

**ANNUAL EQUALITY PROGRESS REPORT
(Report by the Overview and Scrutiny Panel (Social Well-Being))**

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 At its meeting held on the 1st November 2011, the Overview and Scrutiny Panel (Social Well-Being) considered a report by the Senior Policy Officer providing an update on progress with the achievement of the Council's Single Equality Scheme and its associated action plan. This report sets out the Panel's discussions.

2. COMMENTS

2.1 The Panel has been informed of the legislative background to the Single Equality Scheme, together with details of the achievements made by the Council over the previous year in respect of the Action Plan. In noting progress against the Plan, attention has been drawn to the fact that of the 51 actions contained within the Plan, 47 have been completed or are ongoing. The Panel has also been informed that 19 Equality Impact Assessments have been carried out over the course of the 2010/11 year. Five of these have been prompted by proposed budgetary cuts to some of the Council's services.

2.2 Members have been reminded of the Equality Framework for Local Government and the Panel has noted details of an external assessment due to be undertaken in late February 2012. The assessment will seek to validate the Council's current status as an "Achieving" Council with Members of the Panel partaking in this assessment in February.



2.3 In response to a question, it has been confirmed that training on equality matters has been delivered to Members and that a further programme will be rolled out in due course.

3. RECOMMENDATION

3.1 The Cabinet is invited to consider the comments of the Overview and Scrutiny Panel (Social Well-Being) as part of its deliberations on the report by the Senior Policy Officer.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Minutes and Report of the meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Panel (Social Well-Being) on 1st November 2011.

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