

**AWAZ (Cumbria) Comments on Comprehensive Equality Scheme Carlisle City Council v0.8 Dated 12 July 2010**

AWAZ (Cumbria) having reviewed the Comprehensive Equality Scheme 2010 and the report presented to the Executives on 28<sup>th</sup> June 2010.

AWAZ welcomes the council's commitment to Equality.

**AWAZ (Cumbria) Comments on the Comprehensive Equality Scheme V0.8 for the consideration of Overview & Scrutiny Committee are as under:**

1- This Comprehensive Equality Scheme does not cover all the elements of the Statutory Code of Practice on the Race Equality Duty, the specific duties and the requirements for a Race Equality Scheme

2- There is no review report of the Current Race Equality Scheme (2007-10) made available and the progress this Council has made so far in meeting the Race Equality Duty. If it has been done can AWAZ have a copy of this please?

There is no Equality Impact Assessment of this scheme made available (a requirement under Race Equality Duty). If it has been done can AWAZ have a copy of this please?

3- This Scheme does not comprehensively show how the Carlisle City Council plans to meet its statutory duties under section 71(1) of the Race Relations Act (the Act) and, in particular, articles 2(2) and 2(3) of the Race Relations Act 1976 (Statutory Duties) Order 2001.

a) There is no action plan (*a practical and realistic plan, with an agreed timetable, showing how an authority is planning to meet its duties*) available to demonstrate how this council will meet, monitor and review the progress on Race Equality Duty in the life time of this scheme is attached. Can AWAZ have a copy of this please?

b) It does not identify what actions this council will take with regards to "the promotion of good relations between people of different racial groups (a requirement under general duties)

c) There is no identified or revised list of Council functions and policies with in "Comprehensive Equality Scheme" marked for relevance to race equality. (Public authorities must list in their race equality scheme the functions and policies (including their proposed policies) that are relevant to the general duty to promote race equality. They should review this list at least every three years)

4- There is no report available how Carlisle City Council has met the Requirements of Race Equality Specific Duty under Articles 5(1), 5(2), and 5(3) of the Race

Relations Act 1976 (Statutory Duties) Order 2001 under its current scheme and in the future.

5- A reference to the Equality Act 2010 has been made in the report presented to The Executives but there is no reference or indication in the text of scheme available on how this council will meet the schedule of the implementation of Equality Act 2010.

6- In the report to The Executive it has been claimed that "The Scheme has been developed to ensure the Council is well placed to comply with the duties of The Equality Act (2010)". AWAZ (Cumbria) would like to see the evidence of the statutory code of practice under The Equality Act 2010 used in the development of this scheme.

AWAZ (Cumbria) would like to raise concerns about the "Comprehensive Equality Scheme" document going forward for approval as it stands. We would welcome the opportunity to meet with members of overview & Scrutiny committee and senior managers to move this forward for the benefit of all the communities living in the jurisdictions of Carlisle City Council.

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