

POLICY FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE 25TH JANUARY 2012

REPORT OF THE HEAD OF CENTRAL SERVICES ADOPTION OF THE LEICESTERSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCILS EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY PARTNERSHIP – SINGLE EQUALITY SCHEME

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To update and present to the Policy Finance and Administration Committee the Partnership Single Equality and Diversity Scheme following members comments at the last Council meeting on the 12 October 2011 and external consultation.

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 The committee notes the amendments made to the Single Equality Scheme as a result of consultation.

3.0 KEY ISSUES

- 3.1 The draft scheme was considered by all Partners and their staff prior to undergoing external consultation exercise between 1st July and 30th August 2011. As part of the consultation process, the draft scheme was distributed to relevant Partners and made available to view and download from the Councils web-pages at www.melton.gov.uk, plus was available to download via all Partners web-sites.
- 3.2 Following both internal and extensive external consultation with local and regional groups the draft scheme was presented to Policy Finance and Administration Committee on the 28th September 2011 and Council on the 12th October 2011 for consideration and formal adoption.
- 3.3 However, as requested by Full Council, a meeting was held with Councillor Horton to discuss the format of the scheme, equality objectives as applicable to Melton Borough Council and commitment to people who have either undergone or planning to undergo gender-reassignment.
- 3.4 Members of the committee should also note that a further response to the consultation was received after the close of the external consultation period from the Regional Equality and Diversity Partnership.
- 3.5 A summary of the questions asked and responses received can be found at Appendix A of this report.

4.0 POLICY AND CORPORATE IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 In order to ensure good corporate governance the council is required by legislation to ensure that in the exercise of it's functions, it has paid due regard to eliminate discrimination, advance equality of opportunity and fosters good relations.

5.0 FINANCIAL AND OTHER RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

5.1 The council has committed £11,000 to the Partnership for the period October 2010 to March 2012.

6.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS/POWERS

6.1 There are no specific legal implications aspects to this report. However, failure to comply with the public sector equality duties could result in the council facing a legal challenge and its reputation being damaged.

7.0 COMMUNITY SAFETY

7.1 There are no specific community safety aspects to this report.

8.0 EQUALITIES

8.1 Good practise requires that regular equality and diversity progress reports are provided for scrutiny against agreed objectives for the council.

9.0 RISKS

9.1 There are no direct risks associated from this report.

10.0 CLIMATE CHANGE

10.1 There are no specific climate change implications relating to this report.

11.0 CONSULTATION

11.1 There has been no direct consultation with officers of the council or the communities of the borough. The delivery of the equality and diversity agenda is driven by equality legislation.

12.0 WARDS AFFECTED

12.1 There will be a positive impact on all wards as a result of the delivery of the equality and diversity agenda.

Contact Officer: Chhaya McDonald. North West Leicestershire District Council - Policy and Performance Officer.on behalf of Leicestershire District Council's Equality and Diversity Partnership

Date: 11th January 2012

Appendices: Appendix A – Summary of Questions/Responses

Background Papers: Equality Act 2010
Equality and Human Rights Commission: A guide for public authorities

Reference: