

POLICY SCRUTINY PANEL

4th March, 2008

Present: Cllr. Wilkes (in the Chair), and Councillors Cowper, McDonnell, Martin, Simmons and Wolstenholme.

Also Present: Councillors Kelly, Marsden and D. Smith.

Apologies for Absence: Apologies for Absence were received from Councillors Kellett, Lodge and Thompson.

Bullet Points from the Meeting held on 7th January, 2008.

The Bullet Points from the Meeting held on 7th January, 2008, were approved as a correct record.

BULLET POINTS

EQUALITIES ACTION PLANS

- Panel Members had been provided with the three Equalities Action Plans, which were the subject of this Scrutiny.
- These were the Disability Equality Action Plan, the Gender Equality Action Plan and the Race Equality Action Plan.
- The Panel had also been circulated with responses to previous queries raised by Members.
- The Head of HR and Support Services and the Principal HR Officer were in attendance to brief the Panel on the current position in regard to the Equality Action Plans and to respond to Member's queries.
- The Principal HR Officer then gave a comprehensive and detailed explanation of the Council's current performance against the Action Plan target figures.
- Members were encouraged with the Council's position in relation to meeting the targets set out in the Action Plans.
- There was a general concern raised by Members over Equalities Training, although it was acknowledged that Equalities Training for Members and Officers was offered as part of the annual Corporate Training Schedule.
- It was noted however that Members elected at the May'07 elections, had not been specifically offered Equalities Training as the '07 Schedule had been produced in March.
- It was agreed that it was of vital importance to the Authority that all Members be provided with training on Equalities issues.
- It was further agreed that a Draft Report on the Scrutiny would be prepared and submitted to the Panel in due course.

The Meeting terminated at 6.40pm