

Report to Housing Scrutiny Panel

Date of meeting: 27 July 2006

Portfolio: Housing – Councillor D Stallan

Subject: Ethnic Monitoring

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Committee Secretary: Adrian Hendry, ext.4246



Recommendations:

- 1. That no recommendations be made concerning amendments to the Council's Allocations Scheme as current figures do not show a significant disparity between the ethnicity of applicants in housing need in the District and those allocated accommodation through the Housing Register; and**
- 2. That, in future years, in accordance with the recommendations arising from the Race and Diversity Impact Assessments within Housing Services, the ethnicity of applicants offered sheltered accommodation be monitored and reported separately.**

Report:

- 1. The Council has a Policy Statement for Equal Opportunities in the Provision of Housing Services. The Policy Statement includes a requirement for an annual review of the ethnicity of applicants on the Housing Register, compared with the ethnicity of those allocated accommodation. The reason for the review is to identify whether or not there are any indications that suggest the Council may be discriminating against any one ethnic group. The review is undertaken by the Housing Scrutiny Panel.**
- 2. The breakdown of the ethnic origin of applicants on the Housing Register at 31/03/06 was as follows:**

a) White British/Irish	79.5%
b) Not stated	15.2%
c) Bangladesh/Pakistan/India	0.6%
d) African/Caribbean	1.6%
e) Mixed race	0.4%
f) Other	2.7%

3. The breakdown of the ethnic origin of Housing Register applicants allocated Council accommodation between 01/04/05 and 31/03/06 was as follows:

a) White British/Irish	80.00%
b) Not stated	12.7%
c) Bangladesh/Pakistan/India	0.6%
d) African/Caribbean	2.2%
e) Mixed race	0.4%
f) Other	4.1%

4. The Council recently employed a Consultant to undertake Race and Diversity Impact Assessments across all Services. When assessing Older Peoples Housing Services the Consultant recommended that the ethnicity of applicants allocated sheltered accommodation should be monitored separately to ensure that there was no disparity between the ethnicity of older people accessing sheltered housing and the ethnicity of applicants on the Housing Register. This is being collected from 1 April 2006 and will be reported from 2007/2008.

5. The breakdown of the ethnicity of the population of the District is set out below for information (source EFDC Census 2001) as follows:

a) White British/Irish	92.41%
b) Bangladesh/Pakistan/India	2.14%
c) African/Caribbean	0.78%
d) Mixed Race	1.04%
e) Other	3.63%

Statement in support of recommended action:

6. Although around 15.2% of housing applicants do not disclose their ethnicity, it is evident from the analyses shown in paragraphs two and three of the report that the ethnic make up of the Housing Register mirrors the allocation of vacancies sufficiently for the Council to be confident that its Allocation Scheme does not racially discriminate, either directly or indirectly. Therefore, no adjustments to the Allocation Scheme are recommended.

Consultation undertaken:

None

Resource implications:

Budget provision: None

Personnel: None

Land: None

Community Plan/BVPP reference: Social inclusion

Relevant statutory powers: Housing Act 1996, as amended

Background papers: None

Environmental/Human Rights Act/Crime and Disorder Act Implications: Human Rights

Key Decision reference: (if required)