

REPORT TO: Cabinet
DATE: 10 June 2010
SUBJECT: Equalities Working Group – Final Report
WARDS AFFECTED: All
REPORT OF: Assistant Chief Executive
CONTACT OFFICER: Ruth Appleby Ext. 2181
**EXEMPT/
CONFIDENTIAL:** No

PURPOSE/SUMMARY:

To report the findings of the Equalities Working Group

REASON WHY DECISION REQUIRED:

The Working Group has made a number of recommendations which were approved by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Performance and Corporate Services) at its meeting held on 25 May 2010 and which subsequently require consideration by the Cabinet.

RECOMMENDATION(S):

1. The Sefton Equalities Partnership be commended for its achievements to date in progressing the Equality Framework for Local Government;
2. the Strategic / Service Directors be recommended to:
 - (i) develop the mainstreaming of equality and diversity into the core business of departments; and
 - (ii) develop a more consistent approach to training in the application of Impact Assessments across all Council departments
3. The Head of Procurement be recommended to amend the Procurement Equalities Questionnaire Form, as indicated in Appendix 10 to the report, in order to reduce unnecessary bureaucracy and simplify procedures for small businesses of 5 employees or less, wishing to tender for work with the Council; and
4. the Assistant Chief Executive be recommended to consider the inclusion of an Equalities Impact Statement on the Council's Committee Report template and the Sefton Equalities Partnership be requested to give guidance on the suggested content of such statement.

KEY DECISION: No

FORWARD PLAN: N/a

IMPLEMENTATION DATE: Following the expiry of the "call-in" period for the Minutes of the Cabinet meeting.

ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS:**IMPLICATIONS:****Budget/Policy Framework:** None**Financial:** There are no financial implications for the Council's general capital resources.

<u>CAPITAL EXPENDITURE</u>	2009/ 2010 £	2010/ 2011 £	2011/ 2012 £	2012/ 2013 £
Gross Increase in Capital Expenditure				
Funded by:				
Sefton Capital Resources				
Specific Capital Resources				
<u>REVENUE IMPLICATIONS</u>				
Gross Increase in Revenue Expenditure				
Funded by:				
Sefton funded Resources				
Funded from External Resources				
Does the External Funding have an expiry date? Y/N	When?			
How will the service be funded post expiry?				

Legal: None arising from this report.**Risk Assessment:** None arising from this report.**Asset Management:** Not appropriate**CONSULTATION UNDERTAKEN/VIEWS**

CORPORATE OBJECTIVE MONITORING:

<u>Corporate Objective</u>		<u>Positive Impact</u>	<u>Neutral Impact</u>	<u>Negative Impact</u>
1	Creating a Learning Community	√		
2	Creating Safe Communities	√		
3	Jobs and Prosperity	√		
4	Improving Health and Well-Being	√		
5	Environmental Sustainability		√	
6	Creating Inclusive Communities	√		
7	Improving the Quality of Council Services and Strengthening local Democracy	√		
8	Children and Young People	√		

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS RELIED UPON IN THE PREPARATION OF THIS REPORT

See Final report

1.0 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1. The Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Performance and Corporate Services) at its meeting held on 24 June 2008 (Minute No 13 (3) refers), resolved that a Working Group be established to consider the equality of access to services provided to members of the public with a start date of November/December 2008 and a deadline date of April 2009. It was agreed that Councillors Brennan and Shaw would be members of the Working Group.
- 1.2 At a subsequent meeting held on 16 December 2008, (Minute No. 45 (2) refers), Councillor Papworth was appointed as a member of the Working Group, with a view to its commencement 'early' in 2009.
- 1.3 The Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Performance and Corporate Services) on 17 February 2009 (Minute No 53 (2) refers), resolved that Councillor Hardy replace Councillor Brennan on the Working Group.

2.0 BACKGROUND

- 2.1 the Working Group held Meetings as follows:-

Date	Activity
10 November 2009	Introduction by Andy Woods, from the Sefton (CVS) Equalities Partnership. Scoping and discussion of issues.
30 November 2009	Follow-up presentation and information provided by Andy Woods, Sefton (CVS) Equalities Partnership.
1 December 2010 to 31 January 2010	No meetings held during this period because of non-availability of Members due to unforeseen work commitments and illness.
3 February 2010	Agreement to conclude the Working Group and determination of recommendations.

- 2.2 Working Group Members and the Overview and Scrutiny Officer also attended the following events and conferences:

Date	Conference / Event	Attendees
11 November 2010	Annual North West Equalities Conference	Councillor Papworth Councillor Byrne Ruth Appleby (O&S Officer)
9 February 2010	Sefton Equalities Partnership Conference	Ruth Appleby

- 2.3 Full details of the work carried out, the information received and the conclusions which led to the recommendations set out above are detailed in the Final Report of the Working Group, which can be accessed in the Library of documents in the "Modern.gov" Committee Management System via the Council's website www.sefton.gov.uk

3.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

- (1) the Sefton Equalities Partnership be commended for its achievements to date in progressing the Equality Framework for Local Government;
- (2) the Strategic / Service Directors be recommended to:
 - (i) develop the mainstreaming of equality and diversity into the core business of departments; and
 - (ii) develop a more consistent approach to training in the application of Impact Assessments across all Council departments
- (3) the Head of Procurement be recommended to amend the Procurement Equalities Questionnaire Form, as indicated in Appendix 10 to the report, in order to reduce unnecessary bureaucracy and simplify procedures for small businesses of 5 employees or less, wishing to tender for work with the Council; and
- (4) the Assistant Chief Executive be recommended to consider the inclusion of an Equalities Impact Statement on the Council's Committee Report template and the Sefton Equalities partnership be requested to give guidance on the suggested content of such statement.

4.0 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

- 4.1 The Working Group is grateful to all those witnesses and other persons who assisted the Group with its research and provided it with information.

S. Tunney
Assistant Chief Executive