

CABINET ITEM COVERING SHEET PROFORMA

**AGENDA ITEM**

**REPORT TO CABINET**

**9<sup>th</sup> OCTOBER 2008**

**REPORT OF CORPORATE  
MANAGEMENT TEAM**

**CABINET DECISION**

**Access and Communities – Lead Cabinet Member – Councillor David Coleman**

**EQUALITY STANDARD FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT  
LEVEL 3 PEER REVIEW: SELF ASSESSMENT**

1. Summary (expanded report summary)

In order to assess its progress against the Equality Standard for Local Government, the Council is encouraged to undertake an IDeA Peer Review to verify its claim to be a level 3 authority. This review has been scheduled for December this year and as part of the review, the Council is required to submit a self-assessment document outlining its position against the Equality Standard. Cabinet is recommended to approve the Self-Assessment (attached at Appendix one) delegating any final amendments to the Assistant Chief Executive.

2. Recommendations

Cabinet is recommended to:

- i Approve the self assessment document (attached at Appendix one)
- ii Delegate authority to make any necessary final amendments to the Assistant Chief Executive in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Access and Communities

3. Reasons for the Recommendations/Decision(s)

To ensure the Council continues to make progress against the Equality Standard for Local Government and that this can be recognised by the IDeA.

4. Members' Interests

Members (including co-opted Members with voting rights) should consider whether they have a personal interest in the item as defined in the Council's code of conduct (**paragraph 8**) and, if so, declare the existence and nature of that interest in accordance with paragraph 9 of the code.

Where a Member regards him/herself as having a personal interest in the item, he/she must then consider whether that interest is one which a member of the public, with knowledge of the relevant facts, would reasonably regard as so significant that it is likely to

prejudice the Member's judgement of the public interest (**paragraphs 10 and 11 of the code of conduct**).

A Member with a prejudicial interest in any matter must withdraw from the room where the meeting considering the business is being held -

- in a case where the Member is attending a meeting (including a meeting of a select committee) but only for the purpose of making representations, answering questions or giving evidence, provided the public are also allowed to attend the meeting for the same purpose whether under statutory right or otherwise, immediately after making representations, answering questions or giving evidence as the case may be;
- in any other case, whenever it becomes apparent that the business is being considered at the meeting;

and must not exercise executive functions in relation to the matter and not seek improperly to influence the decision about the matter (**paragraph 12 of the Code**).

**Further to the above, it should be noted that any Member attending a meeting of Cabinet, Select Committee etc; whether or not they are a Member of the Cabinet or Select Committee concerned, must declare any personal interest which they have in the business being considered at the meeting (unless the interest arises solely from the Member's membership of, or position of control or management on any other body to which the Member was appointed or nominated by the Council, or on any other body exercising functions of a public nature, when the interest only needs to be declared if and when the Member speaks on the matter), and if their interest is prejudicial, they must also leave the meeting room, subject to and in accordance with the provisions referred to above.**

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## **CABINET DECISION**

### **EQUALITY STANDARD FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT LEVEL 3 PEER REVIEW: SELF ASSESSMENT**

#### **SUMMARY**

In order to assess its progress against the Equality Standard for Local Government, the Council is encouraged to undertake an IDeA Peer Review to verify its claim to be a level 3 authority. This review has been scheduled for December this year and as part of the review, the Council is required to submit a self-assessment document outlining its position against the Equality Standard. Cabinet is recommended to approve the Self-Assessment (attached at Appendix one) delegating any final amendments to the Assistant Chief Executive.

#### **RECOMMENDATIONS**

1. Cabinet is recommended to:
  - i Approve the self assessment document (attached at Appendix one)
  - ii Delegate authority to make any necessary final amendments to the Assistant Chief Executive in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Access and Communities

#### **EQUALITY STANDARD FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT**

2. The Equality Standard for Local Government is an assessment framework coordinated by the IDeA which considers how well local authorities are performing in Equality and Diversity, scoring against a five point scale (Levels 1-5). The assessment framework considers four aspects of the Council's approach:

- Leadership and Corporate Commitment
- Community Engagement and Accountability
- Service Delivery and Customer Care
- Employment and Training

Performance against these is considered and a judgment score reached. The Council is currently reporting performance against level one of the Standard.

3. The Council Plan includes a commitment to achieve level 3 of the Equality Standard by March 2009. However, driven by the recent corporate assessment report and in light of the significant progress the Council has made in the last eighteen months, the target will have been achieved before the end of the current calendar year. With this in mind, the Council has approached the IDeA and requested a peer review of our progress, the outcome of

which should be confirmation of our status as a Level 3 authority. This peer review has been scheduled for the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2008.

#### **SELF ASSESSMENT**

4. As part of the peer review process, the Council is required to submit a self assessment document to the IDeA outlining progress against the standard and how equality and diversity have been embedded across the authority. This is attached at Appendix One for Cabinet consideration.
5. Following approval from Cabinet it is proposed to carry out further consultation with the community to ensure the self-assessment accurately reflects the Council's progress. As such, Cabinet is requested to authorise the Assistant Chief Executive to make any necessary amendments to the self-assessment arising as a result of this consultation.

#### **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

6. There are no financial implications arising as a direct result of this report.

#### **LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

7. There are no legal implications arising as a direct result of this report.

#### **RISK ASSESSMENT**

8. Progress against the Equality Standard for Local Government is categorised as low to medium risk. Existing management systems and daily routine activities are sufficient to control and reduce risk.

#### **SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY STRATEGY IMPLICATIONS**

9. Progressing against the Equality Standard for Local Government helps the Council fulfil its Community Leadership role and as such supports progress against all themes of the Sustainable Community Strategy.

#### **EQUALITIES IMPACT ASSESSMENT**

10. This report is not subject to an Equality Impact Assessment because it requests approval of a self assessment document and does not recommend a change in policy or service delivery.

#### **CONSULTATION INCLUDING WARD/COUNCILLORS**

11. Consultation arrangements are outlined in the report at paragraph 5

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### Background Papers

- Single Equality Scheme 3<sup>rd</sup> Edition
- Community Cohesion Strategy
- Diversity: Performance and Progress Cabinet, November 2007
- Corporate assessment report

### Ward(s) and Ward Councillors:

This report affects all wards in the borough equally,

### Property

This report has no implications for the Capital Programme and Asset Management Plan.