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SOUTHEND-ON-SEA CITY COUNCIL

Meeting of Corporate Matters & Performance Delivery Working Party

Date: Wednesday, 7th December, 2022

Place: Remote Meeting via Microsoft Teams

- Present:** Councillor S George (Chair)
Councillors P Collins, J Courtenay and M Sadza
- In Attendance:** Councillors A Line, K Mitchell and C Mulroney
S Brown, L Dolphin, S Meah-Sims and S Tautz
- Start/End Time:** 7.00 pm - 7.30 pm

1 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor T Cox (no substitute), Councillor M O'Connor (no substitute) and Councillor M Terry (no substitute).

2 Notice of Motion - Protected Characteristics for Care Experienced People

The Working Party considered a report of the Executive Director (Strategy, Change and Governance) in response to a Notice of Motion referred by the Council at its meeting on 20 October 2022, concerning the proposed treatment of care experience as a protected characteristic, to help the Council eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation amongst care experienced people.

Members were advised of a range of current activities across the authority that had already been introduced in response to the recognition of the Council that care experienced people were an oppressed group who faced discrimination, and where the Council collaborated and co-produced decision-making and policy development in consideration of the voices of care experienced people.

Resolved:

- (1) That the Notice of Motion seeking the treatment of care experience as a protected characteristic by the Council, be noted.
- (2) That it be recommended to the Cabinet:
 - (a) That it be noted that the points set out in the motion are either already addressed within current working practice or that action be taken to implement additional activity.
 - (b) That it be noted that the following matters already reflect activity addressed within current working practices:
 - Recognition that care experienced people are an oppressed group who face discrimination.

- That the Council has a duty to put the needs of care experienced people at the heart of decision-making through co-production and collaboration.
- That the Council proactively seeks out and listens to the voices of care experienced people when developing new policies based on their views.

(3) That the Cabinet be recommended that the following matters be further considered for implementation:

- (a) That future decisions, services and policies made and adopted by the Council be assessed through Equality Impact Assessments to determine the impact of changes on people with care experience, alongside those who formally share a protected characteristic.
- (b) That in the delivery of the Public Sector Equality Duty, the Council include care experience in the publication and review of Equality Objectives and the annual publication of information relating to people who share a protected characteristic in services and employment.
- (c) That the Council treat care experience as if it were a protected characteristic.
- (d) That the Council formally call upon all other bodies to treat care experience as a protected characteristic until such time as this may be introduced by legislation.
- (e) That the Corporate Parenting Group monitor and review the success of the Council's arrangements to help eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation of care experienced people.

(4) That a further report on the progress of the implementation of these arrangements to help eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation of care experienced people, be made to a future meeting of the Working Party.

3 Notice of Motion - Webcasting of Public Meetings

The Working Party considered a report of the Executive Director (Strategy, Change and Governance) in response to a Notice of Motion referred by the Council at its meeting on 20 October 2022, concerning the webcasting of public meetings held at the Civic Centre.

Councillors were advised that the Jubilee Room (Committee Room 1) at the Civic Centre had already been set up to enable the webcasting of public meetings including the scrutiny committees and the Development Control Committee, and that this work had been fully completed since the receipt of the Notice of Motion and before any public meetings previously held in the Council Chamber as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, had been relocated to the Jubilee Room.

The Working Party noted that the first public meetings to be held in the Jubilee Room using the newly installed webcasting equipment, had been the scrutiny and Development Control Committee cycle of meetings in November 2022.

Resolved:

(1) That the Notice of Motion in relation to the webcasting of public meetings held at the Civic Centre, be noted.

(2) That the Cabinet be recommended to note that the Jubilee Room had already been set up to enable the webcasting of public meetings since the receipt of the Notice of Motion and before any public meetings previously held in the Council Chamber had been relocated to the Jubilee Room.

(3) That the Cabinet be recommended that no further action is therefore required in response to the Notice of Motion.

Chair: _____

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