



Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Policy

Policy adopted on		
Reviewed and approved on		

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Introduction

Dent with Cowgill Parish Council is committed to providing the highest quality of provision and service and recognises that the implementation of an effective Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Policy is an integral part of such an approach.

The Council, as a corporate body, has responsibilities as an employer, a service provider and a public authority, but both members and employees as individuals also have responsibilities as well as rights.

The Council will treat all its employees, members, partners and customers with dignity and respect, free from discrimination, victimisation and harassment.

Legal position

Under the Equality Act 2010 it is unlawful to discriminate against an individual on the following grounds:

- age
- disability
- gender reassignment
- marriage and civil partnership
- pregnancy and maternity
- race
- religion or belief
- sex
- sexual orientation

These are known as “protected characteristics” in section 4 of the 2010 Act.

Section 149 of the 2010 Act imposes a Duty on Parish Councils to take into account:

- The need to eliminate discrimination and harassment, victimisation and any other conduct that is prohibited by or under the Act;
- To advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it;
- To foster good relations between those who share protected characteristics and those who do not.

Our commitment

Dent with Cowgill Parish Council

- understands its obligations under the Equality Act 2010
- is fully committed to its duty, imposed by Section 149 of the 2010 Act
- is committed to the principle of equality, diversity and inclusion and declares its opposition to any form of less favourable treatment, whether through direct or indirect discrimination, on the grounds of the protected characteristics as specified in the Equality Act 2010
- is an Equal Opportunities employer, provider of services and contractor. It is committed to the promotion, maintenance and protection of the rights of individuals. The Council is committed to making full use of the talents and resources of its employees and members.
- Is committed to going above and beyond it's legal duties to ensure equality, diversity and inclusion in everything it does as an employer, direct services provider, contractor and with its members.

The Council will ensure that all recipients of the services delivered directly by the Council are guaranteed the same opportunity.

All policies of the Council will be designed to support the principles and practices of equality, diversity and inclusion, to foster a fully integrated community and maintain racial harmony.

The Council as an Employer

The Purpose of this policy is to provide equality, diversity and inclusion to all employees or prospective employees and members or prospective members, irrespective of their characteristics (unless there are genuine qualifications or objectively justified reasons for a different approach to be taken). We oppose all forms of unlawful and unfair discrimination, victimisation or harassment on the grounds of any protected characteristics defined in the Equality Act 2010.

All employees and members, whether full-time, part-time, fixed contract, agency workers or temporary, will be treated fairly and equally. Selection for the council, employment, promotion, training, remuneration or any other benefit will be on the basis of aptitude and ability.

All employees and members will be helped and encouraged to develop their full potential and the talents and resources of the workforce and membership will be fully utilised to maximise the efficiency of the council.

Every employee and member is entitled to a working environment that promotes dignity and respect to all. No form of intimidation, bullying or harassment will be tolerated.

The Council will encourage and develop all employees and members to support and carry out the requirements of the Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Policy.

Breaches of this policy will be regarded as misconduct and could lead to disciplinary proceedings.

The commitment to equality, diversity and inclusion in the workplace is good management practice and makes sound business sense as it seeks to utilise the talents available from the local community, representing Society as a whole.

This policy is fully supported by all Members of the council and adopts the model contract as devised by the employee professional body in the local government sector (the Society of Local Council Clerks)

The Council as a direct service deliverer

The Council's clients have the right to expect fair and non-discriminatory treatment whilst participating in or receiving any of the Council's services or activities. All aspects of the Council's Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Policy impact on the manner in which it directly delivers services to and for its residents.

The above requirements apply to all services and activities of the Council.