

Diversity Commission –Terms of Reference

Aim of Commission

The Government's Integrated Communities Strategy Green Paper and Action Plan provide the opportunity to further reflect and consider how we may continue to develop the cohesion and equalities agenda in Sandwell.

The Diversity Commission has been set up to review our approach, seek good practice and make recommendations for the future.

Responsibilities

1. Review the Equalities Act and key aspects of public sector duty with a view to how Sandwell is performing;
2. Review the Government's Integrated Communities Strategy;
3. Review specific areas of work across the following themes:
 - Vision, Leadership and Communications
 - Housing
 - Education
 - Economic Opportunity
 - Social Cohesion and Inclusion
4. Look at examples of cultural diversity from across Sandwell – highlighting good practice;
5. Agree a workplan of activity to ensure the Commission's aims are met;
6. Review economic value and wealth created in the borough by local BAME businesses;
7. Visit local community groups and businesses as part of the workplan;
8. Receive reports and make recommendations;
9. Consider areas where improvements can be made;
10. Develop a campaign to celebrate diversity and BAME groups' contribution to community life.

Membership and Voting

Organisation	Position	Voting rights
Sandwell MBC	Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Community Engagement and Equality (Chair)	Yes
	Elected Member - TBN	Yes
	Elected Member - TBN	Yes
	Elected Member - TBN	Yes
	Elected Member - TBN	Yes
	Executive Director –Neighbourhoods Director of Housing and Communities	No
	Business Manager – Community Partnerships	No
	Children’s Services Representative (as appropriate)	No
	Adult Social Care Representative (as appropriate)	No
	Other officers as appropriate	No
Rights Equality Sandwell	Nominated Senior Officer – in a consultative role only*	No
SCVO	Chief Executive	Yes
Faith Group – to be agreed	Senior representative	Yes
Other Voluntary organisation as agreed	Senior Representative	Yes

* At present the council funds RES as part of a 3-year agreement (presently in place until March 2020). Therefore, RES’s role will be consultative only to avoid any conflict of interest.

When appropriate the Commission will invite other partners to attend the meeting.

The Board will meet at least monthly until the work is completed.

Quoracy

The Diversity Commission will be quorate when there is a minimum of two voting members from the Council and one voting members from external partners.

Public attendance

Meetings of the Commission will be open to the press and public. The agenda, reports and previous meeting minutes will be available on the Council's website at least five working days in advance of each meeting.

There will be an opportunity for members of the public to ask questions, however this must be done in writing at least 3 full working days in advance. A response to the question will be tabled and a brief opportunity will be provided to the member of the public to ask a follow up question.

Guidance for this process is available on the Sandwell Council website