

51/05 – **DIVERSITY STRATEGY:** The Executive Director, Corporate Policy and Improvement, submitted a written report in order to update Cabinet on the progress of the Equalities/Social Inclusion Agenda. The report also outlined a proposed way forward to address those issues involving the establishment of a proposed joint Member/Officer group for managing the Equalities and Social Inclusion Agendas under one consolidated diversity project. Paragraph 6.4 of the report detailed the suggested membership of the Diversity Framework Group and of the three Members proposed, two had been sought from the Scrutiny Co-ordinating Board at its meeting held on 22 August and a further now sought from the Cabinet in respect of a Member Champion.

Attached as Appendix 4 to the report was a copy of the Race Equality Scheme 2002 – 2005 approved in August 2002, and which was now required to be reviewed in line with the requirements of the Race Relations (Amendment) Act 2000.

RESOLVED (UNANIMOUSLY):

That (1) Cabinet agrees the Council's new arrangements for managing the Diversity agenda;

(2) the Deputy Leader, Councillor R Cooper, be appointed as Member Champion to chair the Diversity Framework Group and;

(3) the revised Race Equality Scheme be approved.

Reason for making decision:

To approve the delivery of the Diversity agenda across the Council and to meet both legislative and strategic objectives.

The review of the Race Equality Scheme is a legislative requirement.

Alternative options considered and rejected:

Not to undertake the work – this would result in potential legal challenge and failure to meet legislative requirement.

Retain the two separate projects – this would miss the opportunity to reduce duplication and expertise.

Not having a Member Champion – this would impede the development and promotion of the Diversity Strategy across the Authority.

(6.15 – 6.19 pm)

(D)

