

Report of: Community Housing Business Manager

To: Executive Board

Date: 17th July 2006

Item No:

Title of Report : Black and Ethnic Minority Housing Strategy



Summary and Recommendations



Purpose of report: To present the new Black and Ethnic Minority Housing Strategy



Key decision: No

Portfolio Holder: Councillor Patrick Murray

Scrutiny Responsibility: Housing

Area(s) affected: All

Report Approved by:

Patrick Murray-Portfolio Holder

Jeremy King-Legal

Dee Higgins-Finance

Michael Lawrence-Strategic Director



Policy Framework: None



Recommendation(s):

Approve the draft strategy for consultation and agree the consultation plan

1. This is the first strategy that the Council has commissioned to specifically deal with the housing needs of black and ethnic minority tenants. The strategy was written by consultants (Bob Blackaby Associates) who were asked to provide an overview of the current position and recommend actions to improve our services. The strategy makes the point that our current knowledge about the needs of these groups is patchy and that the Council needs to commission further research.

2. However there are a number of actions the Council can take over the next three years that should help to improve services. These include further staff training in racial equality especially for frontline staff and managers, better collection and monitoring of ethnic information in all areas, finding ways to overcome barriers to involving residents from ethnic groups in our activities and improving how we provide information about our services.

3. If Executive Board approves the report it will be put out for a 3 month consultation with stakeholder groups. This process will include

1. Visiting various community groups predominantly catering for one or more Ethnic Minority groups to present and receive feedback on the strategy
2. Setting up focus groups with our own Black and Ethnic Minority Tenants to discuss the strategy and action plan
3. Circulating to workers within a number of agencies including the City Council whose role is specifically targeted to work with Black and Ethnic Minorities
4. Discussing the strategy at SHOP and the Council's Equality and Diversity working group. It will also be the subject of a workshop at SHOP's City Housing Conference
5. Circulating the strategy to all partner agencies for comment
6. The strategy will be on our website

4. The strategy will then be amended in the light of the consultation before going back to members for final agreement. The action plan will be amended following the consultation to revise dates and assign lead officers

5. The timetable for this process is laid out in the table below

Report goes to Housing Scrutiny/Executive Board for approval to go out for consultation	4 th July/17 th July 2006
Consultation Period	17 th July- 17 th October
Final version to Housing Scrutiny Committee, Housing Advisory Board and Full Council	October/November to fit with Council meetings
Implement Action Plan	November 2006- December 2009 (some actions will be undertaken as good practice before this)

Name and contact details of responsible officer

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Background papers: None