
RACIAL EQUALITY IN RENTED HOUSING

1 SUMMARY

- 1.1 Members are invited to consider the adoption of a positive policy towards racial equality in rented housing.

2 INTRODUCTION

- 2.1 The Council is required to produce a number of performance indicators which are submitted to the Audit Commission for national publication each year. During examination of the indicators for 1998/99 the external auditors looked for empirical evidence that policies and practices were in force. In certain areas no hard evidence could be produced to verify our claims for compliance. One such area was the adoption of a positive policy towards racial equality in rented housing where, in past years, the Council has always responded positively. (See Audit Services Committee Agenda 11 January 2000).

3 PROPOSED ACTION

- 3.1 The Commission for Racial Equality is the acknowledged authority in this field and they have produced a Code of Practice in Rented Housing. This code is reproduced as an appendix to this report.
- 3.2 It is proposed that the Council now adopts the code unamended and that measures be put in place by the Housing Management team to monitor the effectiveness of the policy. This will involve the introduction of a racial equality monitoring sheet with certain administrative forms such as the Housing Register Registration form. If Members feel it appropriate the results of monitoring could be reported in the Division's Quarterly Performance Report.

4 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 Additional printing requirements can be contained within the existing H.R.A. Budget.

5 RECOMMENDATION

- 5.1 It is proposed that this Sub-Committee **RESOLVES**
1. That the Commission for Racial Equality's Code of Practice in Rented Housing be adopted.
 2. That the Council abides by the Race Relations Act and implements the Code of Practice as far as practicable.

-
3. That tenants and prospective tenants be advised of the adoption of the policy by including information in the Tenants Handbook.
 4. That the Housing Manager be charged with responsibility for implementing the overall and component parts of the policy.
 5. That progress be monitored by the inclusion of information in the Revenue and Housing Management Division's Quarterly Performance Report. (HRHM)

Steven Clarkson

Head of Revenue & Housing Management

Background Papers:

'Code of Practice in Rented Housing' – Commission for Racial Equality.

For further information please contact S J Clarkson on (01702) 546366