



Notice of meeting of

Social Inclusion Working Group

To: Councillors Aspden (Chair), Alexander, Sue Galloway, Gunnell (Vice-Chair), Healey, Potter and Sunderland

Non Voting Co-opted Members:

Jack Archer, York Older People's Assembly

Sue Lister, York Older People's Assembly

Peter Blackburn, LGBT Forum

Karen Roberts, LGBT Forum

Rita Sanderson, The BME Citizens' Open Forum (York Racial Equality Network)

Daryoush Mazloum, The BME Citizens' Open Forum (York Racial Equality Network)

Jan Jauncey, York Interfaith

Lynn Jeffries, Disabled People's Forum

Paul Wordsworth, Churches Together in York

Date: Wednesday, 14 May 2008

Time: 6.30 pm

Venue: Clementhorpe Room, Priory Street, York

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. Minutes

(Pages 3 - 18)

To approve and sign the minutes of the last meeting of the Group held on 12 March 2008. An "easy read" version of these minutes is also attached for members consideration.

3. 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 Groups 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 13 May 2008 at 5.00pm.

4. Disabled Go

Anna Borthwick of Disabled Go will be attending the meeting to update the Group on their work.

5. Social Inclusion Working Group - Membership (Pages 19 - 24) Revisions

This report outlines revisions to the membership of the Social Inclusion Working Group.

6. Work Plan (Forward Plan) for 2008/09 (Pages 25 - 30)

This report considers the Social Inclusion Working Group's work plan, referred to as "the Forward Plan". Members are requested to approve the Plan for the first six months of 2008/09.

7. Community Forum Reports and Feedback

To receive 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.

8. Disabled People Together Day - 28 March 2008 (Pages 31 - 44)

This report informs Members of key findings from the Disabled People Together Day held on 28 March 2008. Members are requested to note the findings to date and await a further report in late Autumn 2008.

9. Workshop on Key Messages from the BME (Pages 45 - 48) Stakeholders' Seminar 2007

At the Groups Meeting on 16 January 2008, it was agreed that further consideration of the key messages from the BME Stakeholder Seminar, in particular what the Group and the Council could do to promote solutions should be undertaken at this meeting.

This report offers information for discussion at this hour-long workshop.

10. Any other business, which the Chair considers urgent under the Local Government Act 1972.

Democracy Officer:

Name: Jill Pickering

Tel: (01904) 552062

Jill.pickering@york.gov.uk

For more information about any of the following please contact the Democracy Officer responsible for servicing this meeting:

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

Contact details set out above.

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- register by contacting the Democracy Officer (whose name and contact details can be found on the agenda for the meeting) **no later than 5.00 pm** on the last working day before the meeting;
- ensure that what you want to say speak relates to an item of business on the agenda or an issue which the committee has power to consider (speak to the Democracy Officer for advice on this);
- find out about the rules for public speaking from the Democracy Officer.

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Further information about what's being discussed at this meeting

All the reports which Members will be considering are available for viewing online on the Council's website. Alternatively, copies of individual reports or the full agenda are available from Democratic Services. Contact the Democracy Officer whose name and contact details are given on the agenda for the meeting. **Please note a small charge may be made for full copies of the agenda requested to cover administration costs.**

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Scrutiny Committees

The purpose of all scrutiny and ad-hoc scrutiny committees appointed by the Council is to:

- Monitor the performance and effectiveness of services;
- Review existing policies and assist in the development of new ones, as necessary; and
- Monitor best value continuous service improvement plans

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City of York Council

Committee Minutes

MEETING	SOCIAL INCLUSION WORKING GROUP
DATE	12 MARCH 2008
PRESENT	COUNCILLORS ASPDEN (CHAIR), ALEXANDER, GUNNELL (VICE-CHAIR), POTTER, WATT (SUBSTITUTE), JACK ARCHER (NON-VOTING CO-OPTED MEMBER), SUE LISTER (NON-VOTING CO-OPTED MEMBER) AND JAN JAUNCEY (NON-VOTING CO-OPTED MEMBER)
APOLOGIES	COUNCILLORS SUE GALLOWAY AND HEALEY, RITA SANDERSON, LYNN JEFFRIES AND PAUL WORDSWORTH (NON-VOTING CO-OPTED MEMBERS)

33. 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.

Councillor Potter declared a general personal non-prejudicial interest as the Older People's Champion.

Councillor Alexander declared a general personal non-prejudicial interest as he worked at York St John University and as a candidate for the Young People's Champion.

34. MINUTES

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the last meeting of the Social Inclusion Working Group held on 16 January 2008 be approved and signed by the Chair as a correct record and the "easy read" version be noted.

35. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

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

36. SOCIAL INCLUSION WORKING GROUP BUDGET PRINCIPLES.

Members considered a report, which outlined the principles, which would guide the distribution of Social Inclusion project budgets for this financial year and for the future.

At the Groups Development Day on 25 February 2008 the community representative and elected members had jointly considered possible

principles and had felt that projects requesting support from the budget should:

1. Contribute to Social Inclusion Working Group objectives and agreed yearly work plans
2. Support the engagement of the widest audience in each of the six Equality strands i.e. Gender, Race, Disability, Sexual Orientation, Religion and Belief, and Age
3. Aim to engage hard-to-reach groups within each strand
4. Explore new or emerging issues
5. Be innovative and not previously tried
6. Not be main running costs, which will not be funded
7. Receive priority when brought forward by a number of community groups and covering a number of Equality strands

In answer to questions the Officers confirmed that money allocated from this years budget had been raised by cheque and would be forwarded to the community groups, together with the grant agreements, early next week.

RESOLVED: That the seven principles outlined above, agreed on the Development Day, be approved as a guide for the distribution of the Groups budget in this and future financial years.

REASON: To facilitate the business of the Group in 2008/09 and beyond.

37. SOCIAL INCLUSION WORKING GROUP MEMBERSHIP.

Members considered a report, which summarised discussions regarding possible improvements and additions to membership of the Group during the recent Development Day.

Officers confirmed that there had been extensive discussions on the membership issues, the key points of which were set out in Annex 1 to the report. A suggestion had been made to invite expert witnesses to future meetings to provide information and knowledge about specific issues. It was hoped that representatives from the Primary Care Trust and Education Services could be invited to all future meetings of the Group. Heather Rice stated that Rachel Johns, who was the newly appointed, Associate Director of Public Health (York and Health Improvement), would be a useful contact for PCT representation.

The following witnesses had been suggested:

- a. York Travellers Trust, to inform traveller issues
- b. York Humanists, to inform non religion/belief issues
- c. Young people invited in consultation with and supported by Steve Rouse, the youth worker who is currently commissioned by SIWG to work with young people, to inform specific issues such as intergenerational projects.

- d. User representatives from Valuing People Partnership and York People First to inform learning disabilities and mental health issues
- e. People from York Access Group to inform mobility issues
- f. Representatives from Higher York to progress higher education student inclusion
- g. Following investigation to identify relevant groups in the City, invite representatives from women's groups, men's groups and transgender groups to assist with gender issues.
- h. Representatives from the Primary Care Trust and Education services to assist with and inform service issues arising in these areas.

Members referred to the representatives from Higher York, referred to in point f) "to progress higher education student inclusion" and which they felt may work against social inclusion and suggestions were made to amend this to relate to the Students Union and Higher Education Institutions.

Some Members referred to the point made at the Development Day that there were too many elected members on the Group and questioned how this could be addressed. The Chair stated that any changes to the numbers of members on the Group would require changes to the Constitution and agreement by Council. Other Members pointed out that there was a need for as many elected members as possible to hear the views of the group but just not to override them.

Heather Rice confirmed that these were all valid points and that the group should be looking at improving links. She stated that there was a need to raise the group's profile which required a communication plan perhaps with the preparation of edited highlights of groups meetings for circulation at corporate Management Team meetings and to community group members. Officers confirmed that they were to meet with Ward Committees, at the end of the month, with a view to ascertaining how these could link up with the group.

- RESOLVED:
- i) That the contents of the report be noted.
 - ii) That approval given to the attendance of expert witnesses as detailed on page 28 of the report, subject to point f) being amended to relate to "the Students Union and Higher Education Institutions" to be invited to meetings in 2008/09, at the discretion of the Chair, for relevant agenda items.
 - iii) That Officers investigate with the Neighbourhood Management Unit how the Group could provide a better link with Ward Committees.

- iv) That Heather Rice and the Head of Legal investigate a possible reduction in the number of elected members on the Group, in line with comments made at the Development Day, and a report be brought back to the May meeting.

38. "PRIDE IN OUR COMMUNITIES" EQUALITY STRATEGY 2005-08 : SECOND YEAR UPDATE.

Members considered a report, which detailed progress to December 2007, with each of the six improvement themes of Pride in Our Communities, the Council's Equality Strategy and plans for 2005-08.

The Equalities Officer, gave an overview and summary of the main successes in the last year which included:

- Community presentation in October 2007 to the BME community
- Work carried out by the Social Inclusion Working Group over the last year
- Guidance and training on making consultation more accessible and inclusive
- City wide reporting procedure for hate incidents agreed
- Equality training for senior managers
- Appointment of Bill Hodson, Director of Housing & Adult Social Services, Corporate Equality Lead
- International Women's Day, event in the Mansion House on 13 March 2008
- Advances with the Disabled Peoples Forum
- Disabled People Together Day and lunch arranged for people from the disabled community to meet York University students
- Pay and Grading Review shortly due to be finalised
- Significant progress made with accessible services through "Easy at York"
- Conference in May, led by the disabled, to examine how the Centre for Independent Living (CIL) in York can be progressed

In answer to members questions, Heather confirmed that the employment equality statistics, detailed on page 48, related to the 2003 Annual Population Survey and that the Authority did not have a further breakdown of the figures. She agreed that further work was required in profiling to obtain accurate up to date figures.

Members also questioned at what Inspection Level the Authority were at following changes to the Equality Standard for Local Government. The Equality Officer confirmed that the Authority had not yet been assessed following these changes. She confirmed that the standard had been raised and detailed what work would be required to achieve Level 3. She also confirmed that she would let members of the group have details of what work would be required to meet each of the inspection levels.

Sue Lister commented that the Strategy did not appear to include reference to the 50 plus age group and as older people were part of the City she asked that this was kept in mind, particularly the involvement of the various strands in the yearly York 50 + Festival. Jack Archer also questioned how the new Equalities Legislation would affect older people.

The Equalities Officer, stated that government department policies were being challenged in relation to age, gender, disability and race and that policy decisions were now being made with these in mind.

RESOLVED: That the contents of the Pride in Our Communities Equality Strategy and plans for 2005-08 and the progress made to December 2007 be noted.

REASON: To keep members updated on progress with Equalities.

39. EQUALITY STRATEGY 2008-11 : EQUALITY ISSUES THE COUNCIL SHOULD CONSIDER IN THE NEXT 3 YEARS.

The Group considered a report, which summarised issues that the Council needed to consider and take on board in its Equality strategy and schemes for 2008-2011.

Members were asked to approve a one off grant totalling £1,250 to be shared between five community groups who were currently co-opted to the SIWG. This would allow them to consult with people from the six equality strands about issues that needed to be considered in the context of the Council's refreshed Equality Strategy and schemes for 2008-2011. Officers reported that feedback was required from the Groups by the end of May 2008 to enable their points to be fed back into the strategy.

Group members expressed concern that there would be insufficient time for them to consult their members and provide genuine feedback in the short time available. They also requested proactive engagement with the individual groups to assist with their input into the strategy and assistance with the development of the draft questionnaire. The Equalities Officer confirmed that the May date was driven by the Strategy but there was no reason why any additional feedback could not be taken into account during the next financial year.

RESOLVED: i) That the Group note the contents of the report.

ii) That approval be given to making one off grants of £250 to each of the following groups to assist with consultation on the Council's Equality Strategy. 2008-2011:

- Older People's Assembly
- York Racial Equality Network
- York Interfaith Forum

- York LGBT Forum
 - Disabled Peoples Forum via the Council's Equalities Team
- iii) That Officers contact each of the groups to assist them with their input into the Strategy.

REASON: To collect the views of as many equality strand groups as possible to inform the refreshed Equality strategy and schemes 2008-2011.

40. WORK PLAN PRINCIPLES AND PRIORITY TOPICS FOR 2008/09

Consideration was given to this report which considered the principles which guided Social Inclusion Working Group work planning and which recommended priority topics for consideration during 2008/09.

The Chair referred to Annex 1 of the report, which listed the principles, and topics identified by the Group at its Development Day in February. Members then broke into three groups (Groups A, B and C) to put forward their prioritised work plans for the Group. Officers confirmed that these plans would be used to make a list of priority topics for the first six months of the 2008/09 calendar year, for consideration at the next meeting.

The following priority topics had been identified and the various Groups priorities were shown against each:

- Lead the refresh of the Council Equality Strategy and Schemes 2008-2011 (**Group B first priority**)
- Influence the developing Council Communication Strategy (**Group A third priority**) (**Group B second priority**)
- Develop a community engagement strategy for SIWG (**Group A second priority**) (**Group B third priority**)
- Younger/Older people intergenerational issues
- Gender issues especially the inclusion of women from Black and Minority Ethnic (BMEs)
- Rise in BMEs and Community Cohesion issues (**Group B fourth priority**)
- Input to Council response to CPA inspection
- Feed into Local Development Framework and key service plans that will arise from the Sustainable Community Strategy and the Local Area Agreement (**Group A joint first priority**)
- Consider the changing demographic profile of the six Equality strands in York and how the Council should respond (**Group A joint first priority**) (**Group B fifth priority**)
- Consider CYC employee profile and the emerging Human Resources issues

Group C stated that they felt that they had been unable to prioritise the topics as they felt some should be classed as topics, some as agenda

items and others could form part of a development day. This group had felt that they had a responsibility to the CPA improvement, to BME women, to the Council and to the changing demographics in York.

Cllr Watt made reference to the young/old generation gap and he felt that priority should be given to examining this in context to the different strands.

- RESOLVED:
- i) That the work planning principles outlined in Part a of Annex 1 of the report be approved.
 - ii) That the list of priority topics agreed by the individual groups be used by the Officers to prepare the SIWG Forward Plan for the first six months of the 2008/09 calendar year, for consideration at the next meeting.

REASON: To facilitate the business of the Group in 2008/09.

41. COMMUNITY FORUM REPORTS AND FEEDBACK

The Chair and Vice Chair confirmed that they were continuing to meet community groups. They indicated that if any groups wished them to attend any of their meetings could they contact them direct.

Sam Holmes, from the University of York, reported that he was the Disability Forum Project Leader, one of 6 students who had volunteered to take part in a mapping exercise to consult groups in the city about their perceptions regarding the disabled. It was proposed to compile a report of their findings in a couple of months. There was to be a meeting on 28 March for the researchers to meet disabled people and their carers. The Equalities Officer stated that any support the Group could offer the students would be welcome.

The Older Peoples Assembly reported on their last meeting which had looked at a number of issues which included the Intergenerational Photo Exhibition, gas and electric price rises, Age Friendly York, Home Appreciation Loans, the Champions report and York Vale Carers. They also circulated copies of their 50+ Spring 2008 news letter for information. All members were invited to attend the next YOPA open meeting (2.00pm, Monday 17 March 2008, Central Methodist Church, St Saviourgate) when the speaker would be Richard Eames, Manager, First York.

Jan Jauncey of York Interfaith, circulated their recently updated calendar of events for 2008. Jan explained that she had only joined the SIWG in 2007 but that there had been a number of highlights to report which included the preparation of a constitution for their group, the bringing together of different faiths and their concerns, the setting up of a website www.yorkinterfaith.org, and the organisation of a joint meeting with Scarborough Interfaith. She reported they had prepared a very active programme for the forthcoming year. This included working more closely

with the Mosque in Bull Lane, York, examining the options relating to organ donation and their contribution to the Face to Face & Side by Side consultation, a framework for interfaith dialogue & social action.

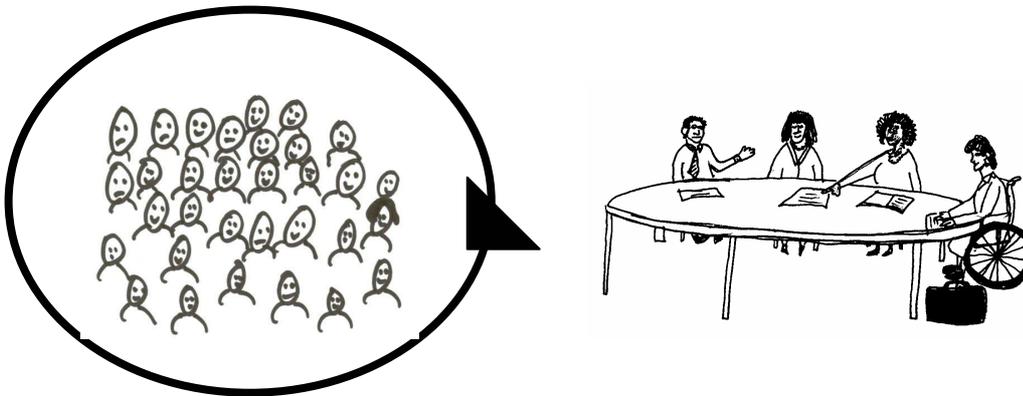
The Group noted receipt of the Inclusive York Forum minutes from their meeting held on 12 December 2007, circulated with the agenda.

The Chair thanked the Group for their updates and in particular Sam and Catherine for their input and for their attendance at the meeting.

CLLR K ASPDEN, Chair

[The meeting started at 6.30 pm and finished at 8.30 pm].

City of York Council



Social Inclusion Working Group

(Social inclusion means including everyone in society. The Social Inclusion Working Group has been set up to look at how all different communities in York can be given the same chances to take part in life and be included)



MINUTES



Date of meeting: 12 March 2008

Members of the Council who were at the meeting (to be known as 'Members' in these minutes):



**Keith
Aspden
(Chair)**



Ruth Potter



**James
Alexander**



Joe Watt



**Julie Gunnell
(Vice Chair)**

Members of the Council who were not able to come to the meeting:



Sue Galloway



Paul Healey

People who were at the meeting representing community groups:

Sue Lister and Jack Archer
from the Older People's
Assembly



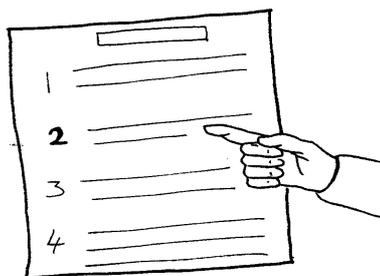
Jan Jauncey, York Interfaith



1. Social Inclusion Working Group Budget Principles

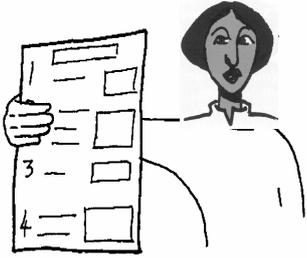


Members looked at points which would help the Group agree which projects should receive money from their budget.



They agreed 7 points to help them decide which projects they should give money to in future.

2. Social Inclusion Working Group Membership

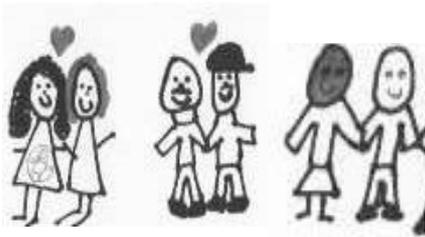


Members looked at how the membership of the Group could be improved.



It was agreed that representatives of the following groups should be invited to attend meetings to help the Group with reports on the agenda:

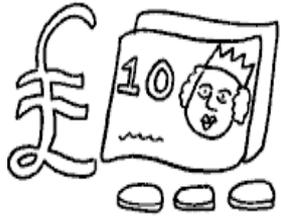
- York Travellers Trust
- York Humanists
- Young People
- Users from Valuing People Partnership and York People First
- York Access Group
- Students Union and Higher Education Institutions
- Representatives from women's, men's and transgender groups
- Primary Care Trust and Education Services



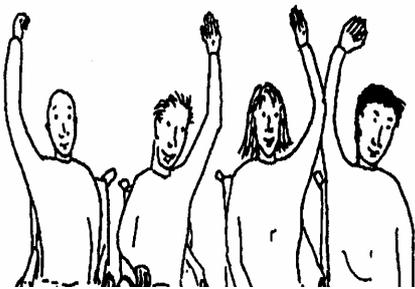
Members also asked Officers to look at reducing the number of Members of the Council on the Group.

3. "Pride in Our Communities" Equality Strategy 2005-08: Second Year Update

The Equalities Officer told the Group about what had gone well over the last year which included:



- Making a presentation to the Black and Minority Ethnic community
- Training Senior Managers on equality
- International Women's Day event on 13 March 2008
- Making services more accessible
- Conference on Independent Living
- Disabled People Together Day and advances with the Disabled Peoples Forum



4. Equality Strategy 2008-11: Equality Issues the Council should consider in the next 3 Years.

This report asked Members for money for the five community groups on the Social Inclusion Working Group to help them consult with their groups about what they wanted to put in the Councils Equality Strategy. This document would help the Council make sure that all people who live in the area could take



part in the life of the city and have equal opportunities.

It was agreed that one off grants of £250 should be given to the following groups to help them get the information for the Strategy by the end of May:

- Older People's Assembly
- York Racial Equality Network
- York Interfaith Forum
- York LGBT Forum
- Disabled Peoples Forum via the Council's Equalities Team.



5. Work Plan Principles and Priority Topics for 2008/09.

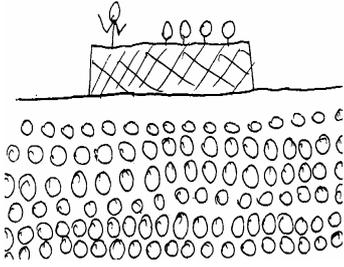


The Group looked at a report which listed topics which they felt were important for Members to consider in the next year.

The Group broke up into 3 small groups to list the topics in order of what was important to them.

It was agreed that Officers should look at these lists and prepare a Forward Plan for the Group for the next meeting.

6. Community Forum Reports and Feedback.



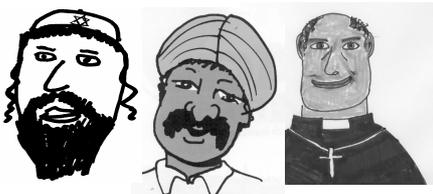
The Chair and Vice Chair said that they were very happy to go to any of the community groups meetings to speak to their members.



Students from the University of York were to speak to groups in the city for their views on disabled people and to bring this information back to the meeting.

Representatives from the Older People's Assembly told the Group about their work. At their last meeting they had looked at many things including gas and electric prices and York Vale Carers .

A calendar of events for the forthcoming year from York Interfaith was circulated to Members.



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Meeting of the Social Inclusion Working Group

14 May 2008

Report of the Director of People and Improvement

Social Inclusion Working Group - Membership Revisions

Summary

1. The report outlines proposed revisions to the membership of the Social Inclusion Working Group.
2. Members are requested to approve the proposed revisions.

Background

3. The Social Inclusion Working Group was established as part of the revised Council Constitution in 2006. Annex 1 is an excerpt from the Council Constitution and outlines the purpose of the group. It was established following extensive discussion and consultation by the ad-hoc Scrutiny Panel on Inclusivity, to improve the effectiveness of the organisation in meeting the diverse needs of its customers. The Group first met in July 2006.
4. Since its establishment, the Group has been chaired by the Executive Member for Youth and Social Inclusion. In line with Constitution requirements about “the need to be proportional to the overall political proportionality on the Council” the group currently comprises:
 - a. 3 Members from the Liberal Democrat group, including the Chair (Executive Member for Youth and Social Inclusion)
 - b. 3 Members from the Labour group, including the Shadow Executive Member
 - c. 1 Member from the Conservative group
5. At its first Development Day on 25 February 2008 the Group reviewed its membership. The Development Day was attended by all existing members and co-optees on the group. Those present

arrived at a number of recommendations regarding the representation of Elected Members on the Group. These were further discussed and agreed at the Group meeting on 12 March 2008. The decision made is summarised in the following excerpt from the draft minutes of the meeting on 12 March 2008:

“That Heather Rice and the Head of Legal investigate a possible reduction in the number of elected members on the Group, in line with comments made at the Development Day, and a report be brought back to the May meeting”.

6. Following investigation, it became evident that the issue had to be considered by Council Executive meeting on 22 April 2008 so as to allow Council Annual General meeting on 22 May 2008 to approve the proposed change as well as appoint Councillors to Social Inclusion Working Group for year 2008/9. The Executive resolved:

“That, arising out of the minutes of the Social Inclusion Working Group, the number of elected members on the working group be reduced, at the Annual Council meeting, to 5 (in proportion 2:2:1).”

Consultation

7. Community representatives and elected members jointly considered the topic of this report during the Group Development Day on 25 February 2008 and the meeting of 12 March 2008.

Options

8. Option 1: To change the number of elected members on the Social Inclusion Working Group to

- d. 2 from the Liberal Democrat Group

- e. 2 from the Labour Group

- f. 1 from the Conservative Group,

and increase representation from the six strands through inviting a number of non-voting Expert Witnesses to join the Group as agreed at the SIWG meeting on 12 March 2008.

9. Option 2: To maintain the current numbers of elected Members

10. Following consensus after extensive discussion at Group Development Day on 25 February 2008 and the Group meeting on 12 March 2008.

Analysis

11. Whilst ensuring that meetings remain workable and as inclusive of community voices as possible, a reduction in the number of elected Members will also facilitate increases in the community representative body through inviting a number of Expert Witnesses as outlined in the minutes of the SIWG meeting on 12 March 2008.
12. The meeting on 12 March also agreed that minutes from the Group and issues raised in meetings should be forwarded for consideration by the Council Executive and other senior member and officer groups like Council Management Board (CMB) and the Equality Leadership Group (ELG). This will afford SIWG an increased number of opportunities to influence Council planning and service delivery at the earliest possible opportunity.

Corporate Priorities

13. The recommendation will contribute to the promotion of inclusive and cohesive communities through supporting increased community inclusion and engagement in Council planning and decision making.

Implications

14. These are as follows:
 - **Financial** - None
 - **Human Resources (HR)** - None
 - **Equalities** – The recommended principles will contribute to the promotion of inclusive and cohesive communities and to Council Equalities aims and objectives.
 - **Legal** – None
 - **Crime and Disorder** - None
 - **Information Technology (IT)** - None
 - **Property** - None

- **Other** – None

Risk Management

15. N/A

Recommendations

16. Request members to approve:

- i. The number of elected members on the Social Inclusion Working Group to be:

2 from the Liberal Democrat group (including the Chair of the Group),

2 from the Labour Group (including the Vice Chair of the Group)

1 from the Conservative Group,

- ii. An increased representation from the six Equality strands through inviting a number of non-voting Expert Witnesses to join the Group as outlined in the minutes of the SIWG meeting on 12 March 2008.

Reason: To facilitate the business of the Group in 2008/9 and beyond through increasing community engagement and inclusion.

Contact Details

Author: Evie Chandler
Equalities Officer
PIET
Tel: 551704

Chief Officer Responsible for the report:
Heather Rice
Director of People and Improvement

Report Approved



Date

30 April 2008

Wards Affected:

All



For further information please contact the author of the report

Background papers – None

Annexes- Annex 1 – Purpose of the Social Inclusion Working Group

Annex 1 – Purpose of the Social Inclusion Working 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.
- iv. be chaired by the Executive Member for Social Inclusion and Youth.
- v. operate in accordance with the Protocol on Councillor Working Groups set out in Part 5 on page 369 of this Constitution.

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Meeting of the Social Inclusion Working Group

14 May 2008

Report of the Director of People and Improvement

Work Plan (Forward Plan) for 2008/9

Summary

1. The report considers the Social Inclusion Working Group's (SIWG) work plan, referred to as "the Forward Plan" for 2008/9
2. Members are requested to approve the SIWG Forward Plan for the first six months of calendar year 2008/9.

Background

3. Annex 1 lists the proposed plan for the period June 2008 to November 2008.
4. The Annex has been put in place taking into consideration
 - the periods that key initiatives like the Local Development Framework and the Community Strategy are likely to be considered by Council
 - discussion which took place at the SIWG Development Day on 25 February 2008
 - the minutes of the SIWG meeting on 12 March 2008, regarding item 8 of the published agenda
5. Members and community group representatives present during consideration of item 8 on 12 March 2008, formed three discussion groups (A, B and C). Each discussion group arrived at topics they wanted to see discussed in the first 6 months of 2008/9. These topics were:

a. Group A

- i. Feed into Local Development Framework and key service plans that will arise from the Sustainable Community Strategy and the Local Area Agreement
- ii. Develop a community engagement strategy for SIWG
- iii. Influence the developing Council Communication Strategy

b. Group B

- i. Joint first priority:
 - 1. Lead the refresh of the Council Equality Strategy and Schemes 2008-2011 **and**
 - 2. Consider the changing demographic profile of the six Equality strands in York and how the Council should respond
- ii. Influence the developing Council Communication Strategy
- iii. Develop a community engagement strategy for SIWG
- iv. Rise in BMEs and Community Cohesion issues
- v. Consider the changing demographic profile of the six Equality strands in York and how the Council should respond

c. Group C (as per excerpt from draft minutes of meeting on 12 March 2008)

“**Group C** stated that they felt that they had been unable to prioritise the topics as they felt some should be classed as topics, some as agenda items and others could form part of a development day. This group had felt that they had a responsibility to the CPA improvement, to BME women, to the Council and to the changing demographics in York.

Cllr Watt made reference to the young/old generation gap and he felt that priority should be given to examining this in context to the different strands”.

Consultation

6. Community representatives and elected members jointly considered and arrived at topics outlined in Annex 1 during the Group Development Day on 25 February 2008 and at the last meeting of the Group on 12 March 2008.

Options

7. Option 1: To approve the contents of Annex 1
8. Option 2: Not to approve the contents of Annex 1
9. Option 1 is recommended. Reason: The contents were arrived at after extensive discussion at Group Development Day on 25 February 2008 and contribute to Council Equality objectives.

Analysis

10. N/a

Corporate Priorities

11. The recommended principles and priority topics contribute to the promotion of inclusive and cohesive communities.

Implications

12. These are as follows:
 - **Financial** - None
 - **Human Resources (HR)** - None
 - **Equalities** – The recommended principles and priorities will contribute to the promotion of inclusive and cohesive communities and will contribute to Council Equalities aims and objectives.
 - **Legal** - None
 - **Crime and Disorder** - None
 - **Information Technology (IT)** - None

- **Property** - None
- **Other** - None

Risk Management

13. N/A

Recommendations

14. To approve the contents of Annex 1 as part of the Social Inclusion Working Group's Forward Plan for the period June 2008 to November 2008

Reason: To facilitate the business of the Group in 2008/9.

Contact Details

Author: Evie Chandler
Equalities Officer
PIET
Tel: 551704

Chief Officer Responsible for the report:
Heather Rice
Director of People and Improvement

Report Approved **Date** 30 April 2008

Wards Affected:

All

For further information please contact the author of the report

Background papers – None

Annexes - Annex 1 : Forward Plan June to November 2008

Annex 1- Forward Plan June to November 2008¹

Meeting on 8 July 2008

- Council Communication Strategy
- Council Equality Schemes 2008/9 and Strategy themes for 2009-2012
- Proposals for SIWG funding for financial year 2008/9
- Discussion on developing cross-strand working

Meeting on 17 September 2008

- The changing profile of the six Equality strands in York and Council response
- Equality implications of Local Development Framework
- Equality implications of the LAA

Development Day (late Autumn 2008)

Assessing the impact of key Council policies plans and practices on the Equality strands

Meeting on 19 November 2008

- A community engagement strategy for SIWG
- Working with Ward Committees
- Discussion regarding Community Cohesion issues arising from:
 - Demographic changes in York's BME profile
 - Intergenerational issues

¹SIWG meeting dates mentioned below are provisional at the time of writing

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Meeting of the Social Inclusion Working Group

14 May 2008

Report of the Director of People and Improvement

Disabled People Together Day – 28 March 2008

Summary

1. This report is to inform members of key findings from the Disabled People Together Day on 28 March 2008
2. Members are requested to note the findings, pending the outcome of research project currently undertaken by University of York student-volunteers regarding developing a joint voice for disabled people in York. Project findings and suggested next steps are expected to be reported to members in late Autumn 2008.

Background

3. “Disabled People Together” was the event sponsored by SIWG held on Friday 28 March 2008 at the National Centre for Early Music. The event resulted from discussions held by members at past SIWG meetings about supporting the development of a joint forum/voice for all disabled people in York.
4. The purpose was to bring together people from all disability groups in an informal and relaxed way, to discuss working together towards a joint voice for disabled people in York.
5. Forty - four disabled people and carers attended the day. **Annex 1** outlines the programme for the day. George Wood and Fiona Walker, Co-chairs of the York Valuing People Partnership (YVPP) gave a presentation about their experience in leading the YVPP. Sam Holmes leading the team of students from the Student Skills Development Unit at the University of York, gave a presentation about the research project referred to in paragraph 2 of this paper.
6. 30 attendees completed feedback forms. 21 gave very positive feedback. 8 stated that they found the day a bit interesting. There

were no negative comments about the day. 29 attendees stated they would like to attend similar events in the future.

7. The key messages from the day listed in **Annex 2** will be taken on board in the findings of the study referred to in paragraph 2 of this report.

Consultation

8. The event took place following discussions at previous SIWG meetings and forms part of the consultation about developing a joint forum for disabled people in York.

Options

9. None

Analysis

10. N/A

Corporate Priorities

11. Events like this actively contribute to the promotion of inclusive and cohesive communities

Implications

12. These are as follows:
 - **Financial** - None
 - **Human Resources (HR)** - None
 - **Equalities** – Events of this nature stem from Council Equalities aims and objectives which they help meet.
 - **Legal** - None
 - **Crime and Disorder** - None
 - **Information Technology (IT)** - None
 - **Property** - None
 - **Other** - None

Risk Management

13. N/A

Recommendations

14. To approve and note the comments of the report.

Reason: To facilitate the study currently undertaken concerning the promotion of a joint forum for disabled people in York

Contact Details

Author: Evie Chandler
Equalities Officer
PIET
Tel: 551704

Chief Officer Responsible for the report:
Heather Rice
Director of People and Improvement

Report Approved

Date

30 April 2008

Wards Affected:

All

For further information please contact the author of the report

Background papers – None

Annexes

Annex 1 : Programme for the day

Annex 2 : Key messages

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Annex 1 - Disabled People Together Day programme

10:00 Arrival/ coffee/ registration

Session 1: "Chatterbox Round Tables"

Lunch/ Wall of Comments/networking

Session 2: Feedback from Round Tables

Session 3: Working together in York: Valuing People
Partnership

Session 4: Towards a Centre for Independent Living

15:00 End

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Annex 2 - Disabled People Together Day key findings

A. Chatterbox Session Tablecloth Summary summarised by Sam Holmes, student project team leader

a. Introduction

Participants were split in 5 roundtables. Tables were given paper table clothes which had four questions/ discussions topics written on them. Attendees discussed each question and recorded their answers on post-it notes, which they stuck under the relevant question.

b. Findings

Question 1: Do you know of any group's of/for disabled people ?

The organisations listed in reply have been divided into three groups (please see below). Some groups may have disabled members yet may not consider themselves to be a group especially for disabled people. Next to the name of each group is the number of post-it notes, which mentioned that group.

National Charities/Organisations

Age concern - 2

Epilepsy Action - 3

Macmillan Cancer Care - 1

Marie Stopes - 1

Mencap - 5

National Autistic Society - 1

Remploy - 2

Royal National Institute for the Blind - 3

Royal National Institute for the Deaf - 2

Scope - 1

Talkback - 2
Wilberfoss Trust - 1
Wilf Ward Trust - 1

Local

Access - 2
Brunswick Organic Nurseries - 2
Clifton Women's Institute - 1
Disabled People Action Group - 2
Disability GO - 1
Dyslexia York - 1
Gateway Club - 3
Greenworks - 1
Hands and voices Choir - 1
Lollipop (deaf children) 1
Older Peoples Assembly - 2
Our Celebration - 2
PACT children's group - 1
Saint Sampson's - 1
Snappy - 3
Social Inclusion Group (York Council) - 1
Woodlands/ York MS society - 1
York Arthritis Group - 2
York Blind and partially sighted society - 4
York Craft - 8
York Deaf society - 1
York Diabetes Group - 1
York Fellowship - 1
York Partnership Board - 3
York People First - 8
York Salvation Army - 3

Care/Medical/Social Services/Day Centres

Avalon - 2

Carewatch - 1
Citizens Advice Bureau - 1
CVS - 1
Future Prospects - 1
Joseph Rowntree Trust - 1
Limetrees - 1
Saint Leonards Hospice - 1
York Cancer Centre - 1
York Carers - 1
York Coronary Support Group - 1
York Housing Association - 2
York Wheels - 1

Question 2: Are you a member of any disabled people's groups?

- **If yes what do you find to be the benefits of this?**
- **If no, why not?**

It was clear from the feedback that people were members of groups locally and in some cases regionally and nationally. There were 35 post-it notes identifying people as belonging to groups however some people would be members of more than one group and there could have been several members of the same group on one table.

Some of the **benefits** people identified of being in a group are as follows (with number of post-it notes stating benefit written next to the statement):

Communication - 2
Meet people in similar position - 2
New ideas being passed on to members - i.e. York Against Cancer -
new medication information being passed on - 2
Older people focussed - however this could also be a negative - 2
Personal development plan - 3 (York Craft - specialist work training)
Social activities and community - 3

Support - 7

Training (especially at Greenworks, Krumbs café, YorkCraft and York People First members) - 4

Workshops to help understand disability - 1

People who are not currently members of groups identified the following **reasons for non-membership**:

Do not know any - 2

Internet is a source of support and is more flexible - 1

Lack of time - 2

Nothing appropriate available - 2

No transport to help access - 2

Part of wider-world so do not feel need to - 1

Poorly Supported - 1

Too much work to do! - 1

Underfunded - 1

Would rather do social activities in spare time - 1

Question 3: Do you know of any groups that work together?

- **Has working together made a difference?**
- **Why has this worked or not worked?**

National Level

RNIB and RND

Local Level

Cancer Care Centre and York Against Cancer

CVS affiliated groups

Fifty Plus festival - It was felt that groups across the board were getting involved which was good.

York Craft and Work Steps

York People First and local Disabled schools

York People First and local Learning disability day centres

York People First and Self-Direct
York People First and the Partnership Board

Not many people on the tables were aware of much inter-group working. There were fewer post-it notes on this question.

Not much overall was known about local groups working together and on what.

Those groups that did work together felt that it was good and successful. It was reported that sign posting between groups was good. The newsletter/ survival guide was an example of good inter-working.

York Craft was a good example of an organisation working with numerous disabled people and creating a good atmosphere and team spirit while producing a competitive and professional product.

Groups worked well together over providing information on disability benefits and other welfare matters.

It was also evident that groups were environmentally conscious and were keen to be eco-friendly in their business.

However many people reported that:

- Groups needed to improve communication between them.
- More meetings like this were needed to improve awareness of other groups and to network within the disabled community
- Groups do not share resources and ideas as they are in competition for resources and clients and not part of the same remit

More information needed to be circulated telling people what was available and who could help with different roles/ jobs.

Question 4: Should there be a single disabled people's group in the city to run along individual groups?

- **If yes, what would you like it to do and how would you like it to work?**
- **If not, why not?**

A single group?

The session on the whole seemed to be in favour of a single disabled people's group in the city. This was with the proviso that many factors would need to be correct.

31 post-it notes were in favour of a single group.

5 post-it notes were not.

What would you like it to do?

Provide a good place to meet and communicate with all other groups
- 3

We all have something in common so best work together- 2

Create shared goals and work on those for the disabled community -
2

Include all groups - 1

Promote education, employment, transport and other issues within disabled community and society generally - 4

Be similar to Lives Unlimited, which has set-up a one-stop shop -
been very successful! - 2

Set up a centre for independent living - 2

All disabled groups be treated equally - 1

Be not bound by personalities and commitment of those involved - 3

Not affect advocacy work of individual groups - 1

How would you like it to work?

Council to arrange meeting place/ people to run it - 3

Run by someone independent - 1

Not to be tokenistic and to have some teeth to take action - 6

To have a structure and not be a talking shop - 4

Needs to be user-led - 2

Will need to be financially secure, well-funded - 8

Be autonomous and independent - 2

To promote bigger disabled issues leaving individual groups to promote more group specific ones - 3

Will need shared and specific goals - 2

Less attention to labelling people as this stops people attending - 1

Need to get all groups onboard so must offer something - 2

Have a representative from each individual group - 1

If you don't take part you can't complain - 1

Why would you not like a single group?

Too big - 3

Will lose individual specialisms - 2

May affect individual group advocacy - 1

B. Wall of Comments

During lunch participants were encouraged to make comments on post-it notes about life in the city concerning leisure, education and training, safety, work, and anything else. 12 comments were made about a number of issues in these areas and they will be passed to appropriate departments and Council partners for their response.

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Meeting of the Social Inclusion Working Group

14 May 2008

Report of the Equalities Officer

Workshop on key messages from BME Stakeholders’ Seminar 2007

Background

1. This report offers information to be discussed at an hour long workshop to take place at the end of the SIWG meeting on 14 May 2008.
2. The BME Stakeholders’ seminar ‘The Changing Population of York’ took place in October 2007 under the auspices of York Inclusive City Forum.
3. Initial key messages were circulated at the SIWG meeting of 21 November 2007, followed by a verbal report from Colin Stroud, Chief Officer, York CVS and were initially considered by the Group at its meeting on 16 January 2008
4. The meeting on 16 January 2008 decided that “..further consideration of the key messages from the BME Stakeholder Seminar, in particular what the Group and the Council can do to promote solutions, be undertaken at the SIWG meeting in May (1hr to be allocated)”.

The key messages

5. These are as follows:
 - a. All sectors in York need to be aware of and take into consideration, the benefits to all of addressing the needs of the increasing numbers of BME citizens and migrant (workers) coming to live and work in the city. The Without Walls LSP is best placed to take the lead in this through established partnerships.

- b. There is a statutory requirement for ethnic monitoring in the city. Better use should be made of information that is already available. Without accurate information, planning appropriate services is problematic. It was suggested that a 'BME observatory' should be set up for York.
- c. Several participants observed that York was not a welcoming city, and that racist attitudes were prevalent. There needs to be further research into this and appropriate action taken.
- d. The conference was informed that racial harassment was increasing, especially in rural areas. The evidence of this in York needs to be established and steps taken to deal with it?
- e. Work to improve social and emotional cohesion within communities was felt to be crucial. This should meet emerging government guidance on best practice.
- f. As part of a wider strategy to improve the availability of information to all residents, York should consider improving information services for newcomers to the city, including a 'welcome pack'.
- g. The Building Bridges Forum should be reactivated, and the Open Forum developed.
- h. Frontline staff, in all sectors, need to be made aware of the changes taking place in the BME population and given appropriate training.
- i. There is a need to look at best practice in other parts of the country.
- j. Work with children and young people is particularly important.
- k. Free, 'social' language classes should be extended.
- l. There is evidence that individual BME citizens do not have the confidence, and groups do not have the necessary

capacity, to be effective in expressing the needs of BME citizens. All stakeholders must address this.

- m. The remit, and the capacity of existing organisations working with BME groups need to be reviewed, and evaluated.
- n. Following this review, existing partnerships, and provisions in both the voluntary and public sectors should be developed and resourced to meet the increasing needs of the BME population. Wherever possible, specialised services within mainstream provisions should be developed.
- o. Positive messages regarding the benefits that immigrants are bringing to the city need to be publicised through the media.

Recommendations

- 6. To discuss and identify solutions to which the Council and SIWG can contribute to key issues raised at the seminar.

Reason: To give proper consideration to the key messages.

Contact Details

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