

THEMATIC PANEL MEETING – BME COMMUNITIES

INTRODUCTION

1. The purpose of this report is to inform Members of the outcomes of the thematic PANel meeting for black and minority ethnic communities held on 19 November 2005.

BACKGROUND

2. Members will recall a meeting held on 12 June 2004 where asylum seekers and refugees were given the opportunity to meet their local police officers, cohesion officers and the Divisional Commander for D Division.
3. The purpose of that meeting was to allow members of otherwise unheard communities to express their concerns and raise issues about policing among their communities. This meeting was met with a mixed response form the community, a low turn-out but good debate and questions from those who did attend.
4. Following calls by community members for another chance to hold a similar event, a consultation forum for members of the local black and minority ethnic community was held at the Guildhall on Saturday 19 November.

INFORMATION

5. Attending the meeting were representatives from Humberside Police and the Police Authority, including the Divisional Commander, Cohesion Officer the Vice-Chair and two Members.
6. 12 members of the public attended, the communities they were representing included the Chinese, Muslim and several African Associations. In addition representatives attended from the University of Hull, Christian Fellowship, Goodwin Trust and Wardens, the Open Doors refugee and asylum seekers project and Hull City Council.
7. Attached at Appendix A are the notes of concerns and issues raised by those who attended and the Force and Authority response to those concerns. An action schedule has also been produced at, Appendix B. The notes and action schedule

have been circulated to all those who attended in order that the actions can be monitored and resolved.

8. All who attended agreed that the meeting was a success and there was a demand for a further one but they needed to be better attended, the communities who were represented undertook to publicise and inform others in order to increase interest in the future.
9. The Police Authority representatives agreed to explore ways of reaching more communities, one proposal was for the meetings to be held within communities.
10. It was agreed to hold another meeting of this type early next year.

RECOMMENDATIONS

11. It is recommended that Members:
 - i. Note and comment on the contents of this report, giving regard to the action schedule and notes contained in the document at Appendix A
 - ii. Receive further reports from Humberside Police on actions taken as a result of the action points highlighted at Appendix A
 - iii. Receive further reports on thematic panels held by the Authority on the future
 - iv. Suggest themes or communities for future thematic panels

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Background Documents: None