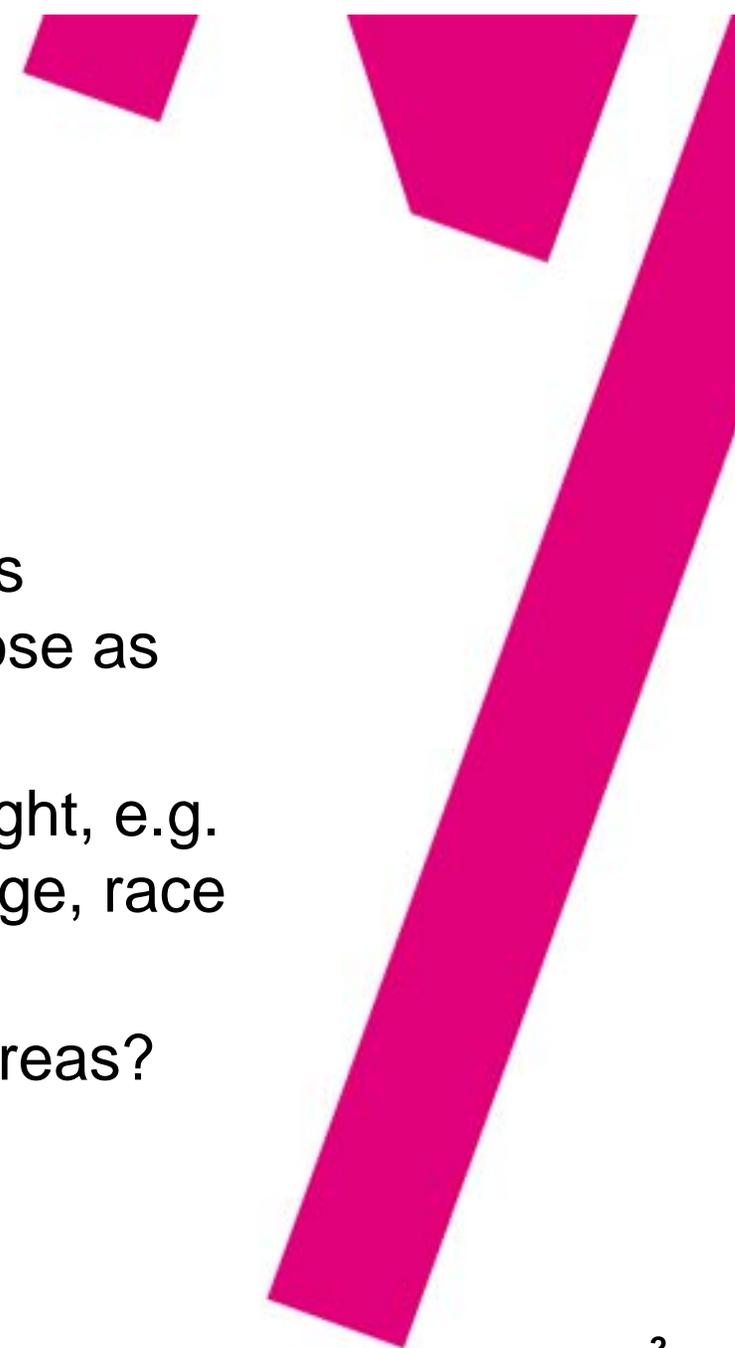


Localism and Ethnic Minorities

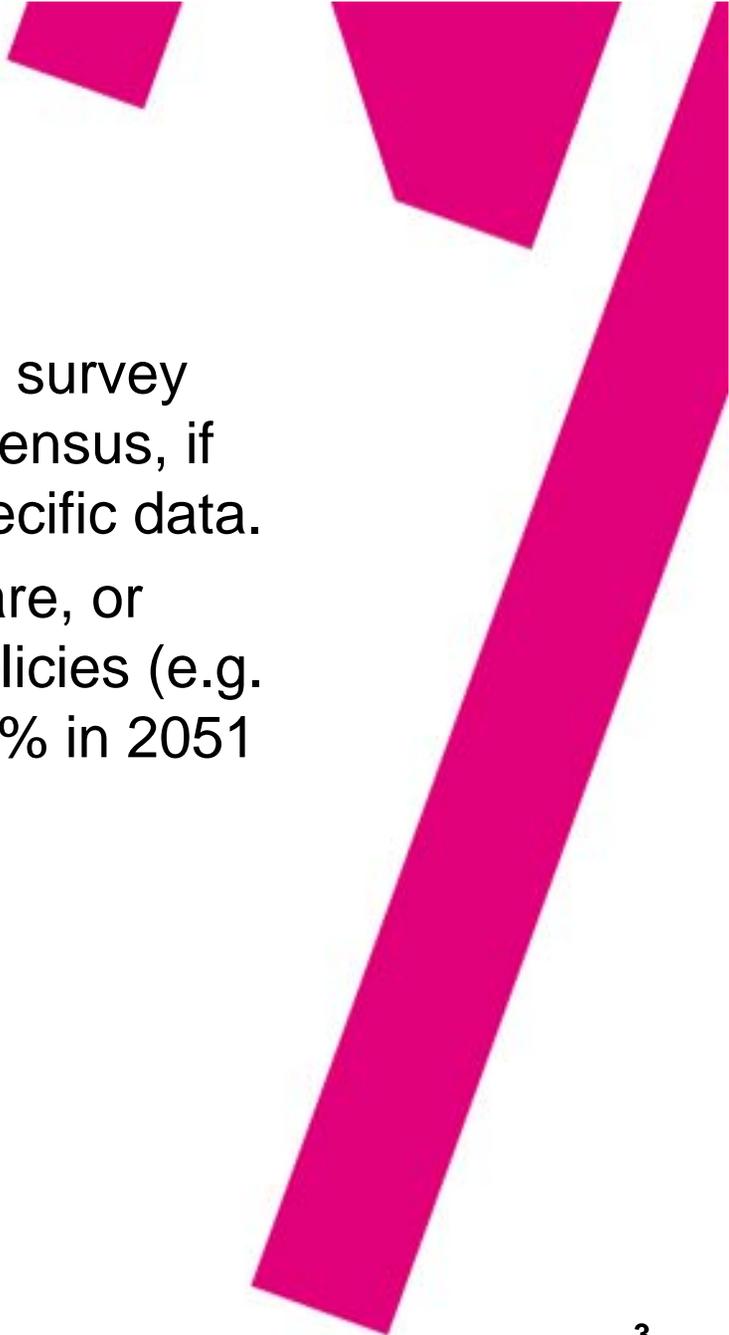
June 2012

RUNNYMEDE



Localism and ethnic minorities

- Better/more efficient decisions.
- Democratic claim: better if decisions affecting people's lives made as close as possible
- Though central changes have brought, e.g. abolition of slavery, women's suffrage, race relations act
- Perhaps better in high-population areas?



Data and Policy Context

- Abolition of surveys (though Citizenship survey reintroduced), and appears likely that Census, if continues won't have local, ethnicity specific data.
- Won't know what or where challenges are, or indeed how to respond. Or effects of policies (e.g. not monitoring job losses). BME pop 30% in 2051
- Yet 'Open Data' agenda
- Public sector equality duty
- Cuts to monitoring bodies

1.1 Open data

*The Government believes that we need to throw open the doors of public bodies, to enable the public to **hold politicians and public bodies to account**.*

*We will ensure that all data published by public bodies is published in an open and standardised format, so that it can be **used easily** and with minimal cost by third parties.*

(The Coalition Agreement, 2010)

- Accountability of public bodies
- Access to data

1.1 Open data

‘Armchair auditors will leave councils with nowhere to hide’

By the end of this month all councils are due to publish on their website each payment to suppliers over £500.

(Mail Online, 2011)

- Accountability = spending

*Another option for councils wanting to replace their logo would be to **dig out their old crest and Latin motto**. That would look much smarter - as a sign on park entrances for example - than some tacky modern logo. Also, of course, reviving the old crest would avoid paying any fee at all to design consultants.*

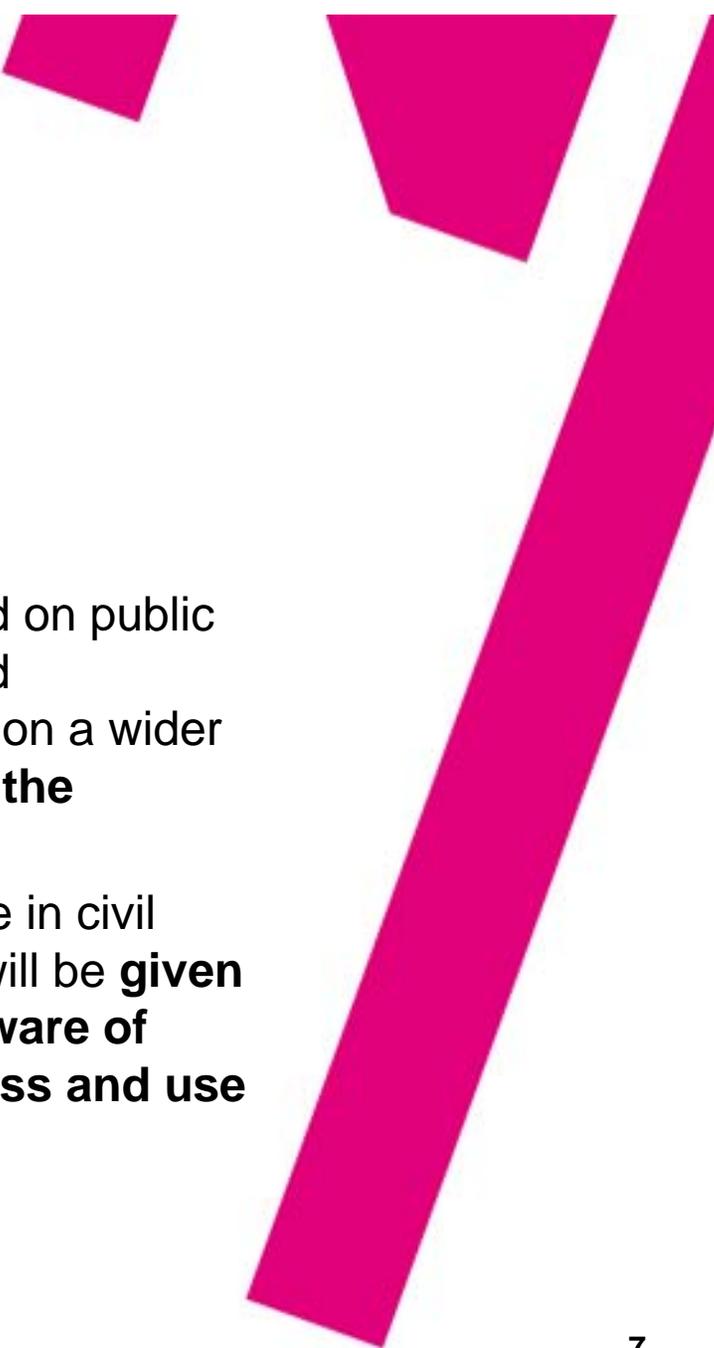


Princetown logo <http://tinyurl.com/c5lbwra>

Runnymede response to *Making Open Data Real* (1)

Runnymede welcomes [Open Data] due to its potential to provide an objective **evidence base** for holding the following groups **accountable for the wellbeing of disadvantaged groups**:

- public service providers,
- local and national public representatives (i.e. local councillors and MPs),
- decision-makers, such as government ministers.



Runnymede response to *Making Open Data Real (2)*

Our main concerns:

- consultation proposals are overly focused on public services, user experience and choice and ‘transparency’, and insufficiently focused on a wider sense of government **accountability for the wellbeing of disadvantaged groups**;
- that potential data users – including those in civil society and third sector organisations – will be **given inadequate support** in terms of being **aware of what data is available** and **how to access and use it**

1.1 Open data summary

- Need for focus on data for **accountability** over **spending**
- **Access** issues

Not hypothetical:

*While the Government has encouraged **greater transparency in local government**, it has discontinued many of the existing arrangements for **performance reporting**... Existing repositories of comparative data, such as the Audit Commission's OnePlace website, are no longer supported or updated.*

(Audit Commission, May 2012)

1.2 Public sector equality duty

1. Publish **information** to demonstrate compliance with the general equality duty.

By **31 January 2012**, and at least annually after that.

2. Each listed public authority... must prepare and publish **one or more objectives** that it thinks it needs to achieve to further any of the aims of the general equality duty.

By **6 April 2012** and at least every four years after that. The objectives must be specific and measurable.

1.2 Public sector equality duty

- EHRC is **monitoring publication of information** to demonstrate compliance.

We will be particularly interested in assessing:

- *Whether equality information **can be found at all***
 - *How comprehensive the equality information is about people with the **different protected characteristics** – service users & employees*
- Positive – Access, services (not spending), race

1.3 Cuts to monitoring bodies

- BUT – bodies monitoring position of disadvantaged groups and public bodies' processes being cut

1. EHRC

'Equality and Human Rights Commission has workforce halved'

The EHRC will have its budget halved to £26m by 2015 and staff numbers will drop to 180 – down from 455 in 2010.

*In a package of measures, £10m of grants would be cut from the EHRC budget, **reducing funding for many local equality groups.***

(Guardian, May 2012)

2. Audit Commission

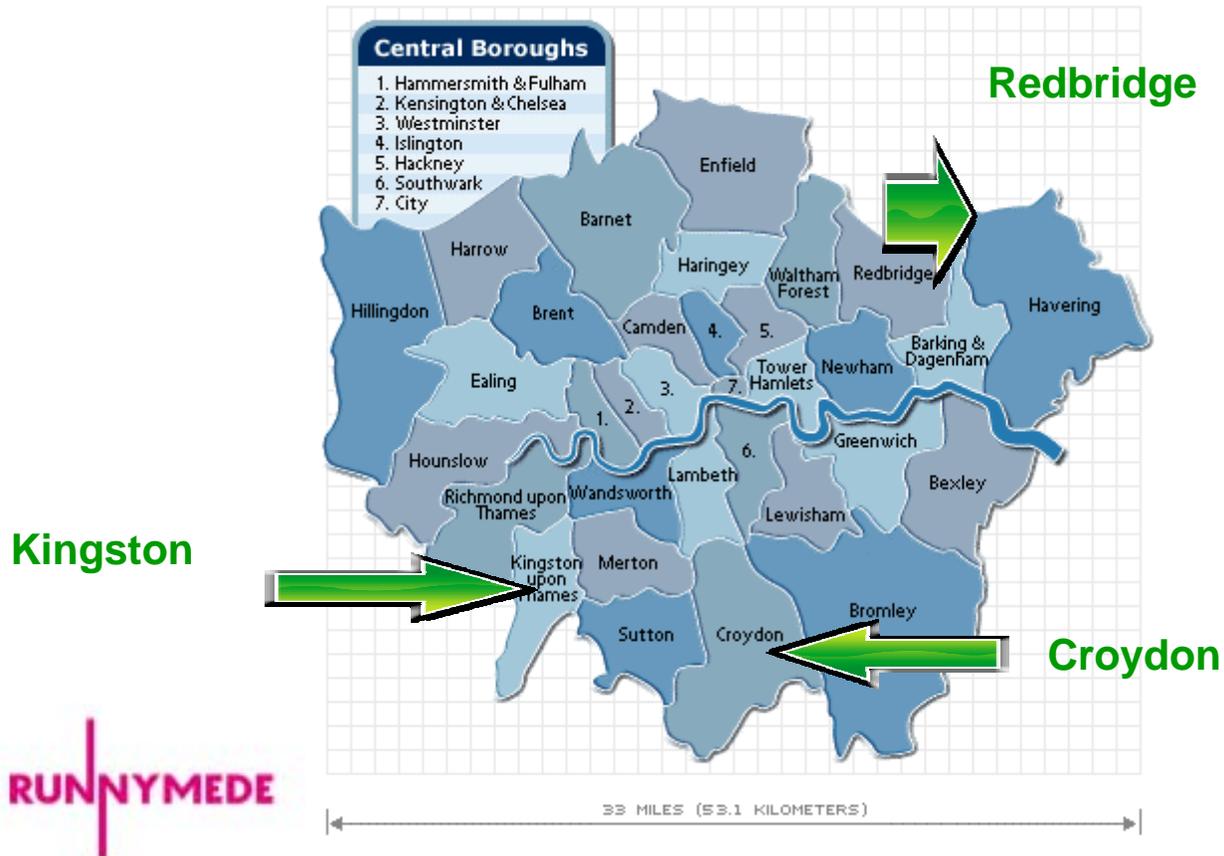
Aims of the Scorecard

- To provide the means for communities to **learn** about the performance of their local authority with regard to race equality
- To **empower** BME communities by enabling them to hold local authorities + service deliverers to account
- To encourage **dialogue** and **joint working** between BME communities and local authorities

Outline

- Scorecard 1 – November 2012
- Scorecard 2 – Summer 2013

- 3 boroughs



2 parts

1. Statistics

for
Facts

2. Dialogue

for
Accountability



7 Key Areas

Education

Employment

Health

Housing

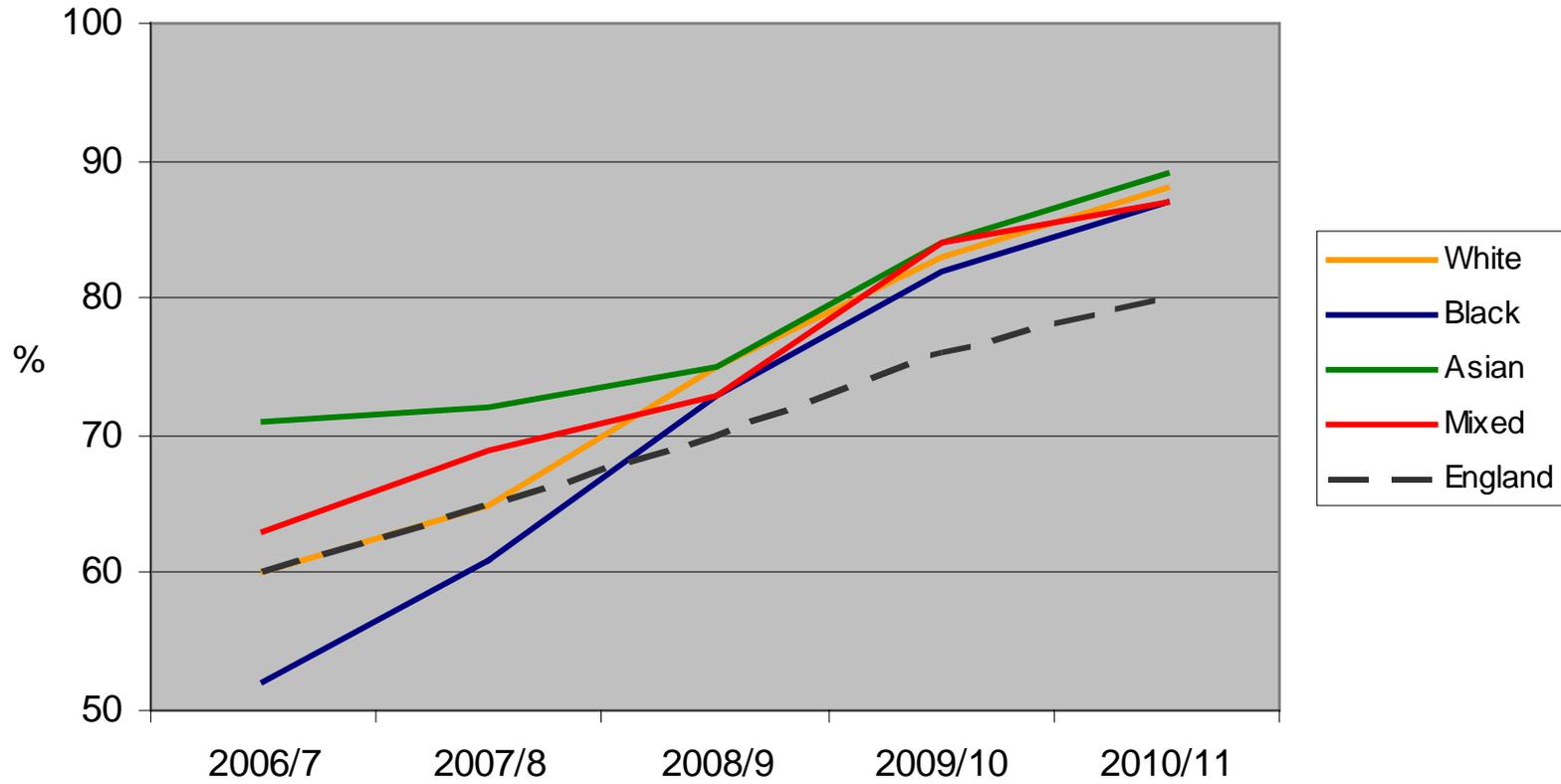
Criminal justice

Civic participation

BME 3rd sector support

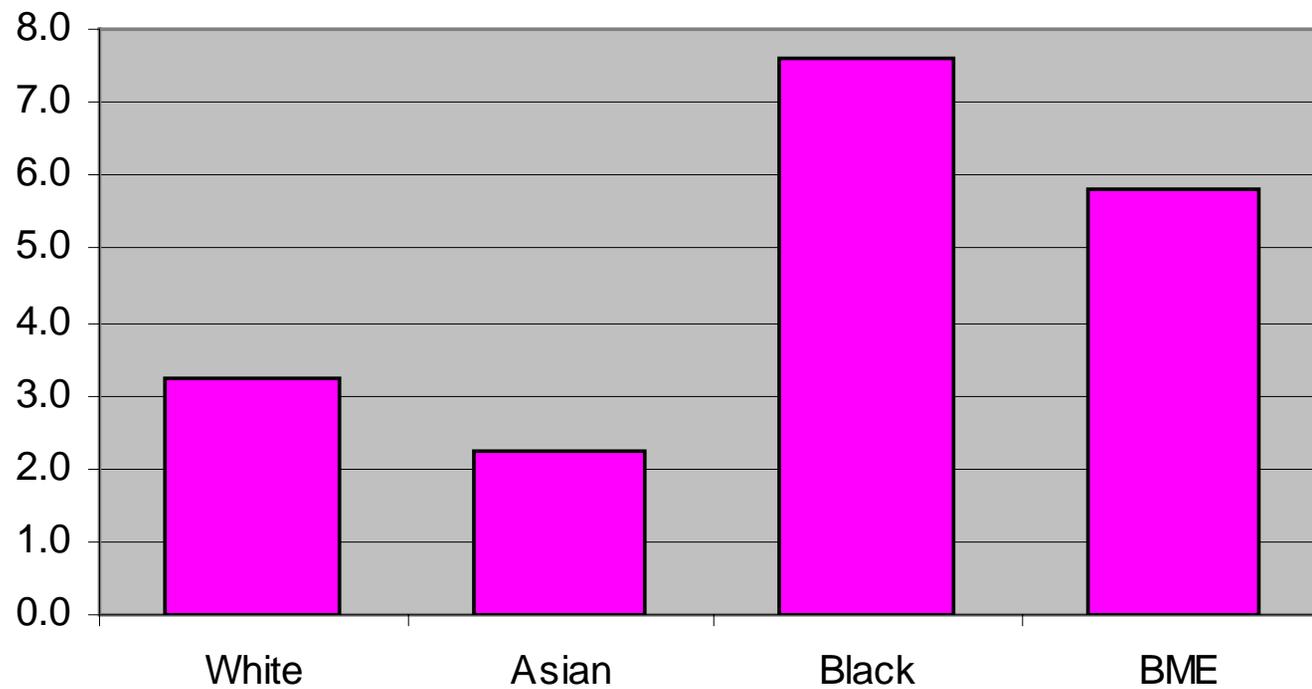
Example 1: GCSE

Students achieving 5 or more A*-C GCSEs, Croydon



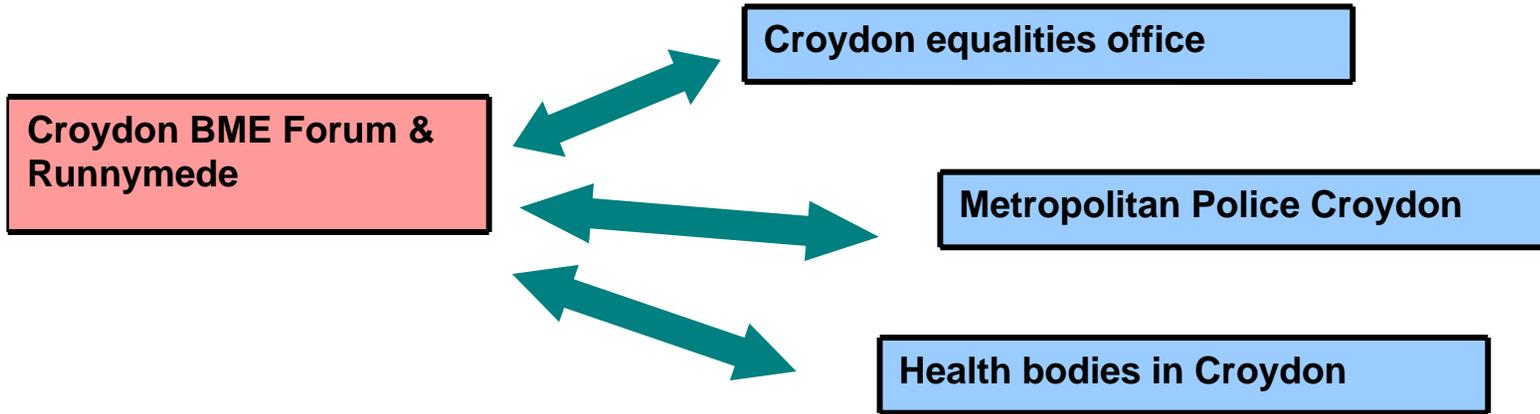
Example 2: JSA claimants

JSA claimants as a % of economically active population, Croydon, 2011



What next?

1. Power + Relationships



2. Gathering data

- Missing
- Alternatives

3. **Publication**, dissemination, work w/council on priorities



Localism, ethnicity and accountability

- There are opportunities to use localism agenda in context of 'open data' to hold public bodies to account
- This may not always be the data local authorities realise, but have obligations under equality law
- Likely somewhat weaker national equality data as despite open data mantra, government less keen on 'tick box' data collection on equality
- Yet scope remains for working together, identify priorities, feed into council equality obligations