

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

ETHNIC MINORITIES FORUM

Note of meeting held on 29 October 1998

Present

East Ayrshire Council Representatives

Councillor Eric Jackson, Vice Chair of Policy & Resources (Chair)	EJ
Councillor James O'Neill, East Ayrshire Council	JO'N
Councillor Jane Darnbrough, Vice Chair of Social Work	JD
Councillor Irene Reeves, East Ayrshire Council	IR
David Montgomery, Chief Executive	DM
Margaret Burnell, Senior Depute Director of Education	MB
Anne Basford, Network Support Co-ordinator, Department of Education	AB
Graham Haugh, Depute Director of Personnel	GH
Joe Herd, Area Community Education Officer	JH
John Johnston, Community Involvement Inspector, Strathclyde Police	JJ
Jim Maitland, Depute Director of Housing	JM
Helen McGhee, Divisional Manager, Social Work Department	HMcG
Inspector Bob Pollock, Strathclyde Police Liaison Officer	BP

Ethnic Minority Representatives

Henry Ho, KULOC Chinese Community Association
Cindy Lau, KULOC Chinese Community Association
Sing-Fat Fund, KULOC Chinese Community Association
Mrs Aslam, Chandni Asian Women Group
Shamime Khan, Chandni Asian Women's Group
Suzana Malik, Chandni Asian Women's Group
Mrs Malik, Chandni Asian Women's Group
Shafiq Nasir, Islamic Education & Cultural Centre
Mr Nawar, Islamic Education & Cultural Centre
Mrs Wako, Ethnic Minority Law Centre

Apologies

Councillor Andrew McIntyre, Chair of Development Services
Councillor David Sneller, Chair of Policy & Resources
Councillor Katie Hall, East Ayrshire Council
Councillor Douglas Reid, East Ayrshire Council
Iain McLachlan, Director of Personnel
Carol Foote, Service Development Manager, Department of Commercial Operations
Alan McDougall, Depute Director of Social Work
Donald McVicar, Strategy Officer, Department of Support Services
Miss Khan, Chandni Asian Women's Group
Mr Malik, Islamic Education & Cultural Centre
Kenny Shek, KULOC Chinese Community Association

Introduction and Welcome

- Councillor Jackson welcomed everyone to the meeting and commented that good quality work has continued throughout the Council's recent financial difficulties. He thanked officers involved in ensuring that this Forum took place in October, as agreed at the last meeting.
- Council and ethnic minority representative introduced themselves to the meeting.

Note of meeting held on 29 April 1998

- The note of meeting was agreed as an accurate record.

Matters arising

Community Languages

- MB reported that a trawl of bilingual staff had been undertaken.
- In addition to European languages, it was reported that 5 staff are fluent in community languages.
- It was agreed that MB would develop a database of staff and members of the ethnic minority communities giving details of name, contact address, language, availability, social interests.
- A form will be circulated to ethnic minority organisations seeking nominations.
- Ethnic minority groups should advise MB in which areas help may be required with translation. It was commented that the young members of the ethnic minority communities may wish to become involved in this issue.
- It was reported that 5 members of KULOC were undertaking training in North Ayrshire. Community groups were encouraged to take up this training.

Housing Department

- JM reported that contact had been made with Ethnic Minority Groups but returns had been poor.
- A proforma from the Housing Department was circulated to ethnic minority representatives at the close of the meeting for completion and return.

Social Work Department

- HMcG commented on the involvement with ethnic minority communities. A proforma from the Social Work Department was circulated to ethnic minority representatives at the close of the meeting for completion and return.

Other Issues

- JJ reported that Strathclyde Police had investigated the matter concerning repercussions on refusal of sale of alcohol to underage youths and that this problem has improved significantly.
- MB reported that she has arranged a meeting with the Ethnic Minority Law Centre for 5/11/98 to take forward any issues.
- The Law Centre is continuing to hold a surgery in the Gateway Centre, Kilmarnock. At this meeting MB will discuss production of a leaflet in appropriate languages, for circulation through community groups and local offices stating what services are available and details of surgery times – consultation will take place with ethnic minority representatives before leaflets are printed.
- BP would wish the crime involvement aspect to be picked up in further developments report.
- GH commented on the Council's commitment to the West of Scotland Community Relations Council.
- It was agreed that GH will contact the WSCRC to organise presentation to next meeting on its role in East Ayrshire.

Social Inclusion

- MB outlined main headings of bid which has been submitted to the Scottish Office.
- It is hoped that the Council will be successful in their application to help address major issues of social deprivation and disadvantage.
- Ethnic minority groups should send any comments on the bid to MB.

Role of Ethnic Minorities Worker

- HMcG outlined the work of the Ethnic Minorities Worker, funded by Ayrshire & Arran Health Board, North Ayrshire and East Ayrshire Councils.
- This service is for the Chinese community - funding is being investigated to build on the service to support other minority groups.
- The existing services available through this post should be set out in an information leaflet for early circulation through Council staff to the Chinese community in East Ayrshire.
- It appears that this post is being concentrated in North Ayrshire – Social Work Department will raise this issue with the Health Board and report to next meeting.
- It is apparent that the remit of this post is too wide for one worker to support the Chinese communities.
- Additional money may be available through social inclusion bid, if successful, to develop work with community groups in future.

Local Capital Grants Scheme

- A clean copy of this paper is available from Joe Herd at the Gateway Centre.
- Discussion took place on the availability of funding from this scheme.

Scottish Office Ethnic Minority Grants Scheme

- JH commented on a recent meeting he had attended regarding this scheme.
- It was agreed that MB should prepare a report for P&R Committee recommending that the Council write to the Secretary of State recommending that early consideration be given to the issues of underfunding and the wide geographical spread of ethnic minority communities. The Chairman of the meeting will write now in support of the KULOC current application.
- A visit of surplus Council accommodation has taken place with representatives of KULOC - no suitable accommodation was identified.
- MB will set up an early meeting to discuss these issues.

Chinese School : Funding Issues

- Henry Ho outlined concerns on funding issues surrounding the Chinese School.
- The Council has recently provided a voluntary sector grant funding but these funds are limited.
- DM suggested methods of funding to be explored.
- Excellent work is going on in Chinese school and school is main aim of project.
- Property Services will be asked to identify property, not under Council ownership, which could be a possible venue.
- Help is available from Council officers completing the applications for grant.
- Cindy Lau commented that the women's group are producing a magazine which will be produced in Chinese and distributed to all members of KULOC. This magazine will give contact numbers of Council representatives and support groups.

ISLAMIC Centre

- Shafiq Nasir (SN) reported that suitable premises had been identified at New Street, Kilmarnock for ISLAMIC Centre.
- Members of the ISLAMIC community are delighted with the progress, which has been made with this project, the first in Ayrshire.
- JM confirmed that the Housing Department no longer requires this site.
- JH confirmed that Sam McVie, Property Services Manager is finalising arrangements for lease agreement.

Early Intervention

- MB outlined the main objectives of a project, which has been established to raise numeracy and literacy in early years.
- This project will link significantly with the work of the Bilingual Service.

Comenius Bid

- Anne Basford (AB), Network Support Co-ordinator outlined funding which has been secured by East Ayrshire Council.
- This funding will be used to take forward bilingual support projects.
- Ethnic minority communities were encouraged to contact AB to discuss issues affecting their children.

Date of Next meeting

- It was agreed that the next meeting would be held in mid-March 1999.

AGENDA