

Equality & Diversity Policy

Machynlleth Town Council fully supports the principle of equal opportunity in employment and opposes any kind of unfair or illegal discrimination on the basis of colour, race, nationality, ethnic background, language, religion, sex, age marital status, sexuality or disability.

The policy records the commitment by the Council and its objectives in avoiding the unfair treatment of individuals in all its business activities. It also outlines the policy's priorities, and the arrangements in place to ensure effective implementation across the Council.

- We will do everything possible to ensure that individuals are treated in a fair and equal manner and that decisions regarding recruitment, selection, training, promotion and career development are based solely on merit and ability, connected to the job.
- Employees and sub-contractors have personal responsibility for the practical application of this policy, which also extends to members of the public.
- We will aim to ensure that no direct or indirect discrimination occurs within the Council, and that all decisions regarding employment, to include details of applicants and the current workforce, will be monitored regularly. Any instances where it appears that equal opportunities are not provided, the circumstances will be investigated and immediate steps taken to improve the situation.
- The Council's Grievance Procedures is available to any employee who believes that he or she may have been unfairly discriminated against.
- Any employee or sub-contractor who is found to have committed an act of unlawful discrimination will face disciplinary procedures. Discriminatory conduct and sexual or racial harassment shall be regarded as gross misconduct.
- All new employees will receive an induction which includes awareness training on this policy and both employees and any sub-contractors will be required to follow the instructions of the Policy.
- The Council will, as far as is reasonably practicable, make every effort to offer provision for people with disabilities. This can be either by making adaptations to premises and equipment providing improved access facilities, or possibly by making changes to employment terms and conditions, for example, flexible working.
- This policy is relevant in the following areas:
 - As an employer
 - Service provision
 - Planning activities
 - Recruitment, selection, employment practices and terms and conditions.
 - Goods and services suppliers
 - Representatives.
- Any employee who is of the opinion that he or she has been treated unfairly in any way regarding this policy, has the right to raise the matter with the employer.
- Every employee has a duty to accept his or her personal responsibility in implementing this policy. At the same time, the Council recognises that special responsibilities fall on the Councillors and individuals connected with recruitment and administering the employees on a day to day basis.

Monitoring and facilitating this policy will be the responsibility of the Town Clerk who has responsibility for Human Resources. This policy will be reviewed on an annual basis.