

Equality and Diversity Policy

Urchfont Parish Council is committed to providing and promoting equal opportunities, eliminating discrimination and encouraging diversity in the community.

The purpose of this policy is to provide equality and fairness for all and not to discriminate on grounds of gender, marital status, race, ethnic origin, nationality, national origin, disability, sexual orientation, religion or age. All forms of unlawful and unfair discrimination are opposed.

1. Commitments as an employer

1.1 All employees will be treated fairly and with respect. Selection for employment, promotion, training or any other benefit will be on the basis of aptitude and ability. All employees will be helped and encouraged to develop their full potential to maximise the efficiency of the Council.

1.2 The Parish Council's commitments are to:

- Create an environment in which individual differences and the contributions of all staff are recognised and valued.
- Provide a working environment that promotes dignity and respect to all. No form of intimidation, bullying or harassment will be tolerated.
- Make training, development and progression opportunities available to all staff.
- Ensure equality in the workplace as good management practice.
- Review employment practices and procedures to ensure fairness.
- View breaches of this equality policy as misconduct that could lead to disciplinary proceedings.
- Monitor and review this policy every year to ensure it is compliant with current equal opportunities legislation and utilises, as far as is practicable, Advisory Conciliation and Arbitration Service (ACAS) guidelines and best practice.

2. Commitments as community leader and advocate

2.1 The Parish Council is committed to creating a socially inclusive and cohesive community by:

- Promoting equal opportunity and equal access to employment, services and information.
- Identifying and addressing the barriers that different groups face to participation in community life.
- Working towards ensuring fair and equitable resources.
- Respecting the diversity of our community.
- Working with others to ensure that the Parish of Urchfont is a safe place in which to live, work or visit.
- Listening and responding to the views of our community through appropriate and widespread consultation and participation mechanisms, which are accessible to all.
- Ensuring the communications produced and events held positively reflect and promote the diversity of the communities and are made fully accessible.

3. Commitments as a service provider

3.1 The Parish Council is committed to ensuring that our services are accessible to all and responsive by:

- Ensuring that our residents are aware of the Council's services and by delivering services in ways that are sensitive to residents' needs.
- Ensuring that all those in the community are able to visit the Council's meeting rooms and open spaces where reasonably practicable.
- Ensuring that the information provided about the Council's services is accessible to all in our community.
- Consulting and involving all sections of the community in the development and monitoring of our policies and services in ways which enable people to participate.

4. Commitments as a procurer of goods and services

4.1 The Parish Council is committed to ensuring that those contractors and others from whom goods and services are procured share and implement the values within this policy by:

- Demonstrating that all practicable steps are being taken to allow equal access and equal treatment in employment and service delivery for all, as appropriate to the nature of the contract concerned.

(Acknowledgement: This Policy is based on that produced by Whiteley Parish Council)