

CITY AND COUNTY OF SWANSEA

NOTICE OF MEETING

You are invited to attend a Meeting of the

EQUALITIES COMMITTEE

At: Committee Room 1, Civic Centre, Swansea

On: Wednesday, 22 October 2014

Time: 5.00 pm

AGENDA

	Page No.
1 Apologies for Absence.	
2 Disclosures of Personal and Prejudicial Interests.	1 - 2
3 Minutes. To approve as a correct record the Minutes of the meeting of the Equalities Committee held on 24 September 2014.	3 - 5
4 Presentation - Asylum Seekers and Refugees, Immigration and Community Cohesion.	
5 Member Champions Reports (Verbal).	
6 Work Plan Timetable.	6 - 7
7 Next Meeting - 5 p.m. on Wednesday, 19 November 2014.	



Patrick Arran
Head of Legal, Democratic Services & Procurement
15 October 2014

Contact: Democratic Services: - 636016

EQUALITIES COMMITTEE (12)

Councillors

Labour Councillors: 8

John C Bayliss (Vice Chair)	Yvonne V Jardine
David W Cole	Erika T Kirchner
V Mandy Evans	Gloria J Tanner
Fiona M Gordon (Chair)	Lesley V Walton

Liberal Democrat Councillors: 2

Cheryl L Philpott	T Huw Rees
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Independent Councillor: 1

Susan M Jones	
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Conservative Councillor: 1

Anthony C S Colburn	
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Officers:

Lee Wenham	Head of Marketing, Communications & Scrutiny
Steve Rees	Head of Human Resources
Patrick Arran	Head of Legal, Democratic Services & Procurement – Electronic
Tracey Meredith	Deputy Head of Legal, Democratic Services & Procurement
Euros Owen	Access to Services
Democratic Services	
Archives	
Spares	

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Disclosures of Interest

To receive Disclosures of Interest from Councillors and Officers

Councillors

Councillors Interests are made in accordance with the provisions of the Code of Conduct adopted by the City and County of Swansea. You must disclose orally to the meeting the existence and nature of that interest.

NOTE: You are requested to identify the Agenda Item / Minute No. / Planning Application No. and Subject Matter to which that interest relates and to enter all declared interests on the sheet provided for that purpose at the meeting.

1. If you have a **Personal Interest** as set out in **Paragraph 10** of the Code, you **MAY STAY, SPEAK AND VOTE** unless it is also a Prejudicial Interest.
2. If you have a Personal Interest which is also a **Prejudicial Interest** as set out in **Paragraph 12** of the Code, then subject to point 3 below, you **MUST WITHDRAW** from the meeting (unless you have obtained a dispensation from the Authority's Standards Committee)
3. Where you have a Prejudicial Interest you may attend the meeting but only for the purpose of making representations, answering questions or giving evidence relating to the business, **provided** that the public are also allowed to attend the meeting for the same purpose, whether under a statutory right or otherwise. In such a case, you **must withdraw from the meeting immediately after the period for making representations, answering questions, or giving evidence relating to the business has ended**, and in any event before further consideration of the business begins, whether or not the public are allowed to remain in attendance for such consideration (**Paragraph 14** of the Code).
4. Where you have agreement from the Monitoring Officer that the information relating to your Personal Interest is **sensitive information**, as set out in **Paragraph 16** of the Code of Conduct, your obligation to disclose such information is replaced with an obligation to disclose the existence of a personal interest and to confirm that the Monitoring Officer has agreed that the nature of such personal interest is sensitive information.
5. If you are relying on a **grant of a dispensation** by the Standards Committee, you must, before the matter is under consideration:
 - i) Disclose orally both the interest concerned and the existence of the dispensation; and
 - ii) Before or immediately after the close of the meeting give written notification to the Authority containing:

- a) Details of the prejudicial interest;
- b) Details of the business to which the prejudicial interest relates;
- c) Details of, and the date on which, the dispensation was granted; and
- d) Your signature

Officers

Financial Interests

1. If an Officer has a financial interest in any matter which arises for decision at any meeting to which the Officer is reporting or at which the Officer is in attendance involving any member of the Council and /or any third party the Officer shall declare an interest in that matter and take no part in the consideration or determination of the matter and shall withdraw from the meeting while that matter is considered. Any such declaration made in a meeting of a constitutional body shall be recorded in the minutes of that meeting. No Officer shall make a report to a meeting for a decision to be made on any matter in which s/he has a financial interest.
2. A "financial interest" is defined as any interest affecting the financial position of the Officer, either to his/her benefit or to his/her detriment. It also includes an interest on the same basis for any member of the Officers family or a close friend and any company firm or business from which an Officer or a member of his/her family receives any remuneration. There is no financial interest for an Officer where a decision on a report affects all of the Officers of the Council or all of the officers in a Department or Service.

CITY AND COUNTY OF SWANSEA

MINUTES OF THE EQUALITIES COMMITTEE

HELD AT COMMITTEE ROOM 1 - CIVIC CENTRE ON WEDNESDAY, 24
SEPTEMBER 2014 AT 5.00 PM

PRESENT: F M Gordon (Chair) Presided

Councillor(s)	Councillor(s)	Councillor(s)
J C Bayliss	V M Evans	T H Rees
A C S Colburn	E T Kirchner	L V Walton
D W Cole	S M Jones	

Officers:

E Owen - Access to Services Manager
J Whitmore - Partnership, Performance and Commissioning Manager
N Havard - Directorate Lawyer
H Clancy - Principal Community Regeneration Projects Officer
J Parkhouse - Democratic Services Officer

ALSO PRESENT:

A Khalil - Swansea Bay Asylum Seeker Support Group (EYST)
S Kiki - Asylum Seeker and Refugee Advocacy Forum
M Shafayat - City of Sanctuary

24 **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE.**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Y Jardine and C L Philpott.

25 **DISCLOSURES OF PERSONAL AND PREJUDICIAL INTERESTS.**

In accordance with the provisions of the Code of Conduct adopted by the City and County of Swansea, no interests were declared.

26 **MINUTES.**

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Equalities Committee meeting held on 27 August 2014 be agreed as a correct record.

27 **PRESENTATION - ASYLUM SEEKERS AND REFUGEES, IMMIGRATION AND COMMUNITY COHESION.**

H Clancy, A Khalil, S Kiki and M Shafayat provided a detailed and informative presentation on Asylum Seekers, Refugees AND Immigration. Details provided in the presentation included:-

- BME Population of Swansea.
- Who is an asylum seeker, refugee, economic migrant?
- Everyone has a right to seek protection.
- Wales has been a dispersal area for asylum seekers since 2001.
- Swansea asylum seeker profile.
- Overview of the asylum process.
- Asylum support.
- On receiving a decision.
- No recourse to public funds.
- Local housing provision for asylum seekers.
- Asylum seeker accommodation in Swansea.
- Why do people seek sanctuary here?
- What are the issues that asylum seekers and refugees in Swansea face?

The Committee asked a number of questions in relation to the presentation which were responded to accordingly. A workshop discussion took place and matters discussed included the following: -

- Issues faced by asylum seekers and refugees.
- Opportunities/lack of opportunities to study, particularly learning English.
- The need to make people more aware of the situations facing asylum seekers/refugees.
- Housing needs in Swansea and quality control of housing stock.
- Signage in public buildings to assist those asylum seekers/refugees who do not speak English.
- The need to improve the service to asylum seekers/refugees provided by the Job Centre.
- Additional in-depth training to be provided for Members.

It was added that a visit to a drop-in centre at St Phillips Community Centre/Brunswick Church Hall, St Helen's Road will be arranged for Councillors to attend as required.

RESOLVED that:

- (1) the contents of the presentation be noted;
- (2) visits be scheduled to either St Phillips Community Centre or Brunswick Street drop-in centres;
- (3) Members be provided with additional more in-depth training in relation to asylum seekers/refugees, if required.

28 **MEMBER CHAMPIONS REPORTS.**

There were none.

29 **WORK PLAN TIMETABLE.**

The Chair presented the revised Work Plan Timetable for 2014/2015.

RESOLVED that the contents of the report be noted.

30 **NEXT MEETING - 5 P.M. ON WEDNESDAY, 22 OCTOBER 2014.**

NOTED that the next meeting of the Equalities Committee is scheduled for 5.00 p.m. on Wednesday 22 October 2014.

The meeting ended at 6.45 pm

CHAIR

Agenda Item 6

Report of the Chair

Equalities Committee – 22 October 2014

EQUALITIES COMMITTEE – WORK PLAN 2014/15

Date	Subject Area	Officer Lead	Member Lead/ Champion
4 th June	1. Agree work plan and detailed focus/questions for subject areas (For August, October, February & April meetings). 2. Member Champions Updates (Verbal).		
2 nd July	1. Information on UNCRC and implementation <i>Presentation</i> 2. Member Champions Updates (Verbal).		
30 th July	Cancelled		
27 th August	1. Welsh Language Scheme Annual Monitoring Report 2013-14 and Welsh Language Standards: <i>Presentation and paper</i> 2. Member Champions Updates (Verbal).		
24 th September & 22 nd October	1. Asylum Seekers, Immigration and Community Cohesion: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Possibly presentation of information required and work shop</i> • <i>Possible visit</i> • <i>Or invite organisations in for discussion/workshop.</i> 2. October: 6 monthly written reports from Member Champions. 3. Member Champions Updates (Verbal).	Sarah Crawley	
19 th November & 17 th December	1. Interpersonal violence: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Domestic Abuse • Female Genital Mutilation • Human Trafficking <i>Possibly:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ <i>Presentation/training/information exchange on subjects</i> ○ <i>Visit to One Stop Shop due to open in November</i> ○ <i>Invite organisations in for discussion/workshop</i> 		

	2. Member Champions Updates (Verbal).		
21 st January	1. Strategic Equality Plan and Equality Objectives annual Review 2013-14: <i>Presentation and paper</i> 2. Interpersonal violence (<i>continued from December</i>) 3. Member Champions Updates (Verbal).		
18 th February & 18 th March	1. Hate Crime and Hate Crime Strategy/Framework ○ <i>Presentation/training/information</i> ○ <i>Invite organisations in for discussion/workshop</i> 2. Member Champions Updates (Verbal).		
15 th April	1. Tackling Poverty and Health Inequality (<i>Content to be confirmed</i>) 2. Annual written reports from Member Champions 3. Member Champions Updates (Verbal).	Sarah Crawley	The Leader / Cabinet Member for Anti-Poverty