

Report of^[x1]: Community Scrutiny Committee

To^[x2]: City Executive Board

Date^[x3]: 11th June 2008

Item No

Title of Report ^[x4]: Funding for equalities work in the City.



Summary and Recommendations




Purpose of report^[x5]: To report to the City Executive Board the
recommendations of the Community Scrutiny Committee as part of their
discussions on the future funding for equalities work in Oxford.



decision^[x6]: No

Board Member ^[x7]: Cllr Antonia Bance

Ward(s) affected^[x8]: All

Report Approved  Andy Collett – Financial & Asset Management Services
Jeremy Thomas – Legal & Democratic Services
Paul Spencer – Climate Change Officer



Policy Framework^[x9]:

Recommendations^[x10]: The City Executive Board is asked to respond to the
Community Scrutiny Committee's recommendations:



1. To ensure that a portfolio holder is designated to be responsible for equalities
2. That the relevant Portfolio Holder works closely with the Partnerships Manager and Diversity Co-ordinator.



1. Background

- 1.1. The Committee at its meeting on 20th February requested an update in respect of grant funding for equalities work.
- 1.2. The Partnerships Manager attended the Committee on 22nd April and informed Members that the City Council had made available £20,000 in grant funding for equalities work.
- 1.3. The Partnerships Manager stated that Oxfordshire County Council was supporting MANTRA – The multi agency network dealing with racial harassment. The County Council is in the process of updating racial harassment reporting line and information documents. The Partnership Manager added that the Citizens Advice Bureau and local advice centres within the City also handled reporting of racial incidents.
- 1.4. The Chief Executives of Oxfordshire County Council and Oxford City Council had contacted the new national Equality and Human Rights Commission and were seeking advice around the revision of local equality council / commission structures. Commitment of any dedicated grant funding would therefore follow decisions around the revised local structure.
- 1.5. Oxford City Council is working jointly with Oxfordshire Primary Care Trust and Oxfordshire County Council to support the single equalities framework and vulnerable people and communities with the county.
- 1.6. The Committee felt that equalities work within the Council and City, as a whole should be a priority focus. The recent Cultural Services Inspection Report by the Audit Commission highlighted this via its identification of ‘a corporate issue of lack of cohesiveness around equalities.’
- 1.7. This priority should be reflected in any revision of Portfolios and the Portfolio Holder with the Equalities remit should ensure they work closely with the Partnerships Manager and relevant officers.

Resolved:-

- (1) to note the position;
- (2) to RECOMMEND the Executive Board to
 - i.) To ensure that a portfolio holder is designated to be responsible for equalities
 - ii.) That the relevant Portfolio Holder works closely with the Partnerships Manager and Diversity Co-ordinator.

2. Comments from Board Member - Corporate Governance and Strategic Partnerships

I am the Board Member for Equalities and will ensure the scrutiny recommendations are taken forward.

3. Comment from Executive Director – City Regeneration

No comments

Contact : Julia Woodman, Scrutiny Officer

Tel: 252318 **E Mail :** jwoodman@oxford.gov.uk

Background papers: None