

Scrutiny Committee – 3<sup>rd</sup> August 2010

## 9. Single Equality Scheme Progress Report

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### Purpose of the Report

To report progress on the implementation of the Single Equalities Scheme Action Plan.

### Public Interest

South Somerset District Council must produce an equality scheme by law. This sets out how we will deliver and achieve our equality aims through key tasks in our action plan.

The Scrutiny Committee will monitor and report on the progress of all actions within the scheme.

### Action Required

The Scrutiny Committee is requested to note and comment on progress of the Single Equality Scheme Action Plan as attached at Appendix 1.

### Background

SDDC has a legal requirement to promote equality in relation to race, disability and gender.

The 3 year Single Equality Scheme identifies what SDDC will do to meet its general and specific statutory duties in relation to the Race Relations Amendments Act 2000, Disability Equality Duty, 2005, Gender Equality Duty, 2006, and Human Rights Bill, 2009 and other relevant legislation.

In carrying out its functions and duties, the council must have regard to:

- Eliminating all unlawful discrimination
- Promoting equal opportunities
- Promoting good relations between people from different groups regardless of gender, gender reassignment, race, disability, age, religion or belief, sexual orientation, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity.

A Scrutiny Committee Task and Review Group reviewed the scheme in January 2010. The District Executive Committee, at its' meeting on 4<sup>th</sup> February, asked that Council consider the comments of the Task and Review Group and also present the scheme at Area Committees for information. The Single Equality Scheme was adopted at Full Council on 25th February 2010.

### Report Detail

The Single Equality Scheme Action Plan is attached at Appendix 1.

## Financial Implications

There are none that cannot be met from existing resources.

## Corporate Priority Implications

The Single Equality Scheme will contribute towards the following key target areas:-

Theme 4

**4.16** Outcome: An empowered community where all people take part in shaping their neighbourhood.  
Measured by: Increasing % of people who feel that they belong to their neighbourhood.  
(NI 2)

**4.17** Increase % of people who believe people from different backgrounds get on well together in their local area.

**4.18** Increase perceptions that people in the area treat one another with respect and consideration.

**4.19** Increase civic participation in the local area.

Increase % of people who feel that they can influence decisions in their locality.

## Carbon Emissions & Adapting to Climate Change Implications (NI188)

Consideration has been given to climate change implications, and there is limited impact. In relation to carbon emissions, within specific projects participants have been encouraged to share transport to event workshops. Electronic links via video are planned to increase access to information e.g. British Sign Language welcome and information videos on SSDC website. Community Link Workers provide phone translations/interpreting directly with customers, as well as holding surgeries in area offices. This will help support green miles.

## Equality and Diversity Implications

The scheme has been equality impact assessed and has demonstrated no adverse or negative impacts. There was wide consultation on the scheme in relation to all equality strands. Any venues used to carry out the action plan are accessible. Actions within the scheme recommend the use of accessible fonts, sizes, images, etc within any documentation.

**Background Papers:** None