

REPORT TO COUNCIL

REPORT OF: CORPORATE MANAGER, HUMAN RESOURCES AND ORGANISATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

REPORT NO: HR & OD 77

DATE: 28 April 2005

TITLE:	SOUTH KESTEVEN RACE EQUALITY CONSULTATION FORUM
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COUNCIL AIMS/PORTFOLIO HOLDER NAME AND DESIGNATION:	Councillor Linda Neal Leader
CORPORATE PRIORITY:	Equality and Diversity
CRIME AND DISORDER IMPLICATIONS:	Reporting of racial incidents
FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT IMPLICATIONS:	
BACKGROUND PAPERS:	Generic Equality Scheme

RECOMMENDATION

I ask that the Council make 4 nominations to the newly constituted South Kesteven Race Equality Forum.

BACKGROUND

1. At the council meeting on 24th February 2005 the council adopted Version 2 of the Generic Equality Scheme. Within the scheme the consultation arrangements included the formation of a Race Equality Consultation Forum for the district. The intention is that the forum will consist of representatives from minority ethnic groups within the district who will be consulted on activities undertaken by the Council from an ethnic minority perspective, comment on policies and functions of the Council, and articulate the specific needs of minority ethnic groups including access to services.
2. The first meeting of the forum was held on 12th April 2005, at which discussion was held on the development of the forum and its ways of working.
3. It is intended that the forum, whilst separate from the Council, will include four member representatives from the Council. It is also intended that the forum will comprise of members of the district's minority ethnic groups (either individuals or representatives from community groups) and will seek to be as representative as possible of all the minority ethnic groups in the district. The forum will also have members from other organisations (e.g. Lincolnshire Police, Lincs South West PCT, Lincolnshire Race Equality Council, Voluntary Action Kesteven). Such membership facilitates the Council's community responsibilities.
4. At the first meeting of the forum it was agreed that a good way to develop membership would be to hold an informal event ostensibly aimed at providing information about the Council and its services. A multi-cultural day is currently being planned to take place this summer and this will be used to help engage members of minority ethnic groups with a view to future participation in the forum.
5. At the first meeting of the forum Debbie O'Neill (Lincolnshire Race Equality Council) has agreed to act as chair for the forum in its initial development. It was also agreed to hold meetings at least once a quarter.

C J Sharp
Corporate Manager
Human Resources and Organisational Development
April 2005