

AGENDA ITEM 3

VALUATION JOINT BOARD FOR CENTRAL SCOTLAND

Subject: Gender Equality Scheme
Meeting: Central Scotland Valuation Joint Board
Date: 12th June, 2009
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 Gender Equality Scheme and seeks the Board's approval of the Annual Report.

2.0 BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The Sex Discrimination Act 1975 as amended by the Equality Act 2006 places both General and Specific Duties on public bodies including the Valuation Joint Board in respect of promoting gender equality and taking action to prevent acts of gender discrimination before they occur.
- 2.2 The Specific Duties required the Valuation Joint Board to prepare and publish a Gender Equality Scheme. The Joint Board's Scheme was published in June 2007. The Scheme is a timetabled and realistic plan, setting out our arrangements for meeting the General and Specific Duties in terms of gender 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 duties.

3.0 CURRENT POSITION

- 3.1 In order for the Valuation Joint Board to meet its obligations under the duties 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 each gender.

4.0 RECOMMENDATION

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

.....
Peter Wildman
Assistant Assessor (West Division)
Date: 28th May 2009

APPENDIX:

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