

Equality Forum

Agenda and Reports

For consideration on

**Wednesday, 10th September
2008**

In the Lancastrian, Town Hall, Chorley

At 7.00 pm



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Dear Councillor

27 August 2008

EQUALITY FORUM - WEDNESDAY, 10TH SEPTEMBER 2008

You are invited to attend a meeting of the Equality Forum to be held in the Lancastrian, Town Hall, Chorley on Wednesday, 10th September 2008 commencing at 7.00 pm.

AGENDA

1. **Welcome and Introductions**

The Chair will welcome everyone to the meeting and invite people to introduce themselves and the organisation they represent.

2. **Apologies for absence**

3. **Minutes (Pages 1 - 4)**

To confirm as a correct record the minutes of the meeting of the Equality Forum held on 8 July 2008 (enclosed).

4. **Terms of reference and membership of the Forum 7.05pm (Pages 5 - 6)**

The draft terms of reference are enclosed for information.

5. **Neighbourhood working presentation 7.20pm**

Liz Morey, Neighbourhood Co-ordinator, will outline the arrangements for neighbourhood working in Chorley.

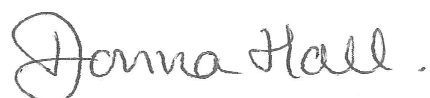
The Forum will be asked if there are any particular issues in their neighbourhood to be taken forward into the Neighbourhood action plans.

6. **Networking break 7.40pm**
7. **Discussion to consider future agenda items 7.50pm**

The Forum will discuss future agenda items.
8. **Open Forum to discuss any issues for each equality strand**
 - a) Age 8.05pm
 - b) Disability 8.15pm
 - c) Ethnicity 8.25pm
 - d) Faith 8.35pm
 - e) Gender 8.45pm
 - f) Rurality 8.55pm
 - g) Sexuality 9.05pm
9. **Notices / Feedback / Publicity 9.15pm**

Members of the Forum are welcome to inform other members of upcoming event, give feedback or notices.
10. **Any other item(s) that the Chair decides is/are urgent**

Yours sincerely



Donna Hall
Chief Executive

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Assistant Democratic Services Officer
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Distribution

1. Agenda and reports to all Members of the Equality Forum Councillor Hasina Khan (Chair), Councillor David Dickinson (Vice-Chair) and Councillors Terry Brown, Pat Case, Rosie Russell and Iris Smith for attendance.
2. Agenda and reports to Donna Hall (Chief Executive Chorley Council), Lesley-Ann Fenton (Assistant Chief Executive (Policy and Performance)), Gary Hall (Assistant Chief Executive (Business Transformation)), Claire Thompson (Performance Advisor (Partnership)) and Liz Morey (Neighbourhood Co-ordinator (for attendance.
3. Agenda and reports to Members of the Equality Forum for attendance.

This information can be made available to you in larger print or on audio tape, or translated into your own language. Please telephone 01257 515118 to access this service.

આ માહિતીનો અનુવાદ આપની પોતાની ભાષામાં કરી શકાય છે. આ સેવા સરળતાથી મેળવવા માટે કૃપા કરી, આ નંબર પર ફોન કરો: 01257 515822

ان معلومات کا ترجمہ آپ کی اپنی زبان میں بھی کیا جاسکتا ہے۔ یہ خدمت استعمال کرنے کیلئے براہ مہربانی اس نمبر پر ٹیلیفون

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Equality Forum

Tuesday, 8 July 2008

Present: Councillor Hasina Khan (Chair), Councillor David Dickinson (Vice-Chair) and Councillors Rosie Russell and Iris Smith

Officers: Lesley-Ann Fenton (Assistant Chief Executive (Policy and Performance)) and Ruth Hawes (Assistant Democratic Services Officer)

Also in attendance: Liz Easterbrook (Chorley and South Ribble PCT), Dawn Clarke (Equality & Diversity Manager, Central Lancashire PCT), Diane Cradwell (Citizens Advice Bureau), Sergeant J Hickey (Lancashire Constabulary) and Cindy Bolton (Chorley & South Ribble CVS)

08.EF.01 WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and invited people to introduce themselves.

08.EF.02 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Councillors Terry Brown and Pat Case, Deanna Hartley-Davis (Equality & Diversity Co-ordinator, Runshaw College), Adrian Beardmore (Training and Development Manager, Lancashire Constabulary) and Naveed Sharif (Community Outreach Development Officer, Lancashire Fire and Rescue).

08.EF.03 DECLARATIONS OF ANY INTERESTS (FOR COUNCILLORS ONLY)

Councillors made no declarations of any interest in respect of items on the agenda.

08.EF.04 TERMS OF REFERENCE AND MEMBERSHIP OF THE FORUM

The Forum were taken through the paper enclosed as part of the agenda, including the aims and objectives of the Forum, potential future agenda items and suggested representation.

Lesley-Ann explained that the original three week consultation period had been extended as requested by several parish councils and a response to the consultation would be published

at the end of the period. So far there had been a limited response, mainly positive, although members of the former Disability Liaison Group had expressed some concerns including representation. Lesley-Ann had attended a meeting of the Disability Forum last week to discuss their concerns.

It was recognised that specific issues would be taken forward via task and finish groups and that the Council could not support a separate group for all seven equality strands. As part of the consultation representatives had been requested, with seven responses being received across the groups to date. It was noted that there is a genuine need to have a forum where bme are able to raise issues, such as stop and search and hate crimes. Agencies would still be able to use the Forum as a consultative body and to publicize events.

The Forum discussed the fact that the new meeting format would be a learning curve and the need for a mix of representatives of groups and people representing themselves. It was agreed that after consideration of the consultation received it was agreed to reconsider the Forum restriction to three representatives per strand.

08.EF.05 FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS FOR THE EQUALITIES FORUM FORWARD PLAN

The Forum discussed the importance of considering issues that are common to all strands, potential agenda items discussed included:

- further & higher education,
- policies and service changes,
- neighbourhood working proposals,
- waste collection,
- equality bill requirements,
- community cohesion,
- PCT single equality scheme, access to services, impact assessments,

Other issues raised, such as highways, would be noted down if irresolvable at the meeting and responded to outside the meeting.

Lesley-Ann explained that Bradford City Council have an Equality Forum and the Council would be making contact with them to discuss best practice and any lessons learned.

In future all representatives would be asked for suggestions of agenda items to ensure that so everyone can get items they are interested in on the agenda. As there will be a forward plan attendees will be able to select which meetings they want to attend.

The Forum considered the proposals for the format of the meeting. It was agreed to add a break for networking and to have a maximum of two presentations per meeting. The open forum / suggestions for future agenda items would be by strand and allocated a time slot. There would also be an opportunity for attendees to inform forum members of future events and notices.

08.EF.06 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

It was agreed that the scheduled meeting on 22 October should be brought forward to 9 September 2008 at 7pm.

Chair

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Chorley Equality Forum

Terms of Reference

The Forum will:

- Act as an advisory and consultative body to the Council on the impact of the Council's policies and models of service delivery, in relation to the council's Equality Scheme's seven strands of Diversity:
 1. Age
 2. Gender
 3. Disability
 4. Ethnicity
 5. Faith
 6. Sexuality
 7. Rurality
- Have a membership comprising six elected members (Councillor Hasina Khan (Chair) and Councillors Terry Brown, Pat Case, David Dickinson, Rosemary Russell and Iris Smith, plus other agencies including Police, Fire and Rescue Service, Primary Care Trust, Lancashire County Council, Citizens Advice Bureau and Council for Voluntary Services.
- Seek to have representatives from all seven equality strands with an ethos of inclusivity. Current membership has been based on previous consultees from the various equality strands plus nominations and expressions of interest received during the consultation period. Wherever possible we would prefer notification of attendees at meetings for catering and venue purposes. In a few months, when people have had an opportunity to get used to the new arrangements we will ask whether people still wish to receive papers for the meeting.
- Meet on a quarterly basis, although task and finish groups will be set up as required.
- Where appropriate, make recommendations to inform the review or amendment of the Council's policies and practices
- Inform the Council on issues that are important to the people and different communities from around the borough

- Build on the community cohesion strategy and promote harmonious working and understanding across the different communities of interest in Chorley
- Enable members to come together to share information and provide a networking opportunity for groups with similar issues
- Providing our partners and agencies with the opportunity to share information with and seek views from the forum members on services provision and developments within their organisations.