

EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY POLICY

The aim of this policy is to communicate the commitment of the Shedfield Parish Council, its Members and Officer(s) to meeting the Public Sector Equality Duty, which came into force on 5 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 people's needs, the promotion of equality and diversity in relation to Shedfield Parish Council.

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

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

Shedfield 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 about equality and diversity will be made objectively and without unlawful discrimination.

Shedfield 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 on the village/town/community and surrounding areas. Shedfield 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 prevents individuals or groups from realising their potential and contributing fully to the community to develop a culture that positively values diversity.

Shedfield 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 understand the Equality Act 2010.

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