

CABINET MINUTES

15 DECEMBER 2010

Chairman: * Councillor Bill Stephenson

Councillors:

* Bob Currie	* Graham Henson
* Margaret Davine	* Thaya Idaikkadar
* Keith Ferry	* Phillip O'Dell
* Brian Gate	† Mrs Rekha Shah
* Mitzi Green	

**In attendance:
(Councillors)** Susan Hall Minute 101
Paul Osborn
Anthony Seymour

- * Denotes Member present
- † Denotes apologies received

RECOMMENDED ITEMS

104. Key Decision - Single Equalities Scheme

Cabinet received a joint report from the Corporate Director Adults and Housing and Assistant Chief Executive, providing an update on the draft Single Equalities Scheme (SES) and the public consultation which had informed the Scheme.

Cabinet noted that the SES covered the Council's approach to taking forward the protected characteristics, such as age, disability, gender re-assignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, and sex and sexual orientation under the Equality Act 2010. It was intended to work towards the excellent level of the new Equality Framework for Local Government (EFLG) with a view of achieving the excellent accreditation by March 2012. The Council's approach to equalities was to

ensure that equality considerations were embedded in all aspects of service development and decision-making so as to improve services and the overall customer experience.

The Portfolio Holder for Performance, Customer Services and Corporate Services identified the key changes to the SES, the responses received including those suggestions that had been taken on board, and the benefits of achieving excellence in this area. He referred to the action plan set out in the report, which would help embed the SES.

The Portfolio Holder for Performance, Customer Services and Corporate Services welcomed Shelly Choudhury from the Harrow Equality Centre, to the meeting. Ms Choudhury welcomed the SES and commended the partnership working on the SES to ensure that the needs of the communities in Harrow were met. She added that following endorsement by Council in 2011, work in implementing the SES and meeting expectations would need to be progressed.

Resolved to RECOMMEND: (to Council)

That the Single Equalities Scheme (SES) be approved.

Reason for Recommendation: To ensure that equalities were key to service development and decision-making and those services were fair and equitable. To improve services, increase customer satisfaction and comply with the Council's obligations under the Equalities legislation and Public Equality Duties.

(Note: The meeting, having commenced at 7.30 pm, closed at 8.49 pm).

(Signed) COUNCILLOR BILL STEPHENSON
Chairman