

FOR INFORMATION

RACE RELATIONS

1.0 Shared Race Relations Charter Fund

- 1.1 The Chief Executive's Business Committee has approved the allocation of funds from the existing 2011/12 Race Relations budget to support the local implementation of the Shared Race Relation Charter through the Districts and the District Housing Community Network.
- 1.2 Each DHCN is encouraged to apply for the £500 available to implement the Charter's minimum standards which are set against the following 8 themes
- Access to Information
 - Recognition of Racism
 - Equality of Access to Services
 - Community Participation
 - Community Safety
 - Partnership Working
 - Appreciation of Cultural Diversity
 - Social inclusion activities

2.0 Diamond Jubilee Woods Event 25 February 2012

- 2.1 In 2012 Queen Elizabeth II will celebrate her Diamond Jubilee marking 60 years as monarch. The Woodland Trust has initiated a Jubilee Woods Project aiming to involve at least a million people in creating hundreds of new native woods to celebrate this anniversary. Of these, 60 will be Diamond Woods of 60 acres of woodland and only one will be in Northern Ireland at Whitehead, Co Antrim.
- 2.2 The Housing Community Network has been invited to take part in the Diamond Wood planting day on Saturday February 25th 2012.
- 2.3 In order to make this event as inclusive as possible, to promote volunteering and to promote better community and race relations the Community Cohesion Unit would consider supporting the HCN

to enable up to 200 community representatives and staff to be part of this nationwide event and to work together to plant a Housing Executive area. Spades and trees will be provided by the Woodland Trust.

- 2.4 The plan would be to seek approval to fund a Commonwealth Cohesion stand and food fair at the event to enable participants to appreciate the diverse range of people from current and past Commonwealth countries living in Northern Ireland and through this to promote better race relations.
- 2.5 The Area Community Cohesion Advisors will co-ordinate the groups and manage the arrangements for transport.

3.0. Recommendation

- 3.1 Would the Central Housing Community Network endorse an application to use Race Relations Funding in this way?