



Minutes of the meeting of the EQUALITIES PANEL of the POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE held on THURSDAY 2 SEPTEMBER 1999 at 6.30 pm

**Present:** Councillors Edwards, Long, Seymour, I Wilson and White

**Officers:** H Miller (Chief Executive), D Jones (Strategic Director Neighbourhood Services), L McGillivray (Head of Policy and Communications), B Bithell (Head of Human Resources), G Snelson (Corporate Policy Manager), A Lamming (Regeneration Officer), T Butterwick (Corporate Policy Assistant) and S Heap (Members' Services Manager)

**EP1/00 ELECTION OF CHAIR**

RESOLVED -

That Councillor Long be elected Chair of the Panel for the Council year 1999/2000.

**EP2/00 TERMS OF REFERENCE**

Further to Minute PR14/00, the Panel considered its Terms of Reference; its role; the frequency of meetings and the possible involvement of external organisations in its work.

RESOLVED -

1. That the Policy and Resources Committee be recommended to adopt the Terms of Reference for the Panel as attached as an **Annex** to these Minutes.
2. That the Panel meet on a quarterly basis, with an additional meeting being held in October 1999, to consider the Action Plans arising from the Equalities Workshop being held on 24 September 1999.
3. That the advisory role of the Panel be noted.
4. That in addition to its recognised reporting line to the Policy and Resources Committee, the Policy and Resources Committee be recommended to authorise the Panel to provide advice/make recommendations to any Committee of the Council on equalities issues.
5. That wider membership of the Panel be allowed, to include any relevant external organisations and including religious groups, following consultation with appropriate organisations.

**EP3/00**

**EQUALITIES AUDIT AND THE STEPHEN LAWRENCE INQUIRY**

Further to Minute PR14/00, the Panel received copies of the reports submitted to the Policy and Resources Committee on the Council's Equalities Audit and the findings arising from the Stephen Lawrence Inquiry. The Panel also noted the resulting decisions.

It was reported that the Council's performance against the Commission for Racial Equalities Standard had been featured in the Audit and a Workshop for senior officers was to be held on 24 September 1999 to develop Action Plans to progress the Council's performance.

It was also noted that copies of the Audit Report were to be circulated to all Members and senior officers to raise awareness.

The importance of addressing the implications arising from the Stephen Lawrence Inquiry as part of the work arising from the Equalities Audit was recognised, as was the need to incorporate the implications into other work the Council was involved with, such as the Crime and Community Safety Strategy.

The Panel briefly considered the issue of the racial harassment reporting centres and the need to raise awareness of the centres, awareness of racial matters and cultural diversity in schools and training for officers on racial matters and cultural diversity.

**EP4/00**

**EQUALITIES WORKSHOP - 24 SEPTEMBER 1999**

The Panel noted progress on the arrangements for the Workshop to be held on 24 September 1999, which was intended to facilitate senior managers of the Council in preparing Action Plans to progress the Council's performance against the Commission for Racial Equalities Standards for Local Government.

It was recognised that any draft plans arising from the Workshop would need to be reviewed by individual Directorate Management Teams and the Council's Social Policy Programme Group before submission to this Panel and ultimately the Policy and Resources Committee for approval.

THE CHAIR CLOSED THE MEETING AT 7.18 PM