

CAMBRIDGE CITY COUNCIL

REPORT OF: Performance Manager
TO: Equality Panel 14/6/2010

WARDS: All

COALITION PROGRAMME FOR GOVERNMENT: EQUALITY MEASURES

1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 The Coalition Programme for Government was published on 20 May 2010. It sets out commitments across the equalities agenda and will form the basis of work that the Government Equalities Office will now take forward.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 Equality Panel are asked to note, in particular, those aspects of the Coalition Programme that will have implications for the City Council and its partner organisations.

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 The new Liberal Democrat - Conservative government has set out its position on equality in Britain today in its Coalition Programme for Government published on 20 May 2010. Its approach is built around an intention "to remove barriers to social mobility and equal opportunities".
- 3.2 Specific commitments included in the programme that will have implications for the City Council and its partners and are likely to require action are:
- to promote equal pay and take a range of measures to end discrimination in the workplace
 - to undertake a fair pay review in the public sector to implement the proposed "20 times" pay multiple i.e. that the highest paid

employee will receive a salary of no more than 20 times that of the lowest paid employee

- To promote improved community relations and opportunities for Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic (BAME) communities
- To implement the Equality Act 2010.

3.3 Other commitments include:

- extending the right to request flexible working to all employees in consultation with business
- looking to promote gender equality on the boards of listed companies
- stopping the deportation of asylum seekers who have had to leave particular countries because their sexual orientation or gender identification puts them at proven risk of imprisonment, torture or execution
- using relationships with other countries to push for unequivocal support for gay rights and for UK civil partnerships to be recognised internationally.

3.4 Equalities as a policy area now comes under the remit of the Home Office headed by two ministers The Right Hon Theresa May MP (Conservative) Home Secretary, and Lynne Featherstone MP (liberal Democrat) Minister for Equalities.

4. CONCLUSIONS

4.1 It is clear that the passing of the Equality Act in April this year has not brought to an end further policy and practical action on equalities. What is not yet clear is what resources will be available to take this programme forward nor where this fits into the Government's priority order.

BACKGROUND PAPERS: The following are the background papers that were used in the preparation of this report:

Equality and Diversity Forum Blog Archive: 24th May 2010.

To inspect these documents contact Alison Kemp, Performance Manager, on extension 7043.

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