



Subject:	Local Council Equality and Diversity Group: Corporate Response to Draft Strategy and Action Plan 2019-21
Date:	23rd August, 2019
Reporting Officer:	John Walsh, City Solicitor / Director Legal and Civic Services
Contact Officers:	Alison Long, Senior HR/OD Advisor Lisa McKee, Democratic Services Officer

Restricted Reports	
Is this report restricted?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
If Yes, when will the report become unrestricted?	
After Committee Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>
After Council Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>
Some time in the future	<input type="checkbox"/>
Never	<input type="checkbox"/>

Call-in	
Is the decision eligible for Call-in?	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>

1.0	Purpose of Report or Summary of Main Issues
1.1	The purpose of this report is to seek approval for the submission of a corporate response to the Local Council Equality and Diversity Group's Draft Strategy and Action Plan 2019-2021.
2.0	Recommendations
2.1	The Committee is requested to <ul style="list-style-type: none">• approve the submission of the corporate response to the Equality and Diversity Group; and• note that the corporate response, if approved by Committee, will be forwarded on a holding basis, subject to ratification by the Council, to meet the submission deadline of Friday, 24th August, 2019.
3.0	Main Report
3.1	<u>Background</u> The Equality and Diversity Group is made up of stakeholder bodies across the local government sector and includes Chief Executives, Diversity Champions (political and

	<p>officer), Equality and HR Officers, trade union officers and Staff Commission members. The Group was first constituted in 2011 and was re-constituted in 2015 in the light of the reform of local government. A new Chair, who is the Chief Executive of one of the 11 councils, was appointed by SOLACE in 2019.</p>
3.2	<p>Its purpose is to prioritise and influence equality and diversity initiatives across local government. The group attempts to bring together the equality and diversity practices across the sector and, in doing so, seeks to integrate the priorities of the Group within the ongoing work of individual councils.</p>
3.3	<p>The Group is now consulting on its draft Strategy and Action Plan which has been developed to guide its work in the longer term. This response has been prepared jointly by the Equality and Diversity Unit and Corporate HR.</p>
3.4	<p><u>Key Issues</u> A copy of the draft Strategy and Action Plan for 2019-2021 together with the completed questionnaire is attached at Appendix 1 and 2.</p>
3.5	<p><u>Financial and Resource Implications</u> None.</p>
3.6	<p><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</u> This report contributes to the Council's compliance with section 75 of the Northern Ireland Act 1998 and Rural Needs Act 2016</p>
4.0	Documents Attached
	<p>Appendix 1 – Equality and Diversity Group Draft Strategy and Action Plan 2019-21</p> <p>Appendix 2 – Consultation Questionnaire Response</p>