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| AGENDA ITEM |
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COMMITTEE: RACE ADVISORY FORUM
DATE: 3rd APRIL, 2006
SUBJECT: LUTON EQUALITY AGENCY
REPORT BY: HEAD OF EQUALITIES
CONTACT OFFICER: RAJ NAYER

IMPLICATIONS:

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|-------------------|---|-------------------------|---|
| LEGAL | | COMMUNITY SAFETY | |
| EQUALITIES | ✓ | ENVIRONMENT | |
| FINANCIAL | | CONSULTATIONS | ✓ |
| STAFFING | | OTHER | |

WARDS AFFECTED: ALL

PURPOSE

1. To appraise members of progress in respect of funding applications to the Commission for Racial Equality and the Home Office in relation to the setting up of the Luton Equality Agency.

RECOMMENDATION(S)

2. That the report be noted.

BACKGROUND

3. As previously reported a decision was awaited from the CRE about the funding application for the setting up of a Luton Equality Agency. This followed the publication of the feasibility report . An additional application was also made to the Home Office by the Luton Assembly to supplement the setting up and running of the Luton Equality Agency coupled with targeted work in race equality and community cohesion.

REPORT

4. While the outcome of the Home Office bid is still awaited, the CRE has approved the sum of £30,000 for the work outlined above (subject to a number of administrative conditions being met) for the year commencing 1st April.2006. Some members of the Luton Assembly have recently met to consider the immediate concerns in obtaining grant release by providing the CRE with additional information requested.
5. A more detailed report will be made to the Forum in due course.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

6. Equality Agency Feasibility Study 2005