

**REPORT TO: EDUCATION COMMITTEE
20 NOVEMBER 2006**

REPORT ON: DISABILITY EQUALITY SCHEME

REPORT BY: DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION

REPORT NO: 662-2006

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1 This report details contents of the Education Department's Disability Equality Scheme which requires to be published by 4th December 2006 in order for the Council - as an Education Authority - to meet a statutory Disability Equality Duty under new disability discrimination legislation, and requests a decision on approval of same.

(Copies available in Councillors' Lounge and with Group Secretaries)

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

2.1 The Committee is asked to approve the proposed Disability Equality Scheme.

3.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

3.1 The cost of this work has been allowed for in the Departmental budget

4.0 SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS

4.1 Meeting the Council's new duty as an Education Authority under the legislation will assist with implementation of the council's 'Sustainability Policy' aims by creating more sustainable communities under the following policy principles; BUILT ENVIRONMENT and COMMUNICATION AND ENVIRONMENTAL REPORTING. A Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) is not required as screening identifies low impact and the report fulfils the policy framework aims and objectives for tackling poverty and social exclusion

5.0 EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES IMPLICATIONS

5.1 Meeting the Council's new duty under the legislation will assist with more accessible educational establishments and services, which meet the needs of all abilities. A FULL Equality Impact Assessment (EQIA) is not required as screening identifies low adverse impact. The report will have a positive impact on the key themes of equal opportunities.

6.0 BACKGROUND

6.1 The Disability Equality Scheme is prepared in accordance with the specific duties imposed on the Council as an Education Authority by the Disability Discrimination (Public Authority) (Statutory Duties) (Scotland) Regulations 2005.

7.0 CONSULTATION

7.1 This report has been the subject of consultation with the Chief Executive, the Depute Chief Executive (Finance), and the Depute Chief Executive (Support Services).

8.0 BACKGROUND PAPERS

8.1 None

**Anne Wilson
Director of Education
Date: 03 November 2006**