

AGENDA ITEM**7.4****COMMITTEE: RACE ADVISORY FORUM****DATE: 4TH JUNE 2007****SUBJECT: RACE ADVISORY FORUM ATTENDANCE -
PROPOSALS****REPORT BY: HEAD OF EQUALITIES****CONTACT OFFICER: RAJ NAYER 01582 547224****IMPLICATIONS:**

LEGAL		COMMUNITY SAFETY
EQUALITIES	✓	ENVIRONMENT
FINANCIAL		CONSULTATIONS
STAFFING		OTHER

WARDS AFFECTED: ALL

PURPOSE

1. To advise the Race Advisory Forum of the outcome of a recent membership review .

RECOMMENDATION(S)

2. **RACE ADVISORY FORUM is recommended to;**
 - i) **consider this report and to decide whether they agree to the discontinuation of all future notification of forum meetings and posting of agendas and support papers to non responding organisations below.**

- ii) **remove all non- responding and untraceable organisations from membership of the Race Advisory Forum.**

BACKGROUND

3. The Race Advisory Forum (RAF) asked officers to undertake a membership review in order to identify organisations which had not sent representatives to meetings of the RAF for a year or more. Such a request was prompted by a number of considerations, not least by wishing to improve attendance at meetings and to save on postage by not sending meeting agendas and support papers to organisations which of late had demonstrated little commitment to attending meetings.

REPORT

4. Letters were sent to 28 local minority voluntary organisations drawing their attention to the fact that they had not attended RAF meetings for some time and asking them if they still wanted to continue to receive agendas and papers for future meetings. If so, then ,that would only be done if they offered a firm assurance of regular attendance at future meetings.

Of the 28 letters sent out the following results were obtained .

5. **Positive responses received from organisations giving assurances of regular future attendance at race forum meetings = 8**
These were:

Khidmat
One Nation
Sikh Sports at the Gurdwara
Victim Support
Bangladesh Womens Project/Bangladesh Youth League
Presentation Housing
United Pakistan Welfare Association
West Indian Community Association

6. **Non deliverable letters -returned=2**
These were:

Friends of Bright Eyes
Luton Educational & Cultural Centre

7. Non responding organisations =18
These were:

Sangam Women's Group
Pakistan Kashmir Welfare Association
Bangladesh Welfare Association & Advice Centre
Beds Congolese Community Links
Ghar Se Ghar
Luton All Women's Centre
Saheyli Group
Mr M Khan Anwar
Luton Community Housing
British Muslim Welfare
Bury Park Street Festival
Mr M Khan
Grassroots
Chief Trustee, Jamia Al Akbaria
Lewsey Muslim Cultural Society
Luton Educational Cultural Centre
Luton Law Centre
Mitalee Youth Association

EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

8. The RAF seeks to promote both community involvement and engagement within all its decision making processes and therefore it aims to have as wide and active a consultative base of member organisations as possible.

CONSULTATION IMPLICATIONS

9. The RAF represents a major plank of the Council's community consultation strategy and it is therefore important that membership of the Forums continues to be kept up to date , and remains relevant and productive.