

Equality Guidance for community councils

Community councils have an important role in promoting equality and supporting inclusive communities. When community councils carry out public functions, they must have due regard to the Public Sector Equality Duty under the Equality Act 2010. This means they should seek to eliminate discrimination, advance equality of opportunity and foster good relations between people with protected characteristics and those who do not.

Protected characteristics include:

- Age
- Disability
- Race
- Sex
- Marriage & Civil Partnership
- Religion or belief
- Sexual orientation
- Gender reassignment
- Pregnancy & Maternity.

In practice, this means community councils should take practical steps to understand who lives in their area and ensure their work is accessible and inclusive for all. This includes holding meetings in accessible venues at suitable times, using clear and inclusive communications, and making efforts to engage with under-represented groups. Community councils are encouraged to challenge discrimination, work in partnership with local equality groups, and consider how proposals or decisions may affect different people in the community. By acting in a fair, inclusive and respectful way, community councils can help build stronger, more cohesive communities.

Below are some links which may be useful:

[Good Practice Guidance for Community Councils and Local Authorities](#)

[Equality & Diversity for Community Councils – Easy Read](#)