

## AGENDA ITEM

**Subject: GENDER EQUALITY SCHEME**  
**Meeting: FALKIRK COUNCIL LICENSING BOARD**  
**Date: 20 JUNE 2007**  
**Author: CLERK TO THE LICENSING BOARD**

### **1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT**

- 1.1 The purpose of the Report is to advise the Licensing Board of its new statutory duties in respect of gender equality under the Sex Discrimination (Public Authorities) (Scotland) Act 2007. A general duty has now been placed on all public authorities including Licensing Boards, to promote gender equality and eliminate sex discrimination. Public sector organisations must now take a more proactive approach to addressing sex inequality.
- 1.2 Authorities must, when carrying out day to day functions, have due regard for the need to:-
- Eliminate unlawful discrimination and harassment on the grounds of sex; and
  - Promote equality of opportunity between women and men in all of its functions
- 1.3 These new requirements are intended to ensure that the promotion of gender equality is a key consideration in all of the Boards activities.
- 1.4 Under the terms of the 2007 Act, public authorities are required to have a Gender Equality Scheme in place by 29 June 2007.

### **2. GENDER EQUALITY SCHEME**

- 2.1 There are a number of specific duties that will be included in a scheme, however these will be limited by the narrow nature of the functions of the Licensing Board. Officers are currently working on a proposed scheme for consultation with stakeholders by 29 June 2007. The outcome of this process will be reported to a future meeting of the Board.
- 2.2 The Scheme will then be subject to review at 3 yearly intervals, and the Board will monitor the implementation of the associated action plan by receiving regular reports from the Clerk.

3. **RECOMMENDATIONS**

3.1 Members of the Board are asked to:-

- (1) note the duty under the Sex Discrimination (Public Authorities) (Scotland) Act 2007 to prepare a Gender Equality Scheme
- (2) note that officers are currently preparing a Scheme, and
- (3) note that the finalised Scheme will be submitted to a future meeting of the Board.

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**Clerk to the Licensing Board**

**Date: 15 June 2007**

**Contact Officer: Bryan Douglas**

**LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS**

1. Nil