

HERTFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

**CABINET
MONDAY 22 JULY 2002 AT 2.00 P.M.**

Agenda Item No.

4

RACE EQUALITY SCHEME - DRAFT

Report of the Corporate Director(People and Property)

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Executive Member:- David Beatty

1. Purpose of report

To obtain Cabinet approval for the draft Race Equality Scheme prior to a consultation exercise being carried out.

2. Summary

The Race Relations Amendment Act (2000) requires all public bodies to produce and consult on a Race Equality Scheme. The Scheme should set out the values, principles and standards that guide the authority's approach to race equality. The Scheme has to be published and authority's progress will be monitored through best value inspections, comprehensive performance assessments and other external inspection processes.

3. Conclusion

Cabinet is asked to approve the draft Race Equality Scheme as a basis for consultation with relevant community groups.

Background

1. The Race Relations (Amendment) Act requires all public bodies to produce and consult on a Race Equality Scheme. The Scheme must set out how the authority plans to meet its statutory duties under the Act. In particular the Race Equality Scheme must state:
 - a) the functions and policies of the authority that are relevant to the duties imposed by the Act (see appendix two)
 - b) the arrangements for assessing and consulting on the likely impact of its policies on the promotion of race equality (see paragraphs 4 and 5)
 - c) the arrangements for monitoring its policies for any adverse impact on the promotion of race equality (see paragraph 6)
 - d) the arrangements for publishing the results of such assessments and consultation (see paragraph 7)

- e) the arrangements for ensuring public access to information and services (see paragraph 8)
 - f) the arrangements for training staff in connection with the duties in the Act (see paragraph 9)
2. The Race Equality Scheme for Hertfordshire has been developed as an addendum to our existing equality strategy, Putting People First. It has been produced in line with draft Codes of Practice issued by the Commission for Racial Equality.
 3. All Schemes have to be published and subject to full consultation with communities and stakeholders. The proposed consultation process will involve Local Strategic Partnerships, ethnic minority business groups, young people, ethnic minority community groups, etc. An Executive Summary of the Scheme will be produced for consultation purposes, following which the final draft of the Scheme, incorporating consultation feedback will be presented to Cabinet for formal approval.

Background Papers used in producing this report:

CRE Statutory Code of Practice on the Duty to Promote Race Equality (Consultation Draft)

Papers available from: Gilian Hibberd, Tel: 01992 556653