

Equality Impact Assessment Report

Name of policy, procedure or function: CBC Scrutiny Function

Service Area:
Change Management

Team Members:
Cllr Shepherd, Louise Hall, David Blackburn

Date:
December 2007

Findings

General

There are four scrutiny Committees which make up the Scrutiny function at Charnwood that allows the citizens to have a greater say in Council matters by holding public inquiries into matters of local concern. These then lead to reports and recommendations which advise the Cabinet and the Council on its policies, budgets and service delivery. Scrutiny committees also monitor the decisions of the Cabinet.

The Scrutiny committee can also consider whether the decision made by the Cabinet is appropriate. If not, the committee can “call in” a decision made by the Cabinet but not yet implemented. Accordingly, the Scrutiny Commission publishes an overview and Scrutiny Annual Report, consequently this provides a check and balance on the executive.

Specific Equality Ares

Some groups there is a lack of representation at Councillor Level, this may be due to lack of communication as all literature such as how to be a councillor and details of recruitment days is only available in English. In order to increase the representation there has to be a better targeting of community groups and also increase the community involvement by councillors.

Certain age, religion and sexuality groups are under represented as part of consultations and at Councillor Level, this can be improved by increasing participations in consultations and increasing participation as elected members.

Further Actions

Problem/barrier identified	Actions to overcome problem/barrier	Resources required	Responsibility	Target date
<p>Race:</p> <p>Language problems may occur particularly in formal documents.</p> <p>Ethnic Minority groups are underrepresented o at councillor level</p>	<p>Continue to advertise different language availability.</p> <p>Encourage ethnic minority councillors through recruitment campaigns such as 'so you want to be a councillor'</p>	<p>None</p> <p>Officer and Member time</p>	<p>Comms – Website</p> <p>Democratic Services / Comms</p>	<p>Ongoing</p> <p>Oct 07 (LDW)</p>
<p>Gender</p> <p>Women are under-represented as councillors</p>	<p>Create a Candidate Pack for the next Borough Election and emphasise:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Child care payments available under the Council's Members' Allowances Scheme; and * Role of existing female Councillors and the positive contributions that can be made by female Councillors. 	<p>Officer time and small budget for materials & postage</p>	<p>Democratic Services</p>	<p>February 2011 (prior to next Borough election)</p>
<p>Young People</p> <p>Young People are under-represented as Councillors</p>	<p>Roll out initiatives in local schools as part of the Local Democracy Week to encourage interest in politics and local democracy.</p> <p>Undertake a political speed-dating session involving councillors, young people and youth groups in the area.</p>	<p>Officer and Member time</p>	<p>Democratic Services</p>	<p>November 2008</p>

Lack of monitoring of public accessing scrutiny	Obtain feedback from members of the public who attend scrutiny in particular witnesses at Scrutiny Panels.	Officer Time	Democratic Services	July 2008
Learning disabilities or Language issues might impede understanding	Introduce a clear plain english explanation of scrutiny and how the public can access it on the website.	Officer Time	Democratic Services	March 2008