
RACIAL INCIDENTS IN COUNCIL ACCOMMODATION

1 SUMMARY

- 1.1 This report identifies the occurrences of racial incidents in Council accommodation over the past year.

2 INTRODUCTION

- 2.1 In May 2000 the Council adopted the Commission for Racial Equality Code of Practice in Rented Housing for the elimination of racial discrimination and the promotion of equal opportunities. This has been strengthened by the Race Relations (Amendment) Act 2000 which gave public landlords further duties including the need for a new definition of a racist incident stating that: *'a racist incident is any incident that is perceived to be racist by the victim or any other person'*.
- 2.2 This means that anyone – the victim, a witness, a police officer or a Council officer – that perceives an incident as racism, should record it as such regardless of any dissenting views.
- 2.3 It also included the need to report, record and investigate all racist incidents, whether or not a crime has been committed.

3 RECORDED INCIDENTS

- 3.1 In this report last year it was reported that there had been one recorded incident of racial harassment in 2004/05 which was ongoing at the time of the report and which had involved a Council tenant. This matter has now been dealt with to the satisfaction of the victim.
- 3.2 There have been no reported racial incidents in 2005/06.

4 CRIME AND DISORDER IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 Racial incidents need to be reported and recorded in order to monitor any form of harassment and to deal with the perpetrators effectively.

5 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 The Race Relations (Amendment) Act 2000 requires Local Authorities to report, record and monitor racial incidents.

6 RECOMMENDATION

- 6.1 It is proposed that the Committee notes the absence of racial incidents in Council accommodation in 2005/06.

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Background Papers:-

None

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