



WOODNEWTON PARISH COUNCIL

EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES POLICY

Statement

Woodnewton Parish Council is an equal opportunity employer and it does not discriminate on the grounds of age, disability, gender, race, religion or sexual orientation.

Woodnewton Parish Council is committed to openness, and actively seeks to make available information about how it works, its decisions and the services it provides.

1. Responsibilities and Implementation

Woodnewton Parish Council (referred to as 'the Council') is committed to the principles of equal opportunity. It is the joint responsibility of everyone involved to adopt these principles and act accordingly.

The Council recognises that certain groups in society suffer discrimination in some circumstances and are thus denied equality of opportunity because of **age, physical or mental disability, ethnic origin, gender, marital status, political allegiance, race, religious belief, sexual orientation, or other irrelevant factors (the factors)**.

The Council recognises that everyone has a contribution to make to our society and a right to equal treatment irrespective of the factors.

The Council recognises that we live in a multicultural society and believes that cultural diversity should be viewed positively.

The Council will implement measures to combat any direct or indirect discrimination in its employment practices and provision of its services, including positive actions to make this policy effective and ensure that the policy is reflected in the delivery of its work.

2. Bullying and Sexual or Racial Harassment

In keeping with the EOP, harassment of any individual for any of the factors is unacceptable and the aim is to ensure that unacceptable behaviour does not take place.

Specifically, sexual and racial harassment are both forms of discrimination and as a consequence is unlawful. Bullying and harassment also lowers morale and reduces the effectiveness of people at work.

The Council will not tolerate sexual or racial harassment, or other bullying, in any form, by any Councillor, any member of staff, volunteer, partner, or visitor.

Appropriate action will be taken in the event of such harassment being proven, which can include summary dismissal in the case of an employee.

3. Recruitment

The Council is committed to ensuring that it acts as an equal opportunities' employer. No job applicant, employee, client or Councillor will be discriminated against because of the factors.

It is the responsibility of the Council to ensure that this is reflected in all recruitment and selection, personnel, and other procedures, and to investigate any complaints and respond accordingly.

Every vacancy will be advertised both internally and externally with the object of encouraging applications from all those to whom the post may be of interest.

Job descriptions will be provided for all advertised posts along with a list of key job requirements.

Application forms if used will not provide the potential to discriminate because of any of the factors at the point of application. The ethnic origin, age, and gender of applicants will be monitored separately.

Due regard will be paid by interview panels to cultural bias and the effect that it may have on interview proceedings.

For successful applicants, all recruitment and selection documentation will be retained for six years and will clearly record the reasons for an appointment. Documentation for unsuccessful applicants will be retained for six months.

4. Volunteers, Partners and Client Services

The Council intends to act with due regard to this policy and with due regard for the law.

The Council will encourage everyone with whom it works to act in a manner which is supportive of its principles.

The Council will offer appropriate assistance to those who require it regardless of any of the factors listed above.

5. Other

The office premises of the Council shall, where possible, have facilities for and be accessible to people with disabilities.

In all its work and all its published material, the Council will exercise care to act in a manner which displays respect for all people, cultures, and faiths. The Council will also endeavour to ensure its partners are aware of religious issues which should be borne in mind when planning training and consultancy work. (may affect the delivery of services).

The Council will work with due concern for vulnerable groups such as children or mentally disabled people and take advice where necessary if dealing with such groups. See Safeguarding policy.

The Council will consult with representatives from groups possibly subject to discrimination and act on such advice whenever appropriate.

The Council will welcome and consider fully any constructive criticism or suggestions from any group or individual as to how this policy may be improved or more effectively implemented.

The Council will monitor the effectiveness of this policy, for example by analysing statistics, from monitoring of recruitment applications, and the number (if any) of complaints. A report on these issues will be submitted at each Annual Meeting of the Council.

The Clerk will draw any complaints to the attention of the Council even if immediately resolved.

This policy will be reviewed annually or earlier if required by legislation or additional material.

Date approved

Review date

Agreed & Adopted
June 3rd, 2019
Agenda Item 11

At the next Annual Meeting of the Council