

Scrutiny Committee – 2nd February 2010

11. Scrutiny Single Equality Scheme Task and Finish Review Conclusions

Review Chairman: Councillor Sue Steele
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Purpose of the Report

To present for consideration the recommendations of the Single Equality Scheme Review. The review was set up to assist in informing the Single Equality Scheme and Action Plan prior to it be considered for adoption by District Executive.

Action Required

- (1) That the Scrutiny Committee considers the Single Equality Scheme and Action Plan, Appendix 1; and
- (2) That the Scrutiny Committee endorse the recommendations of the Task and Finish review.

Background

The current Equalities Strategy was adopted in 2006 for three years, the Single Equality Scheme 2009-12 has been produced following the inclusive approach in the previous scheme and is due to be considered by District Executive for adoption. The members of the Task and Finish review were Cllr. Sue Steele (Chairman), Cllr. Nigel Mermagen, Cllr. Tony Lock, Cllr. Dave Greene, Cllr. Jo Roundel Greene, Cllr. Carol Goodall and Cllr. Roy Mills. Officers attending the group were Jo Morgan – Community Cohesion Officer, Martin Woods – Assistant Director (Communities) and Jo Gale – Scrutiny Manager.

The ambition of the review group was to ensure the scheme actively encourages and develops a culture across SSDC of ensuring accessibility for all and continues to seek to make positive difference to local people.

The review group considered the following questions while reviewing the scheme and Action Plan:

- Does the scheme and action plan go far enough?
- Is the vision and approach appropriate and true specifically to South Somerset?
- Is there more that should or can be done?

Recommendations:

- The Action Plan is monitored using the same traffic light system as the corporate quarterly performance monitoring.
- Where the performance measures in the Action Plan are percentages and based on small numbers, so liable to fluctuate, specific figures and comments should be given to provide clarification.

- In the Action Plan where performance measures are not specific, a specific figure or gauge should be identified to ensure performance could be measured and compared across different periods.
- The performance measure for task 1.4 is altered to utilise the Area Committees' to identify common issues that need to be addressed. Two suggested proposals to trial are:
 - A chart of different potential issues should be available for members to tick when they have experienced it through their constituents in that month.
 - The Area Vice Chair takes on the role of capturing common issues/concerns that fall within set criteria and informs Jo Morgan, Community Cohesion Officer.
- Local Indicators should be compiled to demonstrate the good work that SSDC is doing above the National Indicators and capture outcomes for the community. Monitoring of these indicators would ensure the standard, quality of service and commitment continues.
- The Scrutiny Committee review the Action Plan in six months time to assist and contribute to further development.

Financial Implications

There are no financial implications in receiving this report.

Implications for Corporate Priorities

Ensure safe, sustainable and cohesive communities.

Deliver well-managed, cost effective services valued by our customers.

Background Papers

Appendix 2 - Notes from Review meeting
