www.oxford.gov.uk

OXFORD CITY COUNCIL

To: City Executive Board

Date: 15 September 2016

Report of: Scrutiny Committee

Title of Report: Report of the Equality and Diversity Group – update

---

Summary and Recommendations

Purpose of report: To present the views of the Scrutiny Committee on representations received from Stonewall in response to the Committee's view that the Council's contribution as a Stonewall Diversity Champion did not represent good value.

Key decision? No

Scrutiny Lead Member: Councillor Tom Hayes

Executive lead member: Councillor Brown, Board Member for Customer and Corporate Services

Recommendation of the Scrutiny Committee to the City Executive Board:

That the City Executive Board states whether it agrees or disagrees with the following recommendations:

1. That the Council ceases to be a Stonewall Diversity Champion and invests the fee currently paid to Stonewall (£2.5K) to better effect.

Introduction

1. The City Executive Board (CEB) considered a review report produced by the Equality and Diversity Group at its meeting on the 14 July. Recommendation 15 was:

   "The Council seeks to obtain better value from its status as a Stonewall Diversity Champion and, failing that, considers whether the small membership fee would be better invested in other means of tackling discrimination"

2. The CEB received written representations from Stonewall on this recommendation and asked the Scrutiny Committee to consider these and report back on recommendation 15.

Summary and Recommendation

3. The Scrutiny Committee's view remained unchanged. The review group lead member said that they had received representation from officers that engagement with Stonewall was on occasions problematic and did not produce outcomes of value. The money, however small, could be spent more productively.

Name and contact details of author:-

Pat Jones on behalf of the Scrutiny Committee
Committee and Member Services Manager
Law and Governance
Tel: 01865 252191 e-mail: phjones@oxford.gov.uk

List of background papers: None
Version number: 1.0