

FALKIRK COUNCIL

Subject: GENDER EQUALITY SCHEME
Meeting: FALKIRK COUNCIL LICENSING BOARD
Date: 24 OCTOBER 2007
Author: CLERK TO THE LICENSING BOARD

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 Members will recall that a report was considered at the quarterly meeting of the Licensing Board on 24 June 2007 advising the Licensing Board of its new statutory duties in respect of gender equality under the Sex Discrimination (Public Authorities) (Scotland) Act 2007.

2. GENDER EQUALITY SCHEME

- 2.1 Each Local Authority including Licensing Boards, has the specific duty to produce and publish a Gender Equality Scheme. The draft Scheme for Falkirk Council Licensing Board was prepared in consultation with the Council's equality section and the draft will be sent to various relevant organisations for comment. Comments received thereafter will be incorporated into the Scheme where appropriate. The draft Scheme is attached as appendix 1 to this report.
- 2.2 The Gender Equality Scheme includes the following essential elements:-
- Arrangements for assessing the impact of Board activities on Gender Equality and improving these where necessary
 - Details of how the Board is going to use the information gathered, in particular in reviewing the effectiveness of its action plan
 - A commitment to provide training for Licensing Section staff in connection with the new obligations
- 2.3 It is intended that the Scheme will inform citizens, licensees, applicants for licences and partner bodies of the Board's proposed actions to promote gender equality to ensure that it meets the requirements under the Act.
- 2.4 Although the Scheme will be reviewed periodically, it will in effect, remain under constant review in order that it can adapt quickly to changing circumstances.
- 2.5 Consideration will be given in the future to the creation of an Equality Scheme that will unify the equality strands of Race Equality, Disability Equality and Gender Equality. The details of such will be brought before the Board for consideration at a future meeting of the Board.

3. RECOMMENDATION

3.1 Members are asked to:-

- (i) approve the proposed draft Gender Equality Scheme and to note the scheme will be distributed widely to relevant interest groups and any comments received thereafter will be incorporated into the Scheme as appropriate, and**
- (ii) note the proposal to develop an Equality Scheme to bring together the Board's separate Race, Gender and Disability Schemes.**

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Clerk to the Board

Date: 12 October 2007

Contact Officer: Bryan Douglas

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 1. Nil.**

Any person wishing to inspect the background papers listed above should telephone Falkirk 01324 506116 and ask for Bryan Douglas.