

Meeting:	Council
Date:	Wednesday 24 July 2002
Subject:	Best Value Review of Equalities
Report of:	Councillor Mrs Healy on behalf of the Cabinet.
<p>The Council is asked to consider the Cabinet minute and resolutions from the meeting held on 1 July 2002. These are set out below. The Scrutiny Committee also considered this matter at their meeting on 10 June 2002 and the relevant minute extract is set out after the Cabinet minute below.</p> <p>A copy of the report on this matter was circulated to all Members with the Scrutiny Committee agenda for the meeting on 10 June 2002 (item 11) to which reference may be made. Further copies are available on request – please see end of this report.</p>	
<p><u>The Council is recommended to:-</u></p> <p>Approve the Best Value Improvement Plan.</p>	
<p>Minute Extract</p> <p>CABINET – 1 July 2002</p>	

*9	<p>BEST VALUE REVIEW OF EQUALITIES. The Cabinet considered the report of the Director of Tourism and Leisure submitted on behalf of the Best Value Review Team. The report had previously been submitted to the Scrutiny Committee at its meeting on 10 June 2002. The Scrutiny Committee had endorsed the recommendations set out in the Improvement Plan and a copy of the minute extract had been circulated with the agenda.</p> <p>Councillor Belsey and Mr Nick Ritson (Strategic Development Officer), who were both members of the Review Team, were present and addressed the Cabinet in support of the Team's recommendations.</p> <p>The Leader referred to paragraph 1.6 of the report where a recommendation was made that a Cabinet Member be given specific responsibility for equalities, anti-poverty and social inclusion. The current allocation of responsibilities divided these between two Cabinet Members. The Leader announced that these responsibilities would now be added to her portfolio.</p> <p>RESOLVED: (1) (Key Decision) That the Council be recommended to approve the Best Value Improvement Plan.</p> <p>(2) That the changes to the Cabinet portfolios be noted and that a revised document be published.</p>
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<p>Minute Extract</p> <p>SCRUTINY – 10 June 2002</p>	
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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>
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Review team had proposed. All Members and Managers had attended awareness training. Bespoke training for front line staff was being arranged and training for departmental equalities representatives including working with community development workers was also included in the action plan. Training in the recognition and resolution of racist incidents was also being arranged, and the approach was being co-ordinated across the County.

RESOLVED: That Cabinet be recommended to approve the Improvement Plan as set at 8.0 of the report.

<p>For copies of the reports please contact Democratic Services at the Town Hall, Eastbourne, BN21 4UG. Tel. (01323) 415022.</p> <p>E.Mail councillors@eastbourne.gov.uk</p> <p>For further information please contact Ron Cussons, Director of Tourism and Leisure, College Road, Eastbourne. Tel. (01323) 415401 or internally on extension 5401, or Nick Ritson, Strategic Development Officer, 68 Grove Road, Eastbourne. Tel (01323) 415418 or internally on ext 5418.</p>	

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