

EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES FORUM

Minutes of meeting held in Committee Room 5, Council Offices, Almada Street, Hamilton on 9 May 2018

Chair:

Councillor Bert Thomson

Councillors Present:

Janine Calikes, Maureen Devlin, Mary Donnelly, Eric Holford, Katy Loudon, Jim McGuigan

Councillors' Apologies:

Ann Le Blond, Martin Lennon, Joe Lowe

Attending:

Finance and Corporate Resources

A Bell, Personnel Officer; G Bhatti, Employee Development and Diversity Manager; J Muirhead, Administration Adviser; K McVeigh, Head of Personnel Services

1 Declaration of Interests

No interests were declared.

2 Minutes of Previous Meeting

The minutes of the meeting of the Equal Opportunities Forum held on 21 February 2018 were submitted for approval as a correct record.

The Forum decided: that the minutes be approved as a correct record.

3 Annual Report on Mainstreaming Equalities and Diversity - Finance and Corporate Resources

A report dated 16 April 2018 by the Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Resources) was submitted on the work being undertaken by Finance and Corporate Resources to meet the commitments of the "South Lanarkshire Working for You" Mainstreaming Equalities Report 2017 to 2021.

Finance and Corporate Resources was responsible for supporting and developing strategies to meet the Council's commitment and statutory duties on equality and diversity, both within the Resource and Council wide.

Details were provided on the strategic and operational work being undertaken or planned by the Resource under the following headings:-

- ◆ Council, Resource and Service Planning
- ◆ mainstreaming equalities within Finance and Corporate Resources
- ◆ partnerships
- ◆ performance measurement
- ◆ employment
- ◆ employee development and vocational training programmes
- ◆ communication and support
- ◆ information technology services and finance services

The Forum decided: that the report be noted.

[Reference: Minutes of 6 December 2016 (Paragraph 3)]

4 International Day Against Homophobia and Transphobia (IDAHOT)

A report dated 13 April 2018 by the Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Resources) was submitted on the International Day Against Homophobia and Transphobia (IDAHOT) event which would take place on 17 May 2018 in Hamilton Town House.

The aim of the event, which was in its 7th year, was to raise awareness by hosting sessions that challenged the myths surrounding the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender (LGBT) communities.

To date, the events, through workshops and presentations, had provided over 300 employees and various partners with practical skills, knowledge and understanding of LGBT matters.

To mark the day, the Council would fly the “rainbow flag”, also known as “the freedom flag”, at the Council Offices, Almada Street, Hamilton.

The Forum decided: that the report be noted.

[Reference: Minutes of 7 June 2016 (Paragraph 7)]

5 Gaelic Language Plan 2018 to 2023

The Personnel Officer gave a presentation on the Council’s Gaelic Language Plan 2018 to 2023.

Bord na Gaidhlig was established under the Gaelic Language (Scotland) Act 2005 and was responsible for promoting Gaelic development and providing advice to the Scottish Ministers on Gaelic issues. South Lanarkshire Council’s Gaelic Language Plan was approved by Bord na Gaidhlig on 18 December 2013 and was published in 2 languages. The Plan would be in force until December 2018 when it would be replaced by an updated Plan. The aim of the Plan was to:-

- ◆ enhance the status of Gaelic
- ◆ promote the acquisition and learning of Gaelic
- ◆ encourage the increased use of Gaelic

Having responded to members’ questions, the Personnel Officer was thanked for her informative presentation.

The Forum decided: that the presentation be noted.

Councillor McGuigan left the meeting during this item of business

6 Urgent Business

There were no items of urgent business.