans.

In relation to the document the Group made the following points:

- Remove jargon;

- Needs to be easier to read;
- Ensure that consultation is carried out and a consultation strategy is carried out early;
- 5 column text on pages 29 to 31, the headings should be repeated at the top of each page;
- Comic Sans font would make the document more accessible;
- An easy read version of the document would be helpful;
- Questioned length of time taken to produce documents in other languages (details to be emailed to Group, prior to next meeting);
- Important that blind and Partially Sighted Society had the opportunity to comment.

The Group welcomed the opportunity to review the EIA and expressed their thanks to the Head of Marketing and Communications for presenting the document to the Group first.

In answer to questions the Group were informed that towards the end of October/November it was proposed to invite the Group to go through a list of EIA's from other Council Departments. It was confirmed that they would not be in the same format but contain the key points and action plans.

RECOMMENDATION: That the report be noted and the views of the Group be taken into account in the Marketing and Communications EIA report.

REASON: To ensure the marketing and communications EIA is acceptable to the Group.

**7. CITY OF YORK COUNCIL DRAFT SINGLE CORPORATE EQUALITY SCHEME: JULY 2008 TO JULY 2009.**

The Group considered a report, which outlined actions at corporate level that the Council would take between July 2008 and July 2009; to make sure that it continued to be a fair and inclusive service provider and employer.

The Group was requested to note the approach outlined in the 12 month Single Corporate Equality Scheme and to make the draft available for consultation before the approach to the scheme was finalised in the Autumn of 2008. It was confirmed

that the Authority were required by law to have a scheme in place.

It was reported that the purpose of the consultation was to seek feedback about the Council's approach to the scheme and in particular whether this corporate scheme should be supplemented by directorate schemes for the period 2009-2012.

Officers confirmed that the consultation period ended on 22 August 2008. Co-optees and expert witnesses on the Group were requested to report back to their groups on the draft of this scheme and feed back their comments to the Equalities Team.

Group members referred to the short consultation period during the month of August when many members were on holiday. Officers confirmed that individual Group member's comments were sufficient at this stage as this would be a 3 year plan during which additional consultation would be undertaken with the community groups.

Officers also confirmed that the equality data was not completely up to date and that the 3 year scheme would have more focussed outcomes. It was noted that funding had been made available for a post to support this work and that it was hoped that an appointment would soon be made.

- RECOMMENDED:
- (i) That the Group note the approach in the draft Scheme outlined in Appendix 1 and that the draft be made available for consultation;
  - (ii) That the summary of the Equality Scheme be emailed to Group members.

REASON: To ensure continued and focused progress with equality and inclusion in the council.

## **8. WORKSHOP ON DEVELOPING CROSS STRAND WORKING AND PROJECTS**

Members formed into 3 discussion groups to examine and identify areas for cross-strand working and to discuss which cross-strand joint projects could be developed for funding from the Groups budgets in 2008/09.

The discussion groups examined what each community group did at present and how they could interact with other strands to produce joint projects. The Groups three objectives were displayed to help focus members minds.

The Groups made the following suggestions for cross-strand working:

#### Group 1

- Celebrate Yorkshire Day together with representatives from all the strands
- Database of photographs, to obtain a better awareness of who we are and to show others (with permission this database of images to be shared with other authorities)
- Inclusive Lord Mayors Day, a representative of all strands and groups in York to be invited to attend the occasion and accompany attendees in the parade to the Merchant Adventurers Hall

#### Group 2

- Schools extended services include provision of family learning or intergenerational events (all Schools required to provide extended school services by 2010)
- Expansion of work with BME elders group e.g Befriending Schemes
- Community Development capacity - networking required
- Raise awareness in care

#### Group 3

- Higher York Students Forum offering to undertake voluntary activities with groups inc. older people (social activities, bingo, visiting etc)
- Celebration Day to cover all the strands

Officers confirmed that there were a number of excellent ideas suggested by the groups and that they would examine them in more detail. Detailed examination of the projects that covered the most strands would be undertaken which would include costing, time and implications for each. A report back would then be made to the Group.

Heather Rice, Director of People and Improvement, also confirmed that she would pursue the suggestions made by the Group regarding Lord Mayor's Day separately. The Higher York

representative also confirmed that the Students Forum would undertake the suggested voluntary activities without requesting any funding from the Groups budget.

Cllr C Vassie, Chair

[The meeting started at 6.38 pm and finished at 9.00 pm].