

EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES FORUM

Minutes of meeting held in Committee Room 5, Council Offices, Almada Street, Hamilton on 7 June 2011

Chair:

Councillor Hugh Dunsmuir

Councillors Present:

Lesley McDonald, Denis McKenna, James Malloy, John Murray, Jim Wardhaugh, Sheena Wardhaugh

Councillors' Apologies:

Eileen Baxendale, Jim Handibode

Attending:

Corporate Resources

R McIlwain, Executive Director; G Bhatti, Employee Development and Diversity Manager; S Cameron, Diversity Adviser (Equalities); S McLeod, Administration Officer; K McVeigh, Head of Personnel Services

Education Resources

A Stoner, Specialist Support Officer

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 15 March 2011 were submitted for approval as a correct record.

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

3 Equality Data Pilot with the Improvement Service

A report dated 20 May 2011 by the Executive Director (Corporate Resources) was submitted on the Council's participation in the 'Improving Local Equality Data' pilot action research project.

The Improvement Service, Equality and Human Rights Commission and Scottish Government were working in partnership to deliver the project which would develop and use data to improve local equality outcomes. The project would provide hands-on, practical and specialist support to the 5 participating councils and their Community Planning Partners (CPPs) to develop and use an equality evidence base in order to measure and evaluate progress towards equality.

Robust equality evidence was crucial to help the Council meet a range of needs and requirements, including making evidence based decisions to improve the outcomes for equality groups and communities to ensure that spending decisions did not disproportionately affect certain equality groups.

The project would help the Council to identify, develop and pilot solutions and tools designed to address the key challenges in developing an authoritative evidence base and in implementing an outcomes approach to performance management, self-evaluation and service planning and delivery.

Details of areas of work which the project would focus on and key equality issues where robust outcomes would be of particular benefit were provided in the report.

The project would run over a 12 month period. Progress would be reported to the Forum and an evaluation report would be submitted following completion of the project.

The Forum decided: that the report be noted.

Councillor S Wardhaugh entered the meeting during this item of business

4 John Walker Equal Opportunities Competition 2011

A report dated 24 May 2011 by the Executive Director (Corporate Resources) was submitted on the outcome of the John Walker Equal Opportunities Competition 2011.

The theme of the Competition was challenging socio-economic disadvantage and poverty and young people from P6/7 and S1/2 had been invited to give a short presentation outlining how they would take forward a campaign in their school to combat inequality and promote social justice to ensure everyone had opportunity and was included in society.

The winners of the John Walker Equal Opportunities Competition 2011 were Heathery Knowe Primary School, East Kilbride and Trinity High School, Rutherglen.

The Forum decided: that the report be noted.

5 Annual Report on Mainstreaming Equalities and Diversity - Education Resources

A report dated 23 May 2011 by the Executive Director (Corporate Resources) was submitted on the work being undertaken by Education Resources to meet the commitments in the Council's Single Equality Scheme and Equality Diversity Strategy.

The Specialist Support Officer highlighted the following areas covered within the report:-

- ◆ equality impact assessments
- ◆ employment
- ◆ delivering services
- ◆ access to information
- ◆ progress and areas for improvement

The Forum decided: that the report be noted.

6 Urgent Business

There were no items of urgent business.