

Involving new/ BME communities

- Language needs are also accessibility needs
- 70% white participation/ response to some surveys – why is the minority so invisible?
- Financial, & other support and training should be offered to minority groups; training; meetings and consultation; and translation
- Members of the minority groups should be actively encouraged to take part in TRA (REPA); share expertise; fact find, research; get involved; volunteer
- Use of jargon – to be explained, carefully, bearing in mind that the explanations are being made to non-English speakers
- The cross-section of ethnicities has changed, including “White – other” nationalities such as Latin-American and Albanian on one local estate.
- Explain what the procedures are, e.g. for the Council Assembly
- Formal documents should be translated also, e.g. Rent statements
- Evidence, i.e. monitoring from supported groups, helps to safeguard financial and other support
- There should be impact assessments made before withdrawing support from groups
- Forums for BME consultation should be borough-wide and independent
- There should be citizenship classes more widely on offer
- The support given by faith groups should be acknowledged and included
- There should be service mapping based on Census demographics

Helen Laker 04.09.10