

## **AGENDA ITEM**

**5**

### **VALUATION JOINT BOARD FOR CENTRAL SCOTLAND**

**Subject: Disability Equality Scheme**  
**Meeting: Central Scotland Valuation Joint Board**  
**Date: 1<sup>st</sup> February, 2008**  
**Author: Peter Wildman, Assistant Assessor (West Division)**

#### **1.0 INTRODUCTION**

- 1.1 This report is to advise members of the Valuation Joint Board of the Annual Progress Report in respect of the Board's Disability Equality Scheme and seeks the Board's approval of the Annual Report.

#### **2.0 BACKGROUND**

- 2.1 The Disability Discrimination Act 1995 as amended by the Disability Discrimination Act 2005 places both General and Specific Duties on public bodies including the Valuation Joint Board in respect of promoting equality for disabled people and taking action to prevent acts of disability discrimination before they occur.
- 2.2 The Specific Duties required the Valuation Joint Board to prepare and publish a Disability Equality Scheme. The Joint Board's Scheme was published in December 2006. The Scheme is a timetabled and realistic plan, setting out our arrangements for meeting the General and Specific Duties in terms of disability equality.
- 2.3 The Specific Duties also require the Valuation Joint Board to report annually on the progress it has made towards meeting its obligations under the Disability Discrimination Acts.

### **3.0 CURRENT POSITION**

- 3.1 In order for the Valuation Joint Board to meet its obligations under the Disability Discrimination Acts a proposed Annual Report has been produced.
- 3.2 The Annual Report is required to be published so that it is publicly available and accessible to all sectors of the community. It is proposed to publish the Report on the internet and also to provide copies to local libraries. We will also provide it in large font, audiotape or Braille format on request
- 3.3 By publishing the Annual Report the Board is not only ensuring that its legal obligations are met but it is also sending a clear signal of the Board's commitment and determination to actively promote equality of opportunity for disabled people.

### **4.0 RECOMMENDATION**

- 4.1 Members are asked to approve the proposed Disability Equality Scheme Annual Report.

.....  
**Peter Wildman**  
**Assistant Assessor (West Division)**  
**Date: 21st January 2008**

### **LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPER :**

- 1. Proposed Central Scotland Valuation Joint Board - Disability Equality Scheme Annual Report