

## **Agenda Item No. 12 (c)**

### **WEST MIDLANDS REGIONAL ASSEMBLY**

**Wednesday, 5<sup>th</sup> April 2006**

### **Regional Strategic Partnership: Equality & Diversity**

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#### **1. Purpose**

- 1.1 To inform Members of the items covered by the new Regional Strategic Partnership for Equality & Diversity and forthcoming work schedule.

#### **2. Recommendation**

- 2.1 That Members note the key areas of work and related events being taken forward by the Partnership.

#### **3. Background**

- 3.1 At their last meeting, the Board of Directors agreed to the establishment of a new Regional Strategic Partnership for Equality and Diversity. The Board's report can be accessed via the Assembly's website: <http://www.wmra.gov.uk/page.asp?id=162> (agenda item no. 9 (b)).
- 3.2 This had been a Panel recommendation from the recent Strategic Review of Equalities and Diversity endorsed by the Assembly at its meeting on 18<sup>th</sup> January 2006.
- 3.3 The Partnership, chaired by Cllr Jo Jones, met for the first time on 28<sup>th</sup> March. Eleven members attended covering most of the key areas outlined in the *Equality Act 2006*. The agenda covered:
  - Terms of Reference
  - Membership
  - Work-Plan for the next 12 months
  - Achievements in line with Review Recommendations to date
  - Workshop on *Regional Sustainable Development Framework* – consultation and response from the Partnership
  - Consultation event hosted by WMRA and DTI to look at the *Regional Commission for Equalities and Human Rights* – 28<sup>th</sup> April
  - Launch of the *Equalities and Diversity Strategic Review: Final Report* – 10<sup>th</sup> May
  - Consultation event hosted by Cabinet Office on the *Equalities Review Interim Report* – 1<sup>st</sup> June

- *Getting Equal* – consultation on how aspects of the *Equality Act 2006* relating to sexual orientation should be interpreted
- Agenda for next meeting:
  - Consultation on the *Regional Health Strategy*
  - Presentation on the role of the Commission for Racial Equality
  - Consultation on *Regional Economic Strategy*
  - Autumn Event on Equality and Diversity
  - Work taken forward from above

#### **4. Follow-up work by the Partnership:**

- 4.1 Members will aim to attend key regional events and participate in the national consultation events mentioned above. Members also agreed to work in small sub-groups of three or four which would enable each sub-group to concentrate on a particular consultation area and report back to the Partnership with a draft response.
- 4.2 In addition, Members will identify key actions [and how they can be taken forward] to be included in the Work-Plan, which will be reviewed at each quarterly meeting.

#### **5. Handling:**

- 5.1 More detailed information on any of the matters raised above can be obtained from the Lead Officer.

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