

EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES FORUM

Minutes of meeting held in Committee Room 5, Council Offices, Almada Street, Hamilton on 13 December 2011

Chair:

Councillor Hugh Dunsmuir

Councillors Present:

Jim Handibode, Lesley McDonald, Denis McKenna, John Murray, Jim Wardhaugh, Sheena Wardhaugh

Councillors' Apologies:

Eileen Baxendale, James Malloy

Attending:

Finance and Corporate Resources

S Abbott, Administration Assistant; G Bhatti, Employee Development and Diversity Manager; C Calder, Manager, Seniors Together; S Cameron, Diversity Adviser (Equalities); M Farmer, IT Business Systems Project Manager; Ian Halferty, IT Support Services Manager; R Lake, Head of Administration Services; 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 6 September 2011 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 24 November 2011 by the Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Resources) was submitted on the work being undertaken by Finance and Corporate Resources to meet the commitments in the Council's Single Equality Scheme and Equality and Diversity Strategy.

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

- ◆ Resource and Service Planning
- ◆ mainstreaming equalities (covering the various Services within the merged Resource)
- ◆ partnerships
- ◆ performance measurement
- ◆ employment
- ◆ employee development and vocational training programmes
- ◆ communication and support

The Employee Development and Diversity Manager and the Diversity Adviser (Equalities) highlighted specific areas including:-

- ◆ changes in legislation
- ◆ the introduction of a new on-line form for impact assessments which it was anticipated would be available early in the new year

The IT Business Systems Project Manager gave a presentation highlighting:-

- ◆ improvements to the Council's website including the redesigned home page, improved navigation and accessibility
- ◆ new functionality for users of the Planning Portal
- ◆ the use of technology in delivering services including the launch of and South Lanarkshire mobile application in light of the increased use of mobile devices
- ◆ the promotion of social media channels including Facebook and Twitter

The Forum decided: that the report be noted.

4 Forward@fifty - The Big Event 2011

A report dated 24 November 2011 by the Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Resources) was submitted on the second annual Seniors Together in South Lanarkshire "Big Event" which had been held on 16 September 2011.

Following the success of the event held in 2010, Forward@fifty had staged The Big Event 2011 to offer older people the opportunity to take part in taster sessions for activities and opportunities that were available to them across the South Lanarkshire area. Information on health, home and personal safety had also been provided.

Forward@fifty had emerged from Seniors Together and was now established as an older people's group in its own right with ongoing support from Seniors Together. The key aim of the group was to help people over 50 years of age keep physically and mentally active and to encourage them to participate as active citizens.

The Manager of Seniors Together in South Lanarkshire, having reported on the level of participation at this year's event, showed a DVD illustrating the range of activities on offer and the positive feedback from participants.

The Forum decided: that the report be noted.

[Reference: Minutes of 8 December 2009 (Paragraph 5)]

Councillor S Wardhaugh left the meeting during consideration of this item of business

5 Urgent Business

There were no items of urgent business.