

EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES FORUM

Minutes of meeting held via Confero and in Committee Room 1, Council Offices, Almada Street, Hamilton on 8 May 2024

Chair:

Councillor Mo Razzaq

Councillors Present:

Councillor Janine Calikes, Councillor Ross Clark, Councillor Margaret Cowie, Councillor Grant Ferguson, Councillor Richard Lockhart (*substitute for Councillor Poppy Corbett*), Councillor Mark McGeever (Depute), Councillor Kirsten Robb, Councillor Bert Thomson

Councillors' Apologies:

Councillor Poppy Corbett, Councillor Monique McAdams

Attending:

Community and Enterprise Resources

A Brown, Head of Enterprise and Sustainable Development; G Currie, Divisional Trading Standards Officer

Finance and Corporate Resources

A Bell, Team Leader, Consultation, Organisational Development and Equality; S Jessup, Administration Assistant; E-A McGonigle, Administration Officer; M Milne, 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 27 February 2024 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 – Community and Enterprise Resources

A report dated 9 April 2024 by the Executive Director (Community and Enterprise Resources) was submitted on work being undertaken by Community and Enterprise Resources to meet the commitments within the “Mainstreaming Equalities Progress Report 2021 to 2023” and the “South Lanarkshire Working for You” Mainstreaming Equalities Report 2021 to 2025.

The Council had published its “Mainstreaming equalities report 2021 to 2025” in April 2021. The new Equality Outcomes set for 2021 to 2025 would focus on actions to produce results intended to achieve specific and identifiable improvements in people’s life chances. The Resource would lead on Equality Outcome 2:-

- ◆ ‘Older people, those from vulnerable groups and individuals who live alone are protected from scams and nuisance calls and their wellbeing is improved through increased awareness and preventative action.’

This Outcome would be progressed by Environmental Services' Consumer and Trading Standards Services and details were provided at section 4 of the report.

The Resource continued to build on progress and remained committed to embedding equalities across all aspects of service provision. The equality activity of the Resource was aligned to, and reported against, the following 6 Council plan "Connect" outcomes:-

- ◆ caring, connected, sustainable communities
- ◆ inspiring learners, transforming learning, strengthening partnerships
- ◆ people live the healthiest lives possible
- ◆ our children and young people thrive
- ◆ good quality, suitable and sustainable places to live
- ◆ thriving business, fair jobs and vibrant town centres

Progress of activity and details of the differences each had made was detailed at Appendix 1 to the report.

The report detailed strategic and operational activities that had been undertaken or planned by the Resource in relation to the following:-

- ◆ mainstreaming equalities and key areas of progress during 2023/2024
- ◆ Equality Impact Assessments (EQIAs) and the Fairer Scotland Duty
- ◆ training and development
- ◆ access to information
- ◆ consultation, involvement and engagement

Details of the next steps and priorities for the Resource over the next year were detailed at section 10 of the report.

Officers responded to members' questions on various aspects of the report and, where information was not immediately available, undertook to provide this to the relevant members.

The Forum decided: that the report be noted.

[Reference: Minutes of 29 March 2023 (Paragraph 3)]

4 Nicotine Vaping Products (NVPs) – Underage Sale Enforcement

G Currie, Divisional Trading Standards Officer, Community and Enterprise Resources gave a presentation on underage sale enforcement of Nicotine Vaping Products (NVPs).

The presentation provided detailed information on the following areas:-

- ◆ health issues associated with NVPs
- ◆ marketing, the target customer and the success of marketing
- ◆ complaints regarding the sale of vapes to under 18 year olds
- ◆ the litter impact of NVPs
- ◆ legislation, specifically the Tobacco and Primary Medical Services (Scotland) Act 2010
- ◆ enforcement
- ◆ sanctions for repeat offenders
- ◆ the future, including:-
 - ◆ proposed Scottish Government legislation banning single use vapes
 - ◆ the Tobacco and Vaping Framework, setting out actions to be taken to create a tobacco-free generation by 2034

Having responded to members' questions, G Currie was thanked for his informative presentation.

The Forum decided: that the presentation be noted.

5 Urgent Business

There were no items of urgent business.