

ROCKCLIFFE PARISH COUNCIL

EQUALITY & DIVERSITY POLICY











Adopted by full Council 20th May 2024, for review May 2025

1 INTRODUCTION

The aim of the policy is to communicate the commitment of Rockcliffe Parish Council, its Members and Officers to meeting the Public Equality Duty, which came into force on 5th April 2011. The Equality Duty applies to public bodies and others carrying out public functions. It supports good decision-making by ensuring public bodies consider how different people will be affected by their activities, helping them to deliver policies, representation, and services, which are efficient and effective; accessible to all; and which meet different peoples' needs.

2 POLICY STATEMENT

It is Rockcliffe Parish Council policy to provide representation, information, facilities, services, and employment to all irrespective of:

-  Gender, including gender reassignment.
-  Marital or civil status
-  Having just had a baby or being pregnant
-  Having or not having dependants
-  Religious belief or political opinion
-  Race (including colour, nationality, ethnic or national origins)
-  Disability
-  Sexual orientation
-  Age
-  Geographical

Rockcliffe Parish Council is opposed to all forms of unlawful and unfair discrimination. All people and employees will be treated fairly and will not be discriminated against on any of the above grounds. All decisions will be made objectively and without unlawful discrimination.

Rockcliffe Parish Council recognises that supporting Equality is of primary importance. This policy will help all those who are Council Members or work for the Council to develop sound and effective policies that impact the village, community, and surrounding areas.

Rockcliffe Parish Council aims to create a culture that respects and values each other's differences, that promotes dignity, equality, and diversity. We aim to remove barriers, bias or discrimination that prevent individuals or groups from realizing their potential and contributing fully to the community to develop a culture that positively values diversity.

Rockcliffe Parish Council will challenge discrimination. It aims to provide equality and fairness to all in the community and expects all Members and Officers to be aware and understanding the Equality Act 2010.

3 EQUALITY COMMITMENTS

Rockcliffe Parish is committed to:

- ✚ Promoting equality of opportunity for all persons
- ✚ Promoting a good and harmonious environment in which all persons are treated with respect.
- ✚ Preventing occurrences of unlawful direct discrimination, indirect discrimination, harassment, and victimization
- ✚ Fulfilling our legal obligations under equality legislation and associated codes of practice.
- ✚ Complying with our own equal opportunity policy and associated policies.
- ✚ Taking lawful affirmative and positive action where appropriate.

4 IMPLIMENTATION

The Chairman has specific responsibility for the effective implementation of this policy. To implement this policy, he or she shall:

- ✚ Communicate the policy to Members, the Clerk, and members of the public.
- ✚ Incorporate equal opportunities into general practices.
- ✚ Ensure that other persons or organisations will comply with the policy I their dealings with the Council.

5 MONITORING AND REVIEW

Rockcliffe Parish /council will establish appropriate information and monitoring systems to assist the effective implementation of our equal opportunities policy.

The effectiveness of our equal opportunities policy will be reviewed annually, and action taken as necessary.

In addition to the Council's internal procedures, any person has the right to pursue complaints of discrimination under the Equality Act 2010.

6 THE LAW

The policy will be implemented within the framework of the relevant legislation, which includes:

- ✚ Sex Discrimination Act 1975
- ✚ Gender Reassignment Regulations 1999
- ✚ Race Relations (Amendment) Act 2000
- ✚ Disability Discrimination Act 1995
- ✚ The Protection form Harassment Act 1997
- ✚ Inclusive of any/all updates or replacement Acts to the above.

