

REPORT OF EXECUTIVE CABINET

CHORLEY COUNCIL DRAFT EQUALITY SCHEME

1. The Executive Cabinet considered a report of the Director of Policy and Performance seeking agreement to a draft Equality Scheme.
2. The Council is statutorily required to produce a scheme which meets the requirements of the Race Relations Act 1976, the Disability Discrimination Act (which came into force on 4 December 2006) and the Equality Act (which comes into force in April 2007).
3. In April 2006 Consultants were commissioned (in partnership with South Ribble Council) to develop a scheme which will meet the Council's statutory requirements. The draft scheme which has now been produced will be a critical tool in helping the Authority to ensure its delivery of the strategic objective requiring the improvement of the equality of opportunity and life chances for the Borough's residents, and in embedding equality and diversity outcomes across the Authority.
4. The document, which has been compiled following an extensive consultation with Council Members, Officers and various community groups (including the Disability Forum, Ethnic Minorities Consultative Committee and various focus groups) outlines a commitment to the achievement of Level Three of the Equality Standard by March 2009. This Standard (a Best Value Performance Indicator) provides a framework for improving equality practice and producing equitable outcomes in service delivery, employment and pay. The Standard addresses six equality strands (ie age, disability, gender, race, religion/belief and sexual orientation).
5. A copy of the Director of Policy and Performance's report to the Executive Cabinet is attached as an appendix to this report, together with a copy of the draft Equality Scheme.
6. The Executive Cabinet endorsed the scheme and commends the document for approval by the Council. If accepted, a summary leaflet of the document will be produced for engagement with an even wider audience.

Recommendation

6. That the Council be recommended to approve the draft Equality Scheme, as now presented.

COUNCILLOR MRS P CASE
Executive Member for Corporate Policy and Performance

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There are no background papers to this report.