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**Date:** *18 March 2013*

#### **NOTIFICATION OF PORTFOLIO HOLDER DECISION**

On 15 March 2013, Cllr B Rickman, the Leader of the Council, made the following decision. Any member of the Council, who is not a Portfolio Holder, who considers that this decision should be reviewed should give notice to the Monitoring Officer (Grainne O'Rourke) (in writing or by e-mail) to be received **ON OR BY MONDAY, 25 MARCH 2013**.

Details of the documents the Portfolio Holder considered are attached.

#### **DECISION:**

To endorse proposals for the Council's approach towards engagement with the community on equality issues, together with a related Statement of Intent to appear on the Council's website.

#### **REASON(S):**

See report.

#### **ANY ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED:**

See report.

#### **CONFLICTS OF INTEREST DECLARED:**

None.

#### **For Further Information Please Contact:**

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## **PORTFOLIO HOLDER DECISION - MARCH 2013**

### **COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT ON EQUALITIES**

#### **1. INTRODUCTION**

The purpose of this report is to seek endorsement of proposals for the Council's approach towards engagement with the community on equality issues, together with a related Statement of Intent to appear on the Council's website.

#### **2. EQUALITIES TASK AND FINISH WORKING GROUP**

The proposals are the result of work undertaken by the Equalities Task and Finish group set up by the Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Panel. The Panel supported the Group's recommendations, which can be found in its report at the following link: <http://www.newforest.gov.uk/committeedocs/CORSP/CDR07799.pdf> The Council's related web content has now been reviewed to reflect this, and the Leader's endorsement as relevant Portfolio holder is now sought.

#### **3. RECOMMENDATIONS**

- (1) That the Equalities Task and Finish Group's conclusions on engagement with the community in equality issues as set out in the report be endorsed; and
- (2) That the proposed Statement of Intent regarding the Council's approach to equalities issues, as set out in the attached Appendix, be agreed.

4. **PORTFOLIO HOLDER ENDORSEMENT**

I have agreed to the recommendations set out in paragraph 3 above.

Signed: CLLR B RICKMAN.....

Date: 15/03/13.....

Cllr Barry Rickman  
Leader of the Council

Date on which notice given of this decision – 18 March 2013

Last date for call-in - 25 March 2013

| <b>FURTHER INFORMATION: Please contact</b>   | <b>BACKGROUND PAPERS</b> |
|--|--------------------------|
| Andy Rogers<br>Committee Administrator<br>Tel: 023 8028 5588<br>E-mail: <a href="mailto:andy.rogers@nfdc.gov.uk">andy.rogers@nfdc.gov.uk</a><br><br>Catherine Granville<br>HR Operations Manager<br>Tel: 023 8028 5588<br>E-mail: <a href="mailto:catherine.granville@nfdc.gov.uk">catherine.granville@nfdc.gov.uk</a> | Published Documents      |

**Statement of intent:**

*In the Council's Corporate Plan 2012-16 called 'Delivering for our Communities', one of the Council's values is 'Treating Everyone Fairly'.*

*In order to live up to this value, we are committed to creating a community that recognises and celebrates diversity within a culture of respect and co-operation.*

*We appreciate that a culture which promotes equality will create a positive environment and a shared sense of belonging for all who live and work in, and all who visit, the New Forest District.*

*We will seek to build on former Corporate Equality Plans. We will engage constructively with all the protected groups as defined in the Equality Act 2010.*