

# **WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE LICENSING BOARD**

## **Report by the Clerk to the Licensing Board**

**16 December 2014**

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### **Subject: Revisions to the Licensing Board Equality Outcomes**

#### **1. Purpose**

1.1 To agree the Board's revised Equality Outcomes.

#### **2. Recommendations**

2.1 It is recommended that the outcomes, as detailed in the appendix, are adopted and agreed for inclusion by the Board within its Equality Mainstreaming Report.

#### **3. Background**

3.1 A report on 18 April 2013 was presented to the Board with the Licensing Board's Equality Mainstreaming Report offering the Licensing Board an opportunity to present an overview of its work on equalities. The outcomes in the Report are focused on reducing inequalities and how the Board complies with the law.

3.2 The Board is committed to fulfilling the three key elements of the general equality duty as defined in the Equality Act 2010:-

(i) Eliminating discrimination, harassment and victimisation.

(ii) Advancing equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.

(iii) Fostering good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.

3.3 The Equality Commission ran a review of outcomes set by public bodies and began an "Improving Equalities Outcome Project" in June 2014. West Dunbartonshire Licensing Board in addition with a number of other Licensing Boards and public bodies have engaged with this process to review its outcomes.

#### **4. Main Issues**

4.1 The Board's existing report contains the following Equality Outcomes;

1) Increase Equality Monitoring,

- 2) Increase use of Equality Impact Assessment,
- 3) Improve Equality training for staff and licence holders.

**4.2** The attached appendix details the new proposed evidence, actions/outputs and measures leading to four new outcomes. These outcomes are;

- 1) Greater participation and involvement of people from underrepresented groups in influencing decision making in West Dunbartonshire.
- 2) Licensed businesses better meet the needs of West Dunbartonshire's diverse communities.
- 3) Increased level of satisfaction with Licensing services by all groups relevant protected groups.
- 4) The Licensing Board contributes to higher confidence in the reporting of hate crime and incidents.

**4.3** The Board's Equality Outcomes will be linked more closely to the Council's own Equality Outcomes.

## **5. People Implications**

**5.1** There are no personnel issues.

## **6. Financial Implications**

**6.1** There are no significant financial implications

## **7. Risk Analysis**

**7.1** Taken together the Equality Act 2010 and the specific duties are a sea change in the approach demanded of public authorities to a much more proactive and outcome focused one. The key legal points are that the Board must report on mainstreaming the equality duty, publish equality outcomes and report progress. The Board must also assess and review policies and practices.

## **8. Equalities Impact Assessment (EIA)**

**8.1** The assessment accompanying the Mainstreaming report still applies.

## **9. Consultation**

**9.1** This review has been done in consultation with the Equalities Commission.

## **10. Strategic Assessment**

**10.1** In terms of the Council's Strategic Priorities, the purpose of licensing is to protect the welfare of the community.

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Clerk to the Licensing Board

Date: 1/12/2014

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**Appendix:** WDLB Outcomes

**Background Papers:** N/A

**Wards Affected:** All