

WYRE FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL

CABINET
24 APRIL 2008

Equality and Diversity Strategy for Worcestershire

OPEN	
COMMUNITY STRATEGY THEME	Greater Learning & Participation
CORPORATE AIM:	A well Run and Responsive Council
CABINET MEMBER:	Councillor John Holden
RESPONSIBLE OFFICER:	Head of the Chief Executive's Office
CONTACT OFFICER:	Peter Jones (Ext 2723)
APPENDIX	Project Initiation Document (extract)

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to formalise management arrangements for the Tailoring our Equality & Diversity Strategy for Worcestershire partnership project ('TEDS').

2. RECOMMENDATION

The Cabinet is asked to DECIDE that:

- 2.1 **The relevant Cabinet Member and Head of Chief Executive's Office be nominated as members of the TEDS Project Steering Group with delegated authority to make decisions, including decisions relating to expenditure, within the partnership's Terms of Reference and budget.**

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 The TEDS Partnership was established in 2007 with Capacity Building Funding from the West Midlands Regional & Improvement Partnership (WMRIEP) totalling over £232,000. The project is overseen by a Steering Group comprising elected members and senior officers from Worcestershire County- and District Councils, supported by an officer Management Group focussing on the various workstreams, e.g. communications and training programmes.
- 3.2 Further background information is provided in an extract from the Project Initiation Document contained in the **Appendix** to this report.

3.3 The key activities to be undertaken over the course of the next twelve months are:

- A mapping exerciser to produce a County-wide profile to reflect the six equality strands
- Community engagement through a series of events involving various community groups
- Benchmarking all Councils against the national Equality Standard for Local Government with the aim of achieving Level 3 of the Standard by March 2009
- A targeted training programme to support the work programme
- A communication programme to share best practice with partners and other organisations locally and regionally

3.4 The first of the above activities (mapping exercise) involves the appointment of consultants to undertake the necessary work.

4. KEY ISSUES

4.1 In order to function as an independent partnership with executive powers, members of the Steering Group need to be mandated by their respective authorities to make binding decisions, including those relating to expenditure. The partnership has a total budget of £232,000 funded (apart from officer time) entirely by the WMRIEP.

4.2 Members are requested therefore to delegate authority to the relevant Cabinet Member and the Head of the Chief Executive's Office to make executive decisions, including those relating to expenditure of the budget for the project, as members of the Project Steering Group. Progress reports, including updates on expenditure to date and outcomes achieved so far, will be given to the Council during the course of the next twelve months. The project is scheduled to end in March 2009.

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

5.1 There are no direct budgetary implications for the Council arising from this report.

6. LEGAL AND POLICY IMPLICATIONS

6.1 The aims and activities of this project are consistent with those contained in the Council's own Single Equality Scheme, upon which consultation will be carried out from April 2008. Certain functions to be carried out under the TEDS project will support developing practices (e.g. equality impact assessments) which form part of the Council's own Scheme.

7. CONSULTEES

7.1 Corporate Management Team

8. BACKGROUND PAPERS

8.1 TEDS funding bid document.

Cabinet 24/04/2008