

COUNCIL MEETING – 24 JUNE 2010

Recommendations to Council from the Executive meeting held on 4 May

2. Minute No E/10/3 - Central Bedfordshire Council's Draft Single Equality and Diversity Scheme

The Executive considered a report from Councillor Richard Stay, Portfolio Holder for Policy and Performance proposing a draft Single Equality and Diversity Scheme for Central Bedfordshire Council.

(NOTE: A copy of the report had been circulated with the Executive agenda to all Councillors.)

The Portfolio Holder explained that public authorities had statutory duties to eliminate unlawful discrimination and promote equality of opportunity in respect of race, disability and gender. In recent years, anti-discriminatory legislation had been extended to include age, religion or belief and sexual orientation. The government intended to streamline this legislation later in the year by introducing a single Equality Bill which would also include provisions on age and access to services.

Members were advised that the draft Single Equality Scheme, which complied with the requirements of the new legislation, had three main dimensions:

- Central Bedfordshire Council's vision and approach
- An Action Plan
- A toolkit of evidence and guidance to support managers in identifying issues and measuring outcomes.

Responding to comments, Councillor Stay explained that whilst the Council had already made good progress in setting the foundations for tackling inequality, further action would be taken, once the draft Scheme was approved, to articulate it to partners, stakeholders, local communities and employees to ensure the policy direction and actions were delivered throughout the whole organisation and beyond. The Portfolio Holder clarified that any actions over and above the legal requirements would have cost implications and would have to come back to the Executive for consideration.

During the ensuing discussion the Executive noted a concern about an inconsistency in life expectancy between men and women.

Reason for decision: To ensure that the Council complies with its statutory obligations.

RECOMMENDED

that the Draft Single Equality and Diversity Scheme for Central Bedfordshire, as set out in the submitted report, be adopted.

Please note that a copy of the original report can be found on the Central Bedfordshire Council web site at the following link:

[http://www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/modgov/Published/C00000577/M00003030/AI00017090/\\$100504DraftEqualityandDiversityScheme.docA.ps.pdf](http://www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/modgov/Published/C00000577/M00003030/AI00017090/$100504DraftEqualityandDiversityScheme.docA.ps.pdf)