

Meeting of the Social Inclusion Working Group

12 March 2008

Report of the Director of People and Improvement

## **Work Plan Principles and Priority Topics for 2008/9**

### **Summary**

1. The report considers the principles which guide Social Inclusion Working Group work planning and recommends priority topics for 2008/9.
2. Members are requested to approve the principles and agree a prioritised work plan (called “the SIWG Forward Plan”) for the first six months of calendar year 2008/9.

### **Background**

3. Annex 1 lists the principles and topics identified by the Group at its Development Day on 25 February 2008.

### **Consultation**

4. Community representatives and elected members jointly considered and arrived at the principles and topics outlined in Annex 1 during the Group Development Day on 25 February 2008.

### **Options**

5. Option 1: To approve the contents of Annex 1
6. Option 2: Not to approve the contents of Annex 1
7. 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**

8. N/a

## **Corporate Priorities**

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

## **Implications**

10. 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**

11. N/A

## **Recommendations**

12. To approve principles outlined in part a of Annex 1

13. With co-optees present, to discuss the list of topics in part b of Annex 1 and agree a prioritised work plan (called “the SIWG Forward Plan”) for the first six months of calendar year 2008/9.

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

## Contact Details

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

Report Approved

Date

*3 March 2008*

Wards Affected:

All

For further information please contact the author of the report

**Background papers – None**

**Annexes-** Annex 1 :SIWG Development Day 25.2.2008: Work Plan Principles and Priorities for 2008/9



## **Annex 1- SIWG Development Day 25.2.2008: Work Plan Principles and Priorities for 2008/9**

### **a. Work planning principles**

#### **Overall**

- Agree a yearly work plan and stick to it
- Do less, do it better
- Prioritise topics of interest to all 6 strands.
- Work across all strands, do projects across all strands, concentrate on issues which are of concern to as many strands as possible
- Consider the capacity of SIWG members and community reps and prioritise so as to meet our and others expectations
- Build flexibility to deal with pressing or emerging issues
- Look at the Equality Leadership Group work plans and feed into them
- Consider the links with Inclusive City Forum to avoid duplication and to ensure synergy.

#### **Relating to Objective 1- Links with Council Executive, Council decision making**

- Look at the forward plans of the Executive and the Executive Member and Advisory Panels, to proactively identify areas that need SIWG input
- Ensure that SIWG advises all Council decision-making including officer decision making. (Look at Officer Decisions log)
- Raise the profile of SIWG with Executive members and Directors.
- Do joint Equalities training with Executive members
- Encourage Executive members to ask officers to consider the effects of recommended policy and practice on each of the six equality strands.
- Promote the role of SIWG to all members and senior officers. Consulting and engaging SIWG is not a tick-box exercise

- Position SIWG as a strategic group to be engaged early in policy and service planning.
- Ensure that SIWG views are included in Council responses to consultation about government equality, inclusion, cohesion initiatives

### **Relating to Objective 2- Links with Community Groups**

- Consider how to increase community representative capacity
- Ensure that equality strand reps learn from each other and act jointly
- Encourage community groups on SIWG to produce annual plans that will identify how they will contribute to SIWG annual work. Encourage end-of-year reporting on how plans were met.
- Need more regular representation from the Youth Service with young people.
- Work plan topics should be easy to understand. Brief Community Reps before meetings

### **Relating to Objective 3- Links with Ward Committees**

- Least developed objective. Ensure we catch up in 2008/9.
- Ask Ward Committee managers to brief SIWG members about ward committees
- Train ward committee officers on Equality issues
- Lobby ward committee members to include equality issues in their planning cycles
- Encourage ward committee officers and members to engage and include people from the 6 strands. Suggest how this can be done.
- SIWG members and officers to attend Ward Committees to present SIWG work and raise SIWG profile locally

<h3><b>b. Work Plan 2008/9- Priority topics</b></h3>
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- Lead the refresh of the Council Equality Strategy and Schemes 2008-2011
- Influence the developing Council Communication Strategy

- Develop a community engagement strategy for SIWG
- Younger/Older people intergenerational issues
- Gender issues especially the inclusion of women from Black and Minority Ethnic's (BMEs)
- Rise in BMEs and Community Cohesion issues
- 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
- Consider the changing demographic profile of the six Equality strands in York and how the Council should respond
- Consider CYC employee profile and the emerging Human Resources issues

