

**Minutes of the REJCC
20 October 2005**

Councillors *Adje(Chair), Bloch, Bull, Canver,*Diakides, Featherstone,*Hillman, Lister, Meehan, Milner, Reith, *Santry and Williams.

***Members present.**

*Mr. Moses Igbasi		[VICE CHAIR OF REJCC]
*Mr. Chidi Odili	Mrs. Ngozi Chiegina	[African Community]
*Ms Martha Osamor		
Mr. George Martin	*Mrs Beverley D. Willis	[African Caribbean Community]
Mr. Pat Tonge	*Mrs Lena Hartley	
*Mrs Indu Shukla	*Mr M.A Moosa	[Asian Community]
Mr. D.N. Halder	*Mrs. Pushpa Rayvadera	
Ms Flora Man	Ms Dorothy To	[Chinese Community]
Mr. Abe Tse	Mr. Peter Chan	
Chris Stylianou	Susi Contantenides	[Greek Cypriot Community]
*Tony Brennan	Larry O'Mahoney	[Irish Community]
Carmel Naessens		
Shmiel Davidsohn	Irene Mansfield	[Orthodox Jewish Community]
Irene Mansfield	Delia Goldring	[Non-Orthodox Jewish Community]
Mr. Erdal Askin	Mr. Niyazi Eren	[Kurdish Community]
Ms Peray Ahmet	*Mr. Ertanch Hidayettin	[Turkish Cypriot Community]

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Mohammed Maigag

[Haringey Refugee Forum]

Mr. Fred Ellis

*Ms Liz Singleton

[Haringey Race Equality Council]

REJCC1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Bull, Canver, Featherstone, Meehan, Milner, Reith and Wynne.

Councillor Haley was present as a substitute for Councillor Dodds.

REJCC2. MINUTES:

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the meeting held on 4 April 2005 be confirmed and signed.

REJCC3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST – No declarations of interest were made.

REJCC4 HOUSING AND DIVERSITY IN HARINGEY: FEEDBACK FROM JULY 2005 HOUSING R.E.J.C.C. CONSULTATION (Report of the Executive Member for Housing – Agenda Item 7)

Councillor Diakides, as the Executive Member for Housing, introduced this report and reminded the Joint Consultative Committee that the Council continued to be totally committed to meaningful consultation with all the residents within the Borough having regard to rich and diverse make up of the population and on the programme of consultations which had taken place.

We noted the contents of the report and specially had regard to the need for affordable housing which greatly exceeded current demand. We were also reminded that over 5000 households were living in temporary accommodation and that significant investment was needed to bring the Council's housing stock up to "decent homes standards". Finally we noted the need to improve conditions in the private rented sector and to make private renting and home ownership a viable option for local people.

Members raised concerns certain sections of the community had not been part of the consultation procedure and Councillor Diakides gave an assurance that such groups would be identified and further briefings would be held.

In considering the report we had particular regard to a range of key strategic developments around Haringey which included:

- Arms Length Management Organisation (ALMO),
- Homelessness Improvement Project; and
- Private Sector Housing.

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We noted that these initiatives would form the basis of wide consultation and that in the event of translators being needed the Chair, Councillor Charles Adje, gave an assurance that the Council would provide the necessary resources to provide a translation service. The Chair also expressed the view that we needed more input from consultation with the community and urged the closer working together of the various representatives making up the REJCC.

RESOLVED:

That we note the report.

REJCC5 IMPLEMENTING RECOMMENDATIONS FROM R.E.J.C.C. COMMUNITY COHESION CONFERENCE (Report of the Head of Equalities and Diversity – Agenda Item 8)

We received and noted the reports from Children’s Service and Equalities and Diversity Unit respectively, on their responses to recommendations from the REJCC Community Cohesion Conference held in March 2005.

We particularly noted the work and range of activities that Children’s Service and schools have been undertaking to tackle inequality in educational outcomes, and promote interaction and social cohesion across the diverse communities of Haringey. We noted the comments of the Director of Children’s Services on initiatives adopted to raise the achievements of certain ethnic minorities and that a report was about to be submitted to the Executive in November. Ms Shoesmith also reminded Members of the Parent Involvement Week and that her department had produced a “good practice” DVD. We also noted the work that the Equalities & Diversity Unit has been doing in terms of events that bring people together and seek to break down barriers that prevent cross community interaction. We also noted that the a first step has been taken to include over time, a range of Community Cohesion indicators that will enable the Council measure its performance on Community Cohesion. We noted too that Tottenham, along with the Moss Side district of Manchester were the subject of a Joseph Rowntree national research pilot on Community Cohesion, the report of which is expected in April 2006. We noted too that the REJCC would be building on the outcome of its Community Cohesion conference, and would be undertaking further work in 2006 on this important agenda.

The Vice Chair expressed his view that the work of the REJCC should have a greater inclusiveness of communities within the boundaries of the London Borough of Haringey. He urged that the review should consider how wider representation could be achieved. We noted the assurances of the Chair on the efforts being undertaken by the Council to redress this balance in the representation and also accepted his view that the council was not able to achieve everything without a positive contribution from the whole of Haringey’s communities.

The Chair, Councillor Adje, re-affirmed the Council’s commitment to work continually for an even closed community and urged representatives to meet and discuss these issues with Inno Amadi.

RESOLVED:

That the position be noted and that further reports be submitted as appropriate.

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REJCC6 IMPROVING THE R.E.J.C.C. (The leader and chair's Special Information Item – Agenda Item 9)

The Chair reported his thoughts on re-energising the REJCC through measures to:

1. Updating the REJCC in line with current practice in local government,
2. Promoting even greater inclusiveness in REJCC membership,
3. Enabling the REJCC to embrace other equality standards; and
4. Improving the effectiveness of the REJCC.

The Chair set out the scope for the review and the timetable for the undertaking and completion of the various components of his review strategy.

We noted the Chair's comments on the need for wide consultation, wider participation in the work of the REJCC, the recognition that the Council was not fully achieving its consultation objectives and the possible need to provide additional funding to the work of the REJCC.

RESOLVED:

1. That we thank the Chair for his report and that it be accepted in principle as the way forward subject to the timescales set out within the report being extended by one month.

REJCC 7 UPDATE FROM THE CHAIR ON THE ASIAN EARTHQUAKE

The Chair reported that he, as Leader of the Council, had sent letters of Condolences to the High Commissioners of India and Pakistan on behalf of the Council and Community of Haringey. The Chair reported also that he had arranged for a public statement to be put on the Council's web page. In respect of fund raising he expressed the view that this was best left to those agencies who have a wide experience in dealing with global tragedies and said he was confident that communities and individuals would do all that is possible to give support to those people so grievously affected by the earthquake.

Time concluded: 9.00p.m.

**Cllr Charles Adje
Chair**