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| Item No. 2. | Classification: Open | Date: March 24 2005 | MEETING NAME Council Assembly |
| Report title: | | Independent Review of the Council's Equality & Diversity Framework by Lord Herman Ouseley | |
| Ward(s) or groups affected: | | All | |
| From: | | Borough Solicitor | |

RECOMMENDATION

1. That in line with March 8 2005 executive recommendation 5 outlined below, council assembly consider the attached report from the chief executive (see appendix 1).

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

2. On March 8 2005 the executive received a report from the chief executive (see appendix 1) on the outcome of the independent review of the Council's equality and diversity framework by Lord Herman Ouseley. Upon considering the report the executive agreed the following:-
 1. That the report and associated recommendations be welcomed as a positive means of progressing the equality and diversity agenda in Southwark.
 2. That an all party sub-group be established to oversee and drive forward the Council's response to the report and to ensure that any outstanding complaints against the council are properly dealt with. The sub-group to consist of 8 councillors (4 Liberal Democrat, 3 Labour and 1 Conservative).
 3. That the assistance of the Commission for Racial Equality be sought in the development of the Council's response to the report.
 4. That the outcome of the report be considered as part of the forthcoming review of the council's equality scheme and that a request be made for an extension of the deadline for publication of the revised scheme from 30 May to 31 July 2005.
 5. That the Mayor be requested to call a special council assembly meeting before Easter to consider the report.
 6. That Lord Ouseley be thanked for the time, energy and commitment he has brought to the review.

This decision is still subject to call in and will be implementable on Friday 18th March 2005.

KEY ISSUES FOR CONSIDERATION

3. IMPLICATIONS OF THE CONSTITUTION

The constitution allocates particular responsibility for functions to council assembly, for approving the budget and policy framework, and to the executive, for developing and implementing the budget and policy framework and overseeing the running of council services on a day-to-day basis. Therefore any matters reserved to executive (i.e. housing, social services, regeneration, environment, education etc) can not be decided upon by council assembly without prior reference to the executive. While it would be in order for council assembly to discuss an issue, consideration of any of the following should be referred to the executive:

- To change or develop a new or existing policy
 - To instruct officers to implement new procedures
 - To allocate resources
4. Should council assembly make any recommendations these would stand referred to the executive for consideration.
5. A copy of the independent review of the Council's equality and diversity framework by Lord Herman Ouseley is available via Southwark's website (www.southwark.gov.uk/Public/NewsArticle)

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

| Background Papers | Held At | Contact |
|--|---|--|
| Independent Review of the Council's Equality & Diversity Framework by Lord Herman Ouseley | Central House, Town Hall Peckham Road, London SE5 8UB | Graeme Gordon 020 7525 7384 |
| Executive agenda and minutes for meetings of July 27 2004 and March 8 2005 | Town Hall Peckham Road, London SE5 8UB | Everton Roberts 020 7525 7221 |

AUDIT TRAIL

| | | |
|---|---------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| Lead Officer | Ian Millichap, Constitutional Manager | |
| Report Author | Lesley John, Constitutional Officer | |
| Version | Final | |
| Dated | 14.3.05 | |
| Key Decision? | No | |
| CONSULTATION WITH OTHER OFFICERS / DIRECTORATES / EXECUTIVE MEMBER | | |
| Officer Title | Comments Sought | Comments included |
| Borough Solicitor | Yes | No |
| Chief Finance Officer | No | No |
| Executive Member | Yes | No |
| Date final report sent to Constitutional Support Services | | |