

EX31. Fairer Scotland Duty and Equalities Training

The Executive considered a report by the Director of Corporate and Housing Services which provided an update on guidance received on the new Fairer Scotland Duty and outlined a series of training and awareness sessions on equalities which were being organised for the Council.

The Council had obligations to meet under the Equalities Act 2010, including the Public Sector General Equality Duty. This required that public bodies be pro-active in tackling discrimination by:-

- eliminating discrimination
- promoting equality of opportunity
- fostering good relations between those who share a protected characteristic and those who do not

The Scottish Government had published guidance on the Fairer Scotland duties which was interim and non-statutory. The duties would be phased in over a three year period. Public bodies were asked to do more to tackle the inequalities caused by socio-economic disadvantage.

A training programme, led by an external facilitator, would be offered on a rolling basis with the initial sessions rolled out to Councillors and senior officers.

Decision

The Executive:-

- (1) noted the obligations on the Council with regards the Fairer Scotland Duty;**
- (2) noted the interim guidance;**
- (3) agreed that the current Equality and Poverty Impact Assessment Process is the way the Council will ensure compliance with the Fairer Scotland duty, and**
- (4) noted the equalities awareness training programme.**