
Progress Report on the Work of the African Caribbean Citizens Forum

Report of the Chair of the African Caribbean Citizens Forum

1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 To update the members of the working group as to progress in achieving the ACCF development objectives.
- 1.2 To inform partners of intended future priorities.
- 1.3 To outline forum direction and strategic intentions.
- 1.4 For the members of the working group to approve the request from the A.C.C.F. for on-going financial support in its development.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

The Working Group is asked to agree:

- 2.1 An increase in the salary status of the African Caribbean Development Co-ordinator post from SO1 £20,355 to FEL Grade £24,201 from May 2000. This would mean an additional £3,090 (inc. NI) on that agreed in 1999.
- 2.2 That funding for the Development Co-ordinator post continues until June 2001. This would mean an extra £13, 473 (inc. NI) from January 2001 to June 2001 (six months).
- 2.3 To provide an additional £5698 to cover general administrative support to the Citizens Forum from January 2001 to June 2001 (appendix 1).

3. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 3.1 The required sums to be met from the one off development funds identified in the report to the Councils Policy & Resources Committee in September 1997 and the Uncommitted underspend from the African Caribbean Youth Project. These funds would be directed through LUCA's Grant Aid Contract with the Councils' Arts & Leisure Department.

4. BACKGROUND

- 4.1 This report develops upon the African Caribbean Issues – African Caribbean Strategy Paper Presented to the Working Group 11.11.99.
- 4.2 That paper sought and secured endorsement for financial support for a Development Co-ordinator to develop the work of the A.C.C.F.
- 4.3 The funding for the post was secured from the Uncommitted Resources, from this, resources were committed for a development worker and administrative support.
- 4.4 The ACCF Development Co-ordinator, for administrative purposes is located at the Leicester United Caribbean Association (L.U.C.A.).

5. MAIN REPORT

The development worker took up position in January 2000. The workers brief was to fulfil the requirements of the job description around it give main objectives:

- 5.1 To provide support to the A.C.C.F. and contribute to its development and partnership strategy with the Local Government and other key agencies.
- 5.2 To support members of the A.C.C.F. and those involved with the business of the Forum.
- 5.3 To assist in developing mechanisms to interest and engage members of the Black Community in the work of the Forum.
- 5.4 To contribute to the Forums strategy and activities in the field of community consultation, information, participation and education.
- 5.5 To contribute to co-ordinating and organising the development of Community Networks in Leicester relevant to the partnership strategy with Local Government and other key providers.

6. PROGRESS UPDATE

To date, the co-ordinator has:

- 6.1 Competently addressed the project main tasks.
- 6.2 Actively engaged in purposeful networking with a range of agencies, organisations and individuals at local regional and national level.
- 6.3 Assisted in raising the profile of both the Forum and Leicester City as an authority, actively seeking to address the particular needs for its African Caribbean Citizenry.
- 6.4 Achieved beyond the reasonable expectations of the posts' remit.

- 6.5 Submitted Connecting Communities funding application to Home Office, The Forum will know the outcome of the bid in October.
- 6.6 Networked appropriately with Senior Officers within the fields of Health, Social Services, Education, Housing and Arts & Leisure.
- 6.7 Agreed tentative partnership arrangements with stakeholders able to influence and support strategy of, and vision for, A.C.C.F. and Leicester's wider African Caribbean Communities.
- 6.8 Established and applied a range of consultative approaches appropriate to work with African Caribbean women and men.
- 6.9 Responded to a range of consultative documents issued by Health and Local Government.
- 6.10 Ensured a consistent African Caribbean presence on a number of forums at both local and regional level.

7. FUTURE PRIORITIES FOR THE A.C.C.F.

- 7.1 Secure funding for the continuity and development of the African Caribbean Citizens Forum.
- 7.2 Establish Leicester as a site of good practice for working co-operatively with the African Caribbean Community in keeping with the recommendations of the Macpherson Report.
- 7.3 To ensure the fruition of the recommendations from the African Caribbean research initiative.
- 7.4 To co-ordinate departmental partnerships in preparation for the Connecting Communities Grant.
- 7.5 To build on Leicester's place as Beacon City for Central Government initiatives in the field of Community Development with African Caribbean Communities.

8. DIRECTION & STRATEGIC INTENTIONS

- 8.1 It is intended that the Forum will be at the heart of Leicester's good practice in regards to responding to the expressed and latent needs of African Caribbean Communities.
- 8.2 There is a need to influence policy. Particularly Policies that affect all partner agencies and stakeholders in the processes of change. It is recognised that any policy changes and developments will affect African Caribbean women and men.

- 8.3 The Forums strategic intention is to guide policy makers to centralise the needs of marginalised and excluded communities. All indicators of poverty and exclusion identify African Caribbean Communities as a priority group.
- 8.4 The African Caribbean people in Leicester research have highlighted a framework for development. The priorities identified by this influential research are the ones, which the forum with the support of partner agencies will endeavour to address.
- 8.5 Given current the lack of infra structure and additional workers, it would be difficult or the priorities set out in this report to be achieved without a Co-ordinator in post.
- 8.6 The current development co-ordinator has only for a further three months left in post. This time is insufficient to achieve the tasks, address the objectives, or secure further funding. It is therefore a matter of urgency that an extension is secured for the Co-ordinators contract. Given the workload, additional resourcing is needed to provide administrative support and funds for running costs.
- 8.7 Following an internal salary review that took place in May 2000, it was agreed that, subject to funding, the Co-ordinator post should be re-graded to reflect the complexity of the role as it has emerged.

9. BACKGROUND PAPERS

African Caribbean strategy paper 11.11.99

10. AUTHOR

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Chair African Caribbean Citizen Forum

20 September 2000

Appendix 1

Expenditure

A review of the Co-ordinator's salary from 1st January 2001 - 30th June 2001.

Co-ordinator's Salary	12100.00
Administrator	3523.00
Employers NI	1373.00
Training	200.00
Travel	175.00
AGM & Committee Expenses	400.00
Volunteer Expenses	100.00
Office Cost (including stationery, photocopying, stamps etc)	150.00
Rent & Rates	100.00
Water	150.00
Gas	100.00
Electricity	100.00
Insurance	100.00
Telephone	300.00
Office Equipment	300.00
Total	19171.00