

Diverse Communities Equality Forum

Objectives

1. The Forum seeks to equalise access by people of all ethnic and cultural backgrounds to the services and benefits provided by the Council by:
 - 1.1 providing information about those services and how to access them;
 - 1.2 identifying barriers to access to services which adversely affect groups or individuals of any ethnic, faith or cultural background;
 - 1.3 promoting two-way dialogue between the Council, its Members and senior Officers and representatives of:
 - 1.3.1 ethnic and culturally diverse communities;
 - 1.3.2 newly arrived and emerging communities; and
 - 1.3.3 faith communities; and
 - 1.4 promoting community cohesion through working in ways which promote and support effective relationships and engagement between the Council and the community.
2. To provide a Forum in which:
 - 2.1 the above-mentioned community groups can express their needs for, and their views on, services provided by the Council and its partners through a range of meetings, events and other means;
 - 2.2 the Council can consult representatives of the above-mentioned communities on policy and service delivery issues including in relation to impacts on the above-mentioned communities;
 - 2.3 members of the Forum can feed into national and regional consultations; and
 - 2.4 groups and agencies can exchange information about their own activities and plans.
3. For members of the Forum who have internet access, there is the opportunity to keep informed and share information about community events, consultations etc via the group emails.

4. The Forum may from time to time
 - 4.1 operate sub-groups or project work groups e.g. to focus on inter faiths work; and/or
 - 4.2 work with other groups including other Forums e.g to encourage participation in local democracy through supporting work led by Youth Forum in October each year; e.g. to raise awareness of suffering in the past and today in situations of war and discrimination through active involvement with the Holocaust Memorial Working Group.