

Item 9c

SEDGEFIELD BOROUGH COUNCIL STRATEGIC LEADERSHIP OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Council Chamber,
Council Offices,
Spennymoor

Tuesday,
6 January 2009

Time: 10.00 a.m.

Present: Councillor A. Gray (Chairman) and
Councillors V. Chapman and T.F. Forrest

**Observer
with
Chairman's
Consent** Councillors Mrs. A.M. Armstrong and V. Crosby

**In
Attendance:** Councillors G.C. Gray, J.E. Higgin, J.G. Huntington, B. Lamb and
A. Smith

Apologies: Councillors B.F. Avery J.P, D.R. Brown, D. Farry, Mrs. J. Gray, B. Haigh,
T. Hogan and B.M. Ord

SL.19/08 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST
No declarations of interest were received.

SL.20/08 MINUTES
The Minutes of the meeting held on 18th November, 2008 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman. (For copy see file of Minutes).

**SL.21/08 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY - CORPORATE EQUALITY PLAN -
PROGRESS UPDATE**
Consideration was given to a report of the Head of Organisational Development setting out progress made to date on equality issues within the Council against the Corporate Equality Plan (CEP). (For copy see file of Minutes).

The report set out progress to date on the following :-

- Equality Standard for Local Government
- Corporate Equality Plan Action Plan
 - Leadership and Corporate Commitment
 - Community Engagement and Accountability
 - Service Delivery and Customer Care
 - Employment and Training
 - Future Issues

It was pointed out that the Council's Corporate Equality Plan had been updated to reflect recent legislation.

Reference was made to the Council's challenging target of achieving Level 4 of the Equality Standard for Local Government by February, 2009. It was explained that this would leave a positive legacy for the Borough in terms of Equality and Diversity. The Corporate Equality Plan was a pre-requisite for achieving this and was key to strengthening and formalising corporate commitment to equalities which would be carried forward to the new Council in April, 2009.

Members were of the opinion that Sedgefield Borough Council had made significant progress in relation to Equality and Diversity and thanked all staff involved.

Cabinet Members then left the meeting to allow the Committee to deliberate.

- AGREED :*
- 1. That the progress made to date be noted.*
 - 2. That the revised Corporate Equality Plan associated schemes and Action Plan be supported.*

SL.22/08

WORK PROGRAMME

Consideration was given to the Work Programme for the Strategic Leadership Overview and Scrutiny Committee. (For copy see file of Minutes).

It was noted that no items had been identified for the final meeting of the Committee on 10th February, 2009.

- AGREED :* *That the Work Programme be noted.*

ACCESS TO INFORMATION

Any person wishing to exercise the right of inspection, etc., in relation to these Minutes and associated papers should contact Mrs. L. Walker Tel 01388 816166 ext 4237 email lwalker@sedgefield.gov.uk