

EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES COMMITTEE

Tuesday 3 June 2008

Session 3

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EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES COMMITTEE

9th Meeting 2008, Session 3

CONVENER

*Margaret Mitchell (Central Scotland) (Con)

DEPUTY CONVENER

*Elaine Smith (Coatbridge and Chryston) (Lab)

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

*Richard Baker (North East Scotland) (Lab)

*Marlyn Glen (North East Scotland) (Lab)

*Bill Kidd (Glasgow) (SNP)

*Hugh O'Donnell (Central Scotland) (LD)

*Sandra White (Glasgow) (SNP)

*Bill Wilson (West of Scotland) (SNP)

COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTES

John Park (Mid Scotland and Fife) (Lab)

Jamie Hepburn (Central Scotland) (SNP)

Mary Scanlon (Highlands and Islands) (Con)

Jim Tolson (Dunfermline West) (LD)

*attended

CLERK TO THE COMMITTEE

Terry Shevlin

ASSISTANT CLERK

Roy McMahon

LOCATION

Committee Room 1

Scottish Parliament

Equal Opportunities Committee

Tuesday 3 June 2008

[THE CONVENER *opened the meeting at 10:06*]

Decision on Taking Business in Private

The Convener (Margaret Mitchell): Good morning everyone, and welcome to the ninth meeting in 2008 of the Equal Opportunities Committee. I remind everyone present, including members, that mobile phones and BlackBerrys should be switched off completely as they interfere with the sound system even when they are switched to silent.

Under agenda item 1, we need to decide whether to consider the budget process for 2009-10 in private at a future meeting. Are members agreed?

Members indicated agreement.

National Assembly for Wales (Visit)

10:07

The Convener: Agenda item 2 is a proposed visit by the committee to the National Assembly for Wales to meet members of its Equality of Opportunity Committee. If we agree in principle today that we wish to undertake such a visit, a precise date can be decided. The visit will probably take place in September or October, and it can be arranged in correspondence with the clerks to the Equality of Opportunity Committee.

The paper that is in front of us is fairly self-explanatory. Do members agree that we should meet the Welsh Assembly's Equality of Opportunity Committee?

Members indicated agreement.

The Convener: Do members agree that we should seek approval from the Conveners Group in advance of a visit to Wales in September or October?

Members indicated agreement.

The Convener: Are members content with the proposed issues for discussion, as listed in paragraph 5 of the paper from the clerk?

Elaine Smith (Coatbridge and Chryston) (Lab): Can I confirm that we may return to the list if we have further thoughts on it?

The Convener: That would be quite acceptable. The topics shown are baseline issues. If we think of something else that would be worth discussing with Assembly members, it could be added, with their agreement.

Hugh O'Donnell (Central Scotland) (LD): Can we be clear that the remits of this committee and the Welsh committee are exactly the same? It would be pretty pointless discussing things that are outwith either committee's remit.

The Convener: The remits are not exactly the same, but there are clear issues of common interest, such as the topics that are listed in the paper—mainstreaming equality, scrutiny of the Government, inquiry reports, sharing information, scrutiny of legislation and European Union matters. They are within our remits, and we would ensure that any further suggestions that Elaine Smith or any other members made were within the remits.

I hope that that satisfies any reservations that members may have. Are we agreed on the proposed topics for now? If we need or wish to add any nearer the time of our visit, that can be done.

Members indicated agreement.

The Convener: I remind broadcasting and official report staff, and any members of the public who are present, that we will discuss agenda items 3 and 4 in private.

10:09

Meeting continued in private until 11:41.

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