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Northampton Borough Council

Community Leadership Overview & Scrutiny Committee

The next meeting will be held at the Guildhall on Thursday 23 September 2004

> Chair -Councillor Glynane (01604 453833) Deputy Chair -Councillor Miah (01604 518988)

Councillors – Acock, Barron, Concannon, M Hoare, Lane, Malpas, & Yates

All members of the public are welcome to attend and participate. If you would like to have a matter of importance discussed by this Committee, please give details to the Chair who will give you an opportunity to discuss the issue with the committee or for them to include it in their future Work Plan.

AGENDA

- 1. Apologies
- 2. Minutes
- 3. Declarations of Interest (Including Whipping Declaration)
- **4.** Deputations/ Public Addresses
- 5. Chair's Items
- 6. Equality Standard/Draft Equality & Diversity Policy Discussion (Sean Silver)
- 7. Forum Minutes
- **8. Forward Plan** Members to identify issues for discussion and future work.
- 9. Members Items/Future Work
- 10. The Chair to move that the public be excluded from the remainder of the meeting under section 100(1) of the 1972 Act schedule 12A

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WOMEN'S FORUM

Tuesday, 8 June 2004

PRESENT: P Ford Community Co-Chair (In the Chair)

L Brede NBC

P Graham Parkinsons Disease Society

N Keown Individual

S Peters Autohome/LibraRescue

Councillor Roy NPCT/NBC
Councillor Beardsworth NBC/NCC
Councillor Mason NBC

Jacqui 8 Samaritans
J Redgrave Individual

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from L Tanner, J Johnson (NVCSR), Sally Keeble MP's Office, Councillor Duncan, I Darragh (Race and Incest Crisis Centre).

2. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

The Chair welcomed all those present.

3 MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 28 APRIL 2004

The minutes of the meeting held on 28 April 2004 were agreed

4. MATTERS ARISING NOT ALREADY ON THE AGENDA

There were none.

5. AUTOHOME/LIBRARESCUE PRESENTATION

S Peters (Autohome Assistance) addressed the Forum, commenting that she had been in post for 20 years and had experienced the traumatic situations people found themselves in when they broke down.

Ms Peters had carried out research into lone women drivers and what women wanted from a motoring club. She hadconsulted with women drivers, held focus groups, circulated questionnaires and held one to one interviews. 86% of women indicated that their personal safety and security was their priority. Following Ms Peters' research, LibraRescue (Ladies Independent Breakdown Recovery Association) was founded.

The Forum was given brief details of what LibraRescue offered:

- 24 hour a day roadside assistance, national recovery and assistance to member's home address
- Members nominated a password to identify with members
- Members had an assigned manager who would call back and keep them

- updated with timings.
- 24 hour helpline to answer motor maintenance queries

In addition, the organisation provided:

- Service in any location, car parks, shopping centres, towns, country roads, dual carriageways and motorways.
- Friendly, quick, personal service
- Staff worked to terms and conditions but were encouraged to work on their own initiative.
- If required, the call centre would make a telephone call on the member's behalf.

It was noted that punctures represented 15% of all requests for assistance, keys, such as lost, locked in cars; represented 8% and flat batteries represented 15%.

It was noted that if someone broke down on a motorway, the Police would ask if they belonged to a motoring club, if not and had not made arrangements to leave the motorway, the Police rota garage would be called. This could cost approximately £120 to take them to a place of safety, plus £1 per mile to take them home, plus the garage's mileage back to base.

S Peters was thanked for her comprehensive address.

6. KEY WOMEN'S HEALTH ISSUES IN NORTHAMPTON

A Roy, non-Executive Director of Northampton PCT, addressed the Forum, commenting that she had been involved in health organisation for approximately five years.

The Forum heard that PCT's had last year, developed a Local Delivery Plan. It also had an Equality and Diversity Plan in place, which was good on race and ethnicity issues but lacked women's issues.

In response to A Roy's request regarding the Forum's concerns about health for women, members made the following comments and observations:

- Women needed to be informed by the medical profession of the pros and cons of taking a particular drug, not through scares. For example, HRT.
- Women often accessed health facilities for others in the family rather than themselves and they tended to have a nurturing role.
- Women needed to 'stand up for themselves' during consultant meetings.
- There was a need for advice on alternative therapies.
- The Forum was disappointed that Northampton PCT did not have a link to the Royal Homeopathic Hospital in London.
- There was a need for advice on preventing illness.
- The Forum was concerned about the number of midwives leaving the service.
- Young male doctors needed training on how to deal properly with pregnant

women.

- There was a need for more women in the health profession.
- The standard of cleanliness of hospitals was often poor leading to infection.

A Roy advised that a lot of emphasis was being put on NHS Direct. Staff that answered the calls were qualified professionals.

She commented that some GPs in Northampton were qualified in alternative medication.

Northampton PCT had gained shadow teaching PCT status. There would be more teaching and training across the spectrum, including that of midwives.

PALS was a service that was halfway between a complaint and a concern. The service had the resources and persuasion for rectifying issues such as cleanliness on the wards.

The need to integrate women's acute health services with children's acute health services had been recognised, for example, there would be less distance between the wards to theatre or x-ray. A Roy highlighted that the key development for the town was women.

7. PATIENT AND PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT WITHIN THE PCT

A Roy addressed the meeting, commenting that historically patient and public involvement within the PCT had been seen as separate entities. Approximately three years ago, Central Government produced `Listening to Patients'. Most of the changes as an outcome of this document had been implemented, such as, the PALS Service and the establishment of a Health Scrutiny Partnership with NCC. Each Trust had a Patients' Trust.

The PCT was endeavouring to promote patients groups within GPs Practices. Northampton PCT was one of the few Trusts to instigate the Royal College of Practitioners Vision of how GPs should be audited. An independent GP and nurse, together with an independent layperson, would visit a practice and undertake the audit. Training and assistance would be given to the layperson.

Northampton PCT held its meetings in public, usually on a themed basis. Mail outs were issued.

8. PATIENT AND PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT FORUM

P Ford, Community Co-Chair, advised that the Community Health Councils had been replaced by Patient and Public Involvement Forums. Each Health Trust has a Forum. They were made up of members of the public who had volunteered to help; they would not be paid and would only receive travelling allowances. The framework for how the Forums should run had been set up. Meetings would be held during the evenings. Forums needed young people to become members. A copy of further details regarding Patient and Public Involvement Forums is attached to the minutes.

A brief question and answer session then ensued.

In response to a query regarding what was in place during the transitional period from the demise of Community Health Councils and the inception of Patient and Public Involvement Forums, the Forum was advised that the two were dovetailed. For 18 months Northampton PCT had run a shadow Patient and Public Involvement Forum. Each Forum would have a representative on each Trust Board.

When the Forums had been set up it had been agreed that they would operate with a minimum of seven members. The Mental Health Trust needed members as it was presently operating with less.

In answer to a query, it was noted that the Forums had the power to request the attendance of doctors and consultants at its meetings.

Programmes of work were being decided and probably surveys would be undertaken with patients and the public.

9. CHOOSING HEALTH CONSULTATION

A Roy referred to the consultation document – *Choosing Health? – A consultation on action to improve people's health,* emphasising that the consultation period ended on 4 June 2004. The document comprised ten questions that had been lead by J Read, MP.

In response to a query if the Forum presented a late submission would it receive consideration, A Roy confirmed that the PCT would consider the response. The Forum commented that there was a need for education and that the Government needed to ensure that the Food Industry complied with regulations regarding additives to food. The Forum referred to Sweden, where its Government intervened and would not let food be manufactured if it was bad for the consumer.

The Forum heard that public health departments within PCTs had been asked to coordinate the consultation. LSPs had been requested to evolve it. The Health Panel had received a copy.

A Roy was thanked for her informative addresses.

10. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting would be held on 14 July 2004. Items for the agenda would be: -

- Address from Age Concern
- Food and Diet.

AGREED:

That the meeting scheduled for Wednesday 8 September 2004 be an informal lunch event held in the Jeffery Room at Guildhall at 12.30pm. The cost of the meal would be £6 per head and the Forum was asked to inform L Brede (telephone number (01604) 838603, email lbrede@northampton.gov.uk) as soon as possible if they wanted to attend in order that meals could be ordered.

The meeting concluded at 2:00 pm

WOMEN'S FORUM

Wednesday, 14 July 2004

PRESENT: Councillor Duncan NBC (In the Chair)

P Ford Community Co-Chair

L Brede NBC

Y Baker Food for Thought R Mitchell Age Concern

D Garlick Age Concern, Northampton & County

K Knight Townswomen's Guild

J Middlewood Samaritans N Keown Individual

P Graham Parkinsons Disease Society

A Wishart Individual

ACTION

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from M Daly (SWAN Project), A Jackson (Women's Aid), Councillors Beardsworth and Mason (NBC), P Patrick (Individual), B Irving (Age Concern), J Redgrave (Individual), I Darragh (Rape and Incest Crisis Centre) and L Tanner (Individual).

2. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

The Chair welcomed R Mitchell, D Garlick (Age Concern) and Y Baker (Food for Thought) to the meeting.

3. MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 8 JUNE 2004

The minutes of the meeting held on 8 June 2004 were agreed.

4. MATTERS ARISING NOT ALREADY ON THE AGENDA

- (a) L Brede advised that the Embroiders Guild was hosting an open day on 25 September 2004 at St Michael's church. Leaflets giving further details of the event were circulated.
- (b) L Brede referred to the next meeting of the Forum, which would be an informal lunch to be held on Wednesday 8 September 2004 at 12.30pm. The meal would be a healthy eating buffet and would incur a cost of £6 per head that would be payable on the day.
- (c) L Brede referred to the Equalities and Diversity Policy and Equalities Standards for Local Government. The Forum was asked to peruse the document to ascertain if it included issues that affected women and if they were prominent within the Policy. Overview & Scrutiny Chairs and Deputies would be holding a meeting in September/October to discuss the Policy. The Forum was asked to contact L Brede on (01604) 838603, email lbrede@northampton.gov.uk, if they wished to attend in order that the necessary arrangements could be made.

5. AGE CONCERN

R Mitchell, Campaigns Project Officer, Age Concern, addressed the Forum

commenting that he was the Lead Officer for the organisation's campaign – "Fairer Pensions for All". The campaign was produced as a result of the Government's green paper on pensions, which contained a very small section in respect of women. The Pensions Bill that was currently going through Parliament contained information that would benefit women even less. Age Concern had met with the Treasurer and the Secretary of State regarding its campaign. The organisation was looking for an eye catching marketing title for its campaign report. It was emphasised that it was an ongoing campaign that would continue until the issues contained in it were addressed.

The main recommendations of the campaign were: -

- Reduce the Lower Earnings Limit to bring more low-paid workers into the National Insurance system
- Introduce a fairer, more accessible system of credits for carers
- Pay pensions to everyone who paid into the National Insurance system
- Make second pensions work for women
- The basic state pension should be increased

There were a lot of issues that affected women disproportionally and Age Concern was campaigning for them to be addressed by 2010. R Mitchell informed the Forum of some statistics: -

- For every £1 a man earnt, a women would earn 76 pence
- For every £100 gross income that a man received, a women would receive on average £41 less
- For every £1 a man received in pensionable pay, a woman would receive 32 pence
- 1 in 5 single women pensioners were likely to live in poverty
- Women were more likely to live longer than men

The pensions system was designed in the 1940's for people in full time employment, taking no breaks in services, predominately aimed at men. Women quite often had breaks in their careers, worked part time or in temporary positions.

Lower wages made it less likely that women would invest in pensions.

R Mitchell urged Forum members to forward their views to their local MP and the Secretary of State, Andrew Smith.

Copies of Age Concern's Report "One in Four – a quarter of single women pensioners live in poverty: this scandal must end" were circulated.

A question and answer session then ensued.

In response to a query regarding linking with the Trade Unions, R Mitchell confirmed that Age Concern had attended the Pensioners Conference recently and had close links with the TUC and USDAW.

The Forum suggested that it would be beneficial for Age Concern to engage with the Teachers' Union.

Concerns were conveyed about the current issue with private pensions. It

was further commented that the state pension should be adequate for all and flexible enough to reflect everyone's lifestyles.

The floor commented that the Government did a lot for young families, encouraging women back to work, but if their job was below the lower earnings limit they would not qualify for a state pension.

In answer to the Forum's comment that it should be compulsory to save for the future, the meeting was advised that there was a need to get the balance right. Women who worked in poverty tended to retire in poverty. Central Government had the responsibility to care for society.

In response to a query regarding liaison with the Citizens Advice Bureau (CAB), R Mitchell advised that Age Concern referred clients to the CAB and vice versa.

R Mitchell confirmed that he would attend the Women's Open Forum in March 2005.

The Chair thanked R Mitchell for his informative address.

6. HEALTHY EATING FOR CHILDREN

Y Baker, Food for Thought, addressed the meeting on Healthy Eating for Children, commenting that she had six children and was the Healthy Eating Worker in Blackthorn. She then circulated two lunch boxes, one containing 600 calories more and double the fat content.

It was commented that there was currently an issue about childhood obesity and school nurses and health visitors would refer children to a locally run ten-week programme of exercise and healthy eating.

Y Baker advised of an exercise in Bellinge, whereby the Co-Op store had donated blenders in order that young mothers could be taught how to wean their babies with freshly prepared food.

The Forum commented that there was a need to educate people on exercise and healthy eating and that children needed to be taught basic life skills.

Society had changed its culture, families were more diverse and many family skills in respect of healthy eating no longer existed. Many families no longer sat around the table together to eat and often children were not taught cookery skills at school.

Some companies that sold chocolate and crisps offered a promotion whereby schools could collect a number of empty packets in exchange for computer equipment. School meals were not always healthy eating. In hospitals, vending machines often contained fizzy drinks, chocolate and crisps; there was a need to educate organisations to offer more healthy snacks and drinks.

The Forum supported that many schools now had breakfast clubs and in the North of England it was popular for schools to hold both breakfast and tea clubs. Y Baker was thanked for her informative address.

7. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting would be an informal lunch and would be held on 8 September 2004 at 12.30pm in the Jeffery Room at the Guildhall. The cost of the meal would be £6 per head. If Forum members want to attend could they please let L Brede know as soon as possible (telephone number (01604) 838603, email lbrede@northampton.gov.uk)

The meeting concluded at 1:45 pm

Northampton Borough Council

Pensioners' Forum

Thursday, 17 June 2004

Present: J Smith - Co-Chair (in the Chair)

Councillor Caswell **NBC** I Abbott Individual R Deering Individual J Delahunty NBC E Dewison Individual **NBC** J Ellerby J Forrest-Smith Individual S Litschke Individual B Nichols Individual F Watson Individual

1. Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Mr Brown, Mr & Mrs Edwards, Councillor Hill, K Tomlinson and P Watson.

2. Minutes Of The Meeting Held On 11 March 2004

The minutes of the meeting held on 11 March were agreed.

3. Matters Arising

Regarding the Open Forum, comments were made that this could have been better publicised.

4. Public Transport/Concessionary Fares

J Ellerby, Public Transport Officer, updated the Forum regarding the Concessionary Fares. The half-fare scheme would be retained within the Borough, as was the legal requirement, but that concessions could be used during peak times, which was beyond the legal requirement. A study had been carried out to assess the feasibility of a countywide scheme, but the cost of this had been deemed too excessive.

J Ellerby advised that the Borough Council now issued the bus passes. Requests had been made to extend the passes for blind and disabled people to more than a year and this was being looked into.

R Deering commented that the issue of concessionary fares had been discussed at the Pensioners' Parliament and queries had been raised as to why some areas had free travel, while others did not.

Regarding a query about the No 8 bus route, J Ellerby advised that the bus was reinstated for a short while but was not commercially viable. However, a subsidised bus route now ran from Links View.

J Ellerby apprised that there was a National Federation of Bus Users, which had a

surgery every three months and that further details of this could be supplied to anyone interested. He also commented that regular meetings were held with the bus companies and that the Forum's concerns could be passed on at these. In reply to a comment about the speed bumps in Broadmead Avenue, J Ellerby responded that he would liaise with the County Council regarding this.

J Ellerby advised that he would pass all comments onto Councillor Colin Lill, the Portfolio Holder for Planning, Transportation and Regeneration.

The Chair thanked J Ellerby for his attendance and information.

5. National Pensioners' Parliament - Update

R Deering updated the Forum on the recent Pensioners' Parliament in Blackpool.

The parliament had been opened by Rodney Bickerstaffe and was attended by over 2000 delegates. The three main political parties and the Green Party were all represented and each gave speeches on how their party intended to tackle pensions in the future.

R Deering commented on the Pensioners Manifesto, the aim of which was to set out pensioner's issues and concerns in one complete document, which would then be presented to election candidates to commit themselves to. Workshops were held to discuss the manifesto. One of the proposals of the manifesto was to create a National Older Persons' Commission, to scrutinise legislation relating to older people and make recommendations to parliament. There was also an appeal for core funding for the National Pensioners' Convention, which was currently run by a staff of three. R Bickerstaffe encouraged delegates to present the manifesto to their local MPs.

R Deering advised that the National Pensioners' Convention would be pleased to receive comments and suggestions from Forum members on the draft manifesto (attached).

The Chair thanked R Deering for his report.

6. Cultural Mile

J Delahunty advised that a company called Big Architecture had been commissioned to examine how the heart of the town could be improved and developed. A 'cultural mile; along the route from Becket's Park to the Racecourse was one early proposal. A short dvd was shown illustrating some of ideas of how the space could be used. These were designed to be controversial to stimulate discussion and were the start of a process to think about what could be changed, with the emphasis on culture and leisure.

Forum members commented that the cleanliness of the town needed to be addressed before any development took place and concerns about the safety of people coming into town at night were raised.

R Deering suggested that any further car parking should be underground and also

that any new development should be carried out on a municipal basis, not just by private enterprise. He further commented that a long-term vision was needed for development.

B Nichols commented that Abington Street was too wide and that he thought this would be the ideal place for the market. He also raised concerns about the unhealthy drinking culture in the town centre.

J Delahunty advised that this was the beginning of the process and that there would be many more opportunities for people to make further comments and suggestions.

7. Any Other Business

B Nichols queried the follow-up to the questionnaire and whether any further action would take place as a result of this. J Delahunty advised that some of the Forums had changed the way they operated, for example the Race Equality Forum had decided to meet at different venues to be more inclusive to the BME communities. He further commented that the Forum could be organised differently according to what members wanted. It was agreed that a full discussion about the Forum structure and organisation would be had at the next meeting.

8. Date Of Next Meeting

Thursday 29 July 2004, 2:00pm.

Northampton Borough Council

Race Equality Forum

Wednesday, 16 June 2004

Present: A Roy - DOSTIYO (in the Chair)

R Begum - Victim Support
DS P Colhoun - Northants Police

T Crane-Folwell - Individual
J Delahunty - NBC
S Silver - NBC
P Sinclair - NCC

P Veitch - Jesus Centre

1. Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Crake, M Felix Councillor Hill, Anne Jackson, C Mistry, Dipak Mistry and Northampton Irish Support Group.

2. Minutes Of The Meeting Held On 6 May 2004

The minutes of the meeting held on 6 May 2004 were agreed.

3. Matters Arising

S Silver updated the Forum regarding the MAGRAH conference. Hate crime would be the theme for this, in particular the three areas covered by the reporting pack. A separate project would be organised for young people but they would be invited to the conference.

4. **NEEMA** Report

J Delahunty advised that the NEEMA report had been briefly discussed at the Northampton East Area Partnership meeting in June It had been decided that a separate meeting was necessary to identify the key issues, and it was hoped to have a NEEMA representative present at this meeting to give an update on progress.

A Roy expressed concern at the time being taken to pursue this. It was agreed that herself and the co-Chair would endeavour to meet with a NEEMA representative to identify at least 5 priority areas.

5. NCC Race Equality Scheme & Equality Standard For Local Government

M McLeod, NCC, was welcomed to the meeting. He outlined the background to the Equality Standard for Local Government, the framework through which local authorities would deal with equalities issues.

The Equality Standard was part of the CPA assessment system, with the performance indicators set by the Audit Commission. NCC services were at various levels of the Standard, and the overall rating of any authority was given by virtue of the weakest service.

M McLeod summarised the requirements of the various levels within the Equality Standard and commented that these needed to be evidence driven. To achieve Level 2, Assessing Policies, Procedures and Practices, it was necessary to make preparation for an equal pay review; policies must reflect equal opportunity provision and all contracts should reflect current legislation. The County Council was hoping to achieve Level 2 this year.

The importance of impact assessment of policies on particular groups was highlighted and M McLeod mentioned some of the indicators of adverse impact. He also commented on the need to carry out continual consultation.

Regarding who held the responsibility for assessment of school services, M McLeod advised that huge amounts of data had been collected and that a consultant had been brought in to work on this.

With reference to the indicators of adverse impact, A Roy questioned whether there was any scrutiny over levels of investment in different areas. M McLeod advised that the authority was looking at ways of involving Scrutiny internally in the first place, and then externally.

M Mcl end was thanked for his attendance.

6. Standing Item - NBC Race Equality Scheme

S Silver advised that the timeframe for the Race Equality scheme was in draft form and that other activities were in progress to obtain feedback from Heads of Service regarding service activity and monitoring of this. Once this information had been received and collated it would be presented to the Forum.

The Scheme would end in 2005 and work was ongoing for the close of this. It was noted that the next Scheme would be properly consulted and organised effectively in order to make it a success and discussion on how to do this would be held with the Forum in the future. A Roy requested that this be given due consideration at the next meeting in order that this can be taken forward quickly and effectively.

7. Cultural Mile

J Delahunty advised that a company called Big Architecture had been commissioned to examine how the heart of the town could be improved and developed. A 'cultural mile; along the route from Becket's Park to the Racecourse was one early proposal. Discussion on this would be held at a future meeting when the promotional dvd was available.

8. Information Exchange

P Sinclair advised that many changes were taking place at the County Council. There was no longer a dedicated Home-School Liaison Team, but individuals in different teams performing a similar function. P Sinclair was now the County Education Officer with a responsibility for racist incidents. She advised that she worked closely with the county MAGRAH groups and had been liaising with S Silver and other MAGARAH Chairs in collating information on incidents. It was hoped that

this would create a co-ordinated county approach.

R Begum advised that it was Refugee Week and that an event organised by the local Amnesty International would take place in the Guildhall on Friday 18 June at 5.00pm.

A Roy advised that the PCT had published a revised Race Equality Scheme, which could be made available to anyone wishing to see it.

A Roy also advised that the PCT had recently two Centre Managers on a job share basis and a Domestic Violence worker.

T Crane-Folwell commented that the BME Housing Group had not been held for over a year and that there were many concerns regarding advice to non-English speaking communities, with particular reference to refuse collection. A petition had been sent to NBC on 23 April 2004 but as yet a response had not been received. J Delahunty undertook to resolve this issue.

9. Any Other Business

P Veitch commented on the lack of representation from a wide range of different communities. This prompted a discussion about the effectiveness of the Forum and the need to try to engage a wider audience. It was suggested that the format of the meeting was possibly too formal and that language could also be a barrier. It was advised that some consultation could be carried out to ascertain what people wanted from the Forum.

It was agreed that the next meeting of the Forum would take place at a venue other than the Guildhall, where members of minority communities might feel more comfortable.

10. Date Of Next Meeting

Thursday 15 July at 6.30pm.

LGB FORUM

5 May 2004

PRESENT: T Welsh - Co-Chair (in the Chair)

Councillor Eldred - Co-Chair S. McQuade - NLGBA

Steve - Hate Crime Unit

Councillor Hill - Northampton Borough Council
J Delahunty - Northampton Borough Council

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from I McCormack, Dennis and Cleisson.

2. MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 18 MARCH 2004

The minutes of the meeting held on 18 March 2004, copies of which had been circulated, were agreed subject to the word civic under Item 6 being amended to read civil in each case.

3. MATTERS ARISING

Councillor Eldred referred to Item 4 of the Minutes and explained that the reason he had been unable to attend the last few meetings of the Forum was because they had clashed with other meetings and in addition one meeting of the Forum had been cancelled.

Councillor Hill then referred to Item 6 of the Minutes regarding civil partnerships and enquired whether it would be useful to have similar research carried out in Northampton to that carried out in Leicester. Stuart advised that various types of research had been carried out country-wide with different themes with Northampton's theme being research with the schools. He explained that it was more financially viable to divide the research and then gather information and impart this to the various areas accordingly. Councillor Hill then referred to the fact that there was a small amount of money available to the various Borough Council Forums and invited this Forum to make a bid accordingly.

Stuart then gave an update in respect of the Schools and Homophobic Bullying Report commenting that there had been 877 respondents and that it was the largest sample that had been taken in Europe. The BBC had also filmed the previous week at the Northampton NLGBA for their programme "Inside Out" which would be shown as a 10 minute magazine project. As part of this it also included the Exhibition at the Museum and would reflect on the work being undertaken in the schools. The aim was to give a clear signal that it was an issue that needed to be addressed. He emphasised that the work continued and was of great significance.

4. THEME FOR MEETING - HATE CRIME

Stuart then gave an update on the Stamp Out Hate Crime Pack advising that there had been a very successful launch night for the Pack which had taken place on 25 March in the Great Hall of The Guildhall. He stated that it had made sense to join together the

three main Hate Crime Issues as it had enabled costs to be reduced, was more economical and produced a greater awareness of the issues. He stated that there were NIAG and MAGRAH Meetings across the County and the aim was to work with these other 2 Groups jointly to achieve the goal of stamping out hate crime. He expressed the view, however, that he was still of the opinion that there needed to be a stronger cultural shift before fully joined up working of the three Groups could be achieved. However, this shift would come from the Agencies and Organisers of the Groups. In discussing the issue generally mention was made that a toolkit for all schools to use would be funded from money received by the NLGBA from Comic Relief. He added that a survey showed that 25% of children had been subject to homophobic bullying.

Stuart then mentioned the possibility of a new Forum being set up, a "Stamp Out Hate Crime Forum" which, it was anticipated, would be set up and facilitated by the Police. He advised that he would keep the Group updated on the Hate Crime issue generally at future meetings.

5. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- (a) Stuart advised of a new service being introduced at NLGB Alliance in terms of employment and education services and circulated a leaflet regarding this. He added that the Scheme was SRB funded and that Countywide support would enable people to attend centres across the County although this would mainly happen in Northampton. The idea was for people to learn or re-learn skills and make choices about education, returning to work etc. The pilot scheme had been trialled for 18 months and had proved to be very successful. This would be more focussed over the next two years to allow work with those particular lesbian, gay and bisexual people who had been the most excluded. Work would be carried out with organisations such as Connections and Northampton College.
- (b) Stuart then referred to the fact that the Exhibition at the Museum had been extended to the 16 May and acknowledged the Borough Council's support of this Exhibition particularly thanks to the Museum staff for all their work and effort. He added that without the strong partnership that the NLGBA had with the Borough the Exhibition would not have been possible. The Project was now one of national significance.

Reference was then made to the fact that Andrew Bewers had now left the Borough Council and it was agreed that a letter be sent to Andrew on behalf of the Forum thanking him for his hard work and efforts over the years.

6. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

It was noted that the next meeting of the Forum was scheduled for Wednesday 16th June at 6.30pm at The Guildhall.

The meeting concluded at 7.35pm.

LGB FORUM

28 July 2004

PRESENT: T Welsh – Co-Chair (in the Chair)

Councillor Acock – Co-Chair

Steve – Hate Crime Unit

Andrew – NLGBA Dennis – Individual

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Sergeant P Colhoun, J Delahunte and S McQuade.

2. MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 16 JUNE 2004

The minutes of the meeting held on 16 June 2004, copies of which had been circulated, were agreed subject to correcting a spelling of the names of Sergeant P Colhoun and S McQuade.

3. MATTERS ARISING

Andrew gave an update on this year's Northamptonshire Pride 2004 event which as previously reported would be taking place on Thursday 9 September through to Sunday 12 September and circulated a list detailing the various events being proposed for that week.

4. THEME FOR MEETING - SEX OFFENCES BILL

With regard to the Sex Offences Bill as agreed a report from Stuart had been appended to the minutes of the last meeting and duly circulated. However the report did not cover the issues raised by Andrew at the last meeting although it nevertheless contained useful information. Andrew then advised of a web site where further useful information could be found and undertook to circulate this accordingly. He then referred to the letters he had undertaken to write on behalf of the group and circulated copies of a draft letter for the group's comments. The wording of the letter was duly accepted but with the addition that the Police be asked if they would consult with the Alliance first to see if they had any particular issues of concern. It was agreed that the letter would be sent to the Chief Constable (Peter Madison) and that J Delahunte be asked to send out the letter on behalf of the Forum.

5. HATE CRIME UPDATE

Steve commented that in terms of homophobic incidents there had been few reported incidents recently but he gave an update on recent work being carried out by the Hate Crime Unit generally commenting that a lot of proactive work had been recently undertaken by the Unit centring mostly around disability. He then reported on a couple of cases concerning homophobic incidents that the Unit had been involved with.

6. SEXUAL ORIENTATION AND DISCRIMINATION UPDATE

It was noted that Stuart intended to cover this item and would do so at the next meeting. In the meantime Andrew had e-mailed Stonewall for any case law and would include this in the update at the next meeting. Reference was then made as to how various organisations dealt with employees under the legislation it being noted that Northampton Borough Council, as an employer, had welcomed the legislation. In response to a comment from Tom, Andrew undertook to draft a letter to send to the various colleges i.e. Northampton College of Further Education, the UCN, Moulton Agricultural College, etc seeking their views and perspective on the legislation.

7. OPEN FORUM

It was noted that last year the Open Forum was included as part of the Laramie Project and the Northampton Pride Week. Possible topics, ideas, etc for this year's Open Forum were then discussed with one suggestion being that possibly it could be linked in with the Holocaust Event Exhibition in terms of persecution and sexuality issues. It was agreed that this be explored further at the next meeting.

8. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Future themes for this group were considered it being noted that a number of themes were agreed at the last meeting which included Venues and Long Term Future of Venues, Update on Civil Partnership Legislation, Hate Crime Update, Sexual Orientation Discrimination. In terms of Venues some general discussion ensued and it was agreed that this item be left on the Agenda as a future issue for discussion but that in the interim some investigation take place through the Alliance to see whether it could approach some commercial venues with the possibility of these being used as gay venues.

It was noted that an update on Civil Partnerships Legislation would be placed on the Agenda for further discussion at the next meeting. It was noted however that the House of Lords had caused the legislation to be delayed.

In response to a question from Dennis regarding an Aids Day Memorial Service this year Andrew advised that there would be a World Aids Day Meeting on 17 September which would involve all partnership agencies working together.

Reference was then made to the exhibition from the Museum which having been to Leicester had now gone national.

9. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

It was noted that the next meeting of the Forum was scheduled for Wednesday 15 September at 6.30 pm at the Guildhall.

DISABLED PEOPLE'S FORUM

Wednesday, 9 June 2004

PRESENT: R. Farmer- Chair

M. FarmerC. GoddardC. StannardL. BarberIndividualIndividual

B. Barber Link Group (Arthritis Care)

R. Linsdell Individual
C Grethe Individual
J. Shah Individual
L. Weeks Individual

D. Fensom NCC- Employment and Disability Service

Cllr. Allen NBC
Cllr. Edwards NBC
Cllr. Palethorpe NBC
J. Fletcher NBC
J. Delahunty NBC

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from A Lidden, E Harvey, Sergeant Colhoun, S Bell, M Thubron, and G Mason.

2. MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 11 MAY 2004

The minutes of the meeting held on 11 May 2004 were agreed subject to it being noted that under item 3b the list of organisations involved in the production of the Hate Crimes Pack should include Ability Northants and at item 8a the lobbying of NCC had been a joint effort between Ability Northants and DPAN.

3. MATTERS ARISING

(A) WESTON FAVELL TAXI RANK

J Delahunty reported that he had written to the Centre Manager to arrange a site visit but as yet had not had a response. It was noted that C Stannard and R Farmer would attend the site visit.

L Barber commented upon the position of the disabled bays and the potential danger in reversing out of them and into one of the through-fares. It was noted that both the Hackney Carriage Association and the Private Hire Association were aware of the situation.

(B) BLACK CABS UPDATE

J Delahunty commented that he had had a discussion with the Licensing Officer and had ascertained that since Metrocab, one of two specialist manufacturers of taxis, had gone into liquidation, the Licensing Committee would be invited to consider other suppliers. There would be a process by which vehicles would be assessed and the Forum had been invited to take part in that assessment. The final decision as to which vehicles would be

accepted as Hackney Carriages would lie with the Licensing Committee. It was proposed that a vehicle show would be arranged during the summer at which members of the Forum could take part and comment on the vehicles presented.

L Weeks, Mr and Mrs Barber, C Stannard and C Grethe all expressed an interest in being involved.

It was also suggested that this show should be advertised to all disabled groups.

It was agreed that the Licensing Officer be invited to attend the next meeting of the Forum to progress this issue.

4. STANDING ITEM - DISABLED PERSONS HOUSING GROUP

C Stannard referred to the minutes of the meeting of the Disabled Persons Housing Group that had taken place on 19 May 2004 and the agenda for their forthcoming meeting due on 23 June 2004. It was noted that good progress was being made.

5. COUNCIL HOUSING OPTIONS APPRASIAL

Councillor Palethorpe commented that the Council had undertaken a stock condition survey in June 2003 because the previous survey undertaken in 1998 had indicated that 60% of council houses were below the decent homes standard. The new survey had shown that only 28% of council houses were below the decent homes standard and the housing options appraisal would determine how much would need to be spent to bring all council houses up to the enhanced Northampton Decent Homes Standard (which was a higher specification that the Government's own standard).

Consultants were carrying out this work and there would be a genuine tenants consultation which would be overseen by the Tenants Customer Panel. The options appraisal would report in December 2004 and would indicate a way forward. Tenant consultation would take place on that option and then all those council tenants over 18 and on the electoral register would have a right to vote upon that option.

Councillor Palethorpe commented that the disposal of Beaumont and Claremont Courts to Leicester Housing Association was an entirely separate issue and related to the need to spend some £8 million on refurbishing the 114 flats in the two tower blocks. As a comparison the Council's total annual council house repairs budget was £7.9 million. Negotiations had taken place with the Government and permission had been given for the stock to be transferred to Leicester Housing Association. The former tenants had the choice to go back into the blocks or to reserve their position. They had a preserved right to buy and would not lose that right to buy as part of a stock transfer or an ALMO being created.

R Farmer commented that in his role as Chair of the Tenants Customer Panel work on the Decent Homes Standard had been going on for over 12 months. At present Phase 2 of double glazing was about to commence and re-roofing and rewiring was also due to start shortly.

Mr Shah queried the position of tenants and Right to Buy. Councillor Palethorpe replied that existing tenants had a right to buy and this would remain as he had indicated previously. Theoretically the Council could stop tenants right to buy to preserve the housing stock. However, the Council at the present time had no intention of exercising this power. He also noted that this decision could not be binding upon a future Council.

Mr Shah commented that he was unaware of the decency standards and any consultation that had gone on about them. Councillor Palethorpe commented that the Decent Homes Standard was a national requirement and the Northampton standard was to a higher specification. All tenants involved had been and would be told of works going on and updates had been regularly published in Housing Matters. It was noted that the visually impaired had a particular problem with printed material and it was agreed to look at alternative mediums of presenting this information.

(NB: Tenants can ring 0800 7839967 for more information about the Housing Options Apprasial process)

6. LEISURE FACILITIES FOR DISABLED PEOPLE

J Fletcher commented that leisure facilities operated in three main areas. Firstly accessibility of facilities with accompanying concessionary rates; secondly the formation of clubs and partnerships through sports development, for example the newly formed archery club that would start in September and Northampton Energy referrals from GP's etc; thirdly, future projects such as the inclusion of a fitness initiative to improve gym equipment, the marketing and advertising to disabled groups of facilities and the subtitling of films at Lings Forum Cinema. He also noted that of the three buildings, one had been built in the 1930's, one in the 1970's where access was an issue and improvements were being sought.

Mr Shah enquired as to what would happen if Danes Camp was to be sold off. J Fletcher commented that the Council had to constantly review its services particularly as leisure was not a statutory activity. Unfortunately the press had got hold of a confidential report and had published just one element from it. The document had been an options appraisal and this had been only one consideration amongst many others.

In answer to questions, J Fletcher commented that the changing facilities and showers at Mounts Baths were to be refurbished and access would be improved and that where at all possible, employee help was offered to disabled people in order to help them use the facilities provided.

7. CULTURAL MILE

A video produced by Will Allsop's, Big Architecture Company was viewed and

J Delahunty commented that its intention was to challenge the way the people of Northampton viewed their town. It was intended to generate debate and discussion about what might be achieved and at this stage did not put forward any specific suggestions. It was noted that if this concept were to be pursued then it would have to fit into other major development plans, such as for the Grosvenor/Greyfriars.

Comment was made about the way in which the town marketed itself, it being noted that P Newman had presented a report to Executive and elsewhere on the branding of the town (Northampton Celebrates).

8. ITEMS FOR FUTURE MEETINGS

It was agreed that at the next meeting of the Forum that the black cabs issue be discussed further and that any other suggestions for that or future meetings could be sent to the Chair or J Delahunty.

9. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

(A) TOILET FACILITIES SOL CENTRAL

R Farmer commented that the Toad Pub in Sol Central had indicated that the disabled could have access to their toileting facilities if required.

(B) NORTHAMPTON ASSOCIATION FOR THE BLIND

It was noted that the Northampton Association for the Blind had held an exhibition earlier in the day which was an annual event and this year had taken place in Wellingborough.

10. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The date of the next meeting was confirmed as being Wednesday 21 July 2004 at 5.30pm.

<TRAILER_SECTION>

The meeting concluded at 19.32 hours

M4098

Agenda Item 8

PUBLISHED:18 AUGUST 2004

FORWARD PLAN

FOR THE PERIOD 1 SEPTEMBER 2004 TO 31 DECEMBER 2004



The Forward Plan sets out the Key Decisions which are to be taken by the Executive or officers during the period covered by the Plan. The Plan is updated each month as is available from The Guildhall and on www.northampton.gov.uk

A Key Decision is one which is likely to result in significant expenditure or savings for the service concerned, or to have significant effects on those living or working in an area comprising two or more wards of the Borough. Consideration of issues may be deferred and ongoing and consequential matters may arise within the period of the Plan to which this notice also extends, details in respect of which will repeat those set out in the original

Members of the public are welcome to comment on any item on the Forward Plan and to attend meetings of the Executive. Executive meetings are held at the Guildhall on Mondays and start at 6 pm. During the period of this Plan meetings will be held on:

13 September, 4 October, 1 November, 22 November and 6 December 2004.

The Members of the Executive and their areas of responsibility are:

Councillor Philip Larratt – Leader of the Council Portfolio

Councillor Tim Hadland – Financial Strategy and Performance Councillor Michael Hill – Community Leadership

Councillor Colin Lill – Planning, Regeneration and Transportation

Councillor Judith Lill – Health and Environment

Councillor David Palethorpe – Housing

Councillor Liz Tavener – Community Safety and E-Government

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e-mail: cllr.ltavener@northampton.gov.uk

The Council has 7 Overview and Scrutiny Committees. Their role is to contribute to the development of Council policies, to scrutinise decisions of the Executive, and to consider any matter affecting the area of Northampton or its citizens. The scheduled meetings during the period of this Plan are at

- Leader of the Council –21 September, 3 November and 20 December 2004.
- Community Leadership 23 September, 4 November and 16 December 2004.
- Community Safety & E-Government 5 October, and 16 November 2004.
 Financial Strategy & Performance 7 October and 18 November 2004.
 - Health & Environment 12 October and 18 November 2004.
- Housing 14 October and 25 November 2004.
- Planning, Regeneration & Transportation 21 October and 7 December 2004.

For more details, please contact Frazer McGown, Meetings Services Manager at The Guildhall, St Giles Square, Northampton NN1 1DA, 01604 837101; E-mail: fmcgown@northampton.go.uk. Alternatively, you can register your interest in receiving a copy of a report, once available, by emailing meetingsservices@northampton.gov.uk

Councillor P Larratt, Leader of Northampton Borough Council

	Forward Plan :	_	September 2004 to 31 December 2004	mber 2004	
Subject	Decision to be Made	Date of Decision	Who Will be consulted	How will they be consulted	Report available/Portfolio holder/Contact Officer
Environmental Options Appraisal Project	(To consider a consultants report on options for the future delivery of Environmental Services)	13 Sep 2004	None	None	2.9.04 Cllr. J.Lill Nick Wood, Head of Accounting Services nwood@northampton.gov.uk
Princess Marina Joint Development Brief	To approve a draft development brief jointly prepared with Northamptonshire Healthcare NHS Trust for wider public consultation relating to future development of the site following closure of the healthcare facilities on the site.	13 Sep 2004	Northamptonshir e Healthcare NHS Trust	Discussions	2.9.04 Cllr. C. Lill Steve Pointer, Team Leader (Policy) spointer@northampton.gov.uk
Local Development- Local Development Scheme and Statement of Community Involvement	To approve documents for formal submission to the Secretary of State following public consultation to form part of the Local Development Framework	13 Sep 2004	Key stakeholders, general public	Consultation	2.9.04 CIIr. C. Lill Steve Pointer, Team Leader (Policy) spointer@northampton.gov.uk
Joint Initiative With English Partnerships	To report and consider progress on land use and planning issues in respect of the joint initiative sites within the Borough ie., Sixfields, Harvey Reeves Road and Ransome Road	13 Sep 2004	English Partnerships	Discussions	2.9.04 CIIr. C. Lill David Alderson, Head of Planning, Transportation & Regeneration dalderson@northampton.gov.uk
Grosvenor/ Greyfriars	To consider progress towards this project and to make any decisions that might be necessary	13 Sep 2004	Legal and General	Negotiations	2.9.04 Cllr. Hadland Roger Sumner, Head of Property and Construction rsumner@northampton.gov.uk

	Forward Plan :	_	September 2004 to 31 December 2004	mber 2004	
Subject	Decision to be Made	Date of Decision	Who Will be consulted	How will they be consulted	Report available/Portfolio holder/Contact Officer
Recovery Plan	To consider progress on implementing the Recovery Plan and to make any necessary decisions	13 Sep 2004	ODPM, IDeA, Audit Commission, DWP and Other Partners	Discussions	2.9.04 Cllr Larratt Jon Warlow, Acting Chief Executive jonwarlow@northampton.gov.uk
Initial and Ongoing Relationship with Urban Development Corporation	To consider a protocol for the Council's future relationship with the Urban Development Corporation	13 Sep 2004	Urban Development Corporation	Negociations	2.9.04 Cllr Larratt David Alderson, Head of Planning, Transportation & Regeneration dalderson@northampton.gov.uk
Budget Options 2005- 2008	To consider the Budget options for 2005 - 2008	13 Sep 2004	None	None	2.9.04 Cllr. Hadland Ray Bowmer, Head of Financial Strategy rbowmer@northampton.gov.uk
Northampton Neighbourhood Renewal Strategy	To consider and approve a Neighbourhood Renewal Strategy which is being devised on behalf of the LSP and to be adopted by it in January 2005	13 Sep 2004	LSP	Discussions	2.9.04 Cllr Larratt Linda Brede, Neighbourhood Information and Initiatives Manager Ibrede@northampton.gov.uk
(Liquor) Licensing Act 2003; Administrative Matters	To consider matters in respect of implementation of the Act	4 Oct 2004	None	None	23.10.04 Cllr. Larratt Peter Newham, Borough Solicitor pnewham@northampton.gov.uk
Grosvenor/ Greyfriars Redevelopment	To consider progress towards this project and to make any decisions that might be necessary	4 Oct 2004	Legal and General	Negotiations	22.9.04 Cllr. Hadland Roger Sumner, Head of Property and Construction rsumner@northampton.gov.uk

	Forward Plan : 1	l	September 2004 to 31 December 2004	mber 2004	
Subject	Decision to be Made	Date of Decision	Who Will be consulted	How will they be consulted	Report available/Portfolio holder/Contact Officer
Joint Initiative With English Partnerships	To report and consider land use and planning issues in respect of the joint initiative with English Partnerships in terms of the related sites within the Borough ie, Sixfields, Harvey Reeves Road and Ransome Road	4 Oct 2004	English Partnerships	Discussions	22.9.04 Cllr C.Lill David Alderson, Head of Planning, Transportation & Regeneration dalderson@northampton.gov.uk
Air Quality in Northampton	To consider declaring further Air Quality Management Areas and to approve the making of appropriate Orders	4 Oct 2004	NCC	Correspondence and discussions	22.9.04 Cllr. J. Lill Joe Alfano, Principal Environmental Health Officer jalfano@northampton.gov.uk
Playing Pitch Strategy	To review current and future supply and demand of playing pitches in Northampton	1 Nov 2004	Key Stakeholders	Discussions	21.10.04 Cllr. J. Lill Tim Miles, Head of Cultural Services & Community Development tmiles@northampton.gov.uk
Recovery Plan	To consider progress towards implementing the Recovery Plan and making any necessary decisions	1 Nov 2004	ODPM, IDeA, Audit Commission, DWP and Other Partners	Discussions	21.10.04 Cllr. Larratt Jon Warlow, Acting Chief Executive jonwarlow@northampton.gov.uk
Joint Initiative Between the Council and English Partnerships (PRT)	(To report and consider progress on the joint initiative with English Partnerships in respect of the related sites within the Borough the subject of the Council's Statement of Intent- Sixfields, Harvey Reeves Road and Ransome Road)	1 Nov 2004		English Partnerships	21.10.04 Cllr. C Lill David Alderson, Head of Planning, Transportation & Regeneration dalderson@northampton.gov.uk

	Forward Plan :		1 September 2004 to 31 December 2004	mber 2004	
Subject	Decision to be Made	Date of Decision	Who Will be consulted	How will they be consulted	Report available/Portfolio holder/Contact Officer
Corporate Capital Programme 2004/05 to 2006/07	To monitor the Capital Programme and to approve variations to it.	1 Nov 2004	None	None	21.10.04 Cllr. Hadland Steve Harrison, Group Accountant (Technical) sharrison@northampton.gov.uk
Grosvenor/ Greyfriars Redevelopment (FS)	To consider progress towards this project and to make any decisions that might be necessary	22 Nov 2004	Legal and General	Negociations	11.11.04 Cllr Hadland Roger Sumner, Head of Property and Construction rsumner@northampton.gov.uk
Apprasial of Options For Future Management of Council Housing Stock	To consider the results of the options appraisal for the future management of the Council housing stock	22 Nov 2004	None	None	11.11.04 Cllr Palethorpe Brian O'Mara, Head of Housing Management Services bomara@northampton.gov.uk