

**EQUALITIES WORKSHOP - 24 SEPTEMBER 1999**

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**1. Purpose**

- 1.1 To inform the Panel of progress that has been made in developing a programme for an Equalities Workshop which is to be held on Friday 24 September 1999.

**2. Summary**

- 2.1 One of the key stages for the Council to develop and implement the recommendations both from the Equalities Audit and from the Stephen Lawrence Inquiry will be an Equalities Workshop for Milton Keynes Council Officers with involvement from external organisations and Members.
- 2.2 The Workshop will provide the opportunity for work to commence on both Corporate and Directorate Action Plans and implementation timetables.

**3. Recommendations**

- 3.1 It is recommended that the Panel endorses the approach to the Equalities Workshop.

#### 4. **Background**

- 4.1 At its meeting on 13 July 1999 (Minute PR14/00 refers), the Policy and Resources Committee considered a process for progressing the recommendations from the Equalities Audit and Stephen Lawrence Inquiry. The Committee agreed that an action plan should be developed to take the recommendations forward. One of the key elements of this process would include holding workshops or briefings.

#### 5. **Issues and Choices**

- 5.1 An Equalities Workshop has been planned to commence this work. It will be held at the Civic Offices on the morning of Friday 24 September. A copy of the draft programme is attached at **Annex A**.
- 5.2 The first part of the Workshop will be about providing information. There will be presentations by Jean Kelly of Jean Kelly Consultants on the Equalities Audit and Richard Solly, Milton Keynes Council on the Stephen Lawrence Inquiry recommendations.
- 5.3 The second part of the morning will involve participants in discussion sessions within Directorate and Corporate groups. At the end of this session each group should have a prioritised action plan and assigned responsibilities for their service area. The outcomes from the Directorate and Corporate groups will be reported back at the end of the morning.
- 5.4 The event is aimed primarily at officers, and will include, Heads of Services, people who were interviewed as part of the audit process and officers who have a key role in contributing to the Action Plan. However, Members may find it a useful event to attend for understanding the key issues.
- 5.5 A number of external organisations who were interviewed for the audit or with an interest and expertise in equalities issues have been invited to participate. A list of all of those who have been invited to attend the Workshop is attached at **Annex B**.
- 5.6 The purpose of the event is to develop a prioritised Action Plan/s that will cover both the Corporate and Directorate issues together with a timetable for implementation. The Directorate and Corporate Action Plans will be fed back and co-ordinated to be presented to the Equalities Panel for their agreement later in the autumn.

#### 6. **Implications**

- 6.1 Environmental

None.

- 6.2 Equalities

The Workshop will contribute to improving the way that the Council operates both internally and in its provision of services to benefit all people in Milton Keynes.

6.3 Financial

There are costs involved with providing the Workshop element of the Audit and Inquiry recommendations. These will be met by the Chief Executive's Office.

6.4 Legal

Developing an action plan will help the Council meet its statutory responsibility under Section 71 of the Race Relations Act 1976, to eliminate racial discrimination and promote racial equality.

6.5 Staff and Accommodation

None.

7. **Conclusions**

7.1 The Equalities Workshop will be a key component in the process of taking forward both the recommendations from the Equalities Audit and the Stephen Lawrence Inquiry Report.

Background Papers: Reports to Policy and Resources - Equalities Audit  
- Stephen Lawrence Inquiry