



St Edmundsbury
BOROUGH COUNCIL

A56

Cabinet **24 June 2009**

Report of the Policy Development Committee: Equality Action Plan 2008 to 2011: Progress made in 2008/2009 (Jul09/08)

1. The Policy Development Committee is responsible for overseeing the work of the Diversity Group, and receives regular updates on the work of that Group, ensuring a Member lead on diversity across the organisation.
2. The Diversity Group meets on a regular basis to progress the Council's diversity and equality agenda, and the focus of the Group's work during 2008/2009 has been the implementation of the Equality Action Plan for 2008 to 2011.
3. Councillor Redhead, a Member of the Diversity Group, gave the Committee a progress report on the implementation of the Equality Action Plan over the past year. The Group considered that all the actions in the Plan remained relevant for 2009/2010 with amendments whereby Action (2a) to (2c) was deleted and replaced with a new action to implement equality monitoring procedures as this links with the Council's Improvement Plan. He also asked Members for feedback on the online equality training, which all Members had been asked to complete. It was noted that some had found the online training difficult to complete, and other Members commented that they had lost connection during the training and had had to start again.
4. Members were advised that they could complete the training at West Suffolk House if they felt this would be useful, where officers would be available to help, and where the connection was not likely to be lost. It was also suggested that a paper-based method of training be investigated for those Members who were having problems with the online training. Finally, Councillor Ray advised Members that if they could evidence that they had recently completed similar diversity training in other organisations, such as their workplace, they may not need to complete the Council's diversity training.

5. The Committee **RECOMMENDS** that the amended Equality Action Plan for 2009 onwards, as set out in Appendix 1 to Report A24, be approved.

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