

## **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 official – 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 the past year, there has been one recorded incident of racial harassment involving a Council tenant. The victims were primarily placed in temporary accommodation and the perpetrator was a neighbour. They were then offered permanent accommodation with a Housing Association. However, the new property was still in close proximity of the perpetrator.
- 3.2 The victim indicated that they have been subject to verbal abuse, threats and intimidation.
- 3.3 Both the Police and our Anti-social Behaviour Co-ordinator are currently involved with this particular case, which is ongoing.

### **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 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 incident of racial harassment within Council accommodation.

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**Background Papers: -**

None

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