

Minute Extract

Meeting:	Scrutiny Committee
Date:	10 June 2002
6.	<p>BEST VALUE REVIEW OF EQUALITIES. The Committee considered the report of the Equalities Best Value Review Team, regarding the outcome of the Best Value Review of Equalities. Members were advised that the review had been a strategic review, and that the main focus had been to ensure that the Council was in a position to successfully implement current and pending legislation. The Review had looked at the means and level of engagement with sectors of the community who had historically less access to Council services: principally Black and Minority Ethnic Community and the Disabled Community.</p> <p>The action plan included the following:</p> <p>§ Ensure that structures and links were in place to maximise the effectiveness of the organisation in engaging minority communities;</p> <p>§ Put in place training to raise the awareness of Council Members and Staff of equalities issues;</p> <p>§ Appoint a lead Equalities officer to co-ordinate and promote the work of the newly designated departmental equality representatives;</p> <p>§ Progress against the recently launched “equality standard for local government;”</p> <p>§ Fulfil our statutory obligations on monitoring (by ethnicity, disability and gender) service usage, satisfaction with services and employment;</p> <p>§ Establish a steering group including external representatives to oversee the three-year review programme and widely scoped equality work addressing all elements of social exclusion and antipoverty work. This would put equalities and “a place for everyone” on a similar footing to other priority areas of the Council. Similarly work on these three similar areas and the work of the steering group should have clear structural links to the Local Strategic Partnership and the Community Plan that would identify the actions of the partnership in promoting the social well being of the Eastbourne Area; and</p>
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Improvement Plan as set at 8.0 of the report.

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