



## **RHAYADER TOWN COUNCIL EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY POLICY**

### **Introduction and Scope**

The success of the Council depends on the work of its Councillors and employees. Capitalising on what is unique about individuals and drawing on their different perspectives and experiences will add value to the way the Council manages its affairs and conduct its business on behalf of the community it serves.

The Council will constantly strive to create a productive environment, representative of and responsive to different cultures and groups, where everyone has an equal opportunity to contribute to the Council's objectives.

Councillors and employees all have a responsibility to embrace and support this vision and must continue to challenge behaviour and attitudes that prevent the Council from achieving its vision.

### **The Policy**

Using fair, objective and innovative employment practices, the Council's aim is to ensure that all Councillors and employees are:

- treated fairly and with respect at all stages of their service or employment
- have the right to be free from harassment and bullying of any description, or any other form of unwanted behaviour, whether based on sex, trans-gender status, marital status, civil partnership status, pregnancy, race, disability, age, political or religious belief or sexuality.
- have an equal chance to contribute and to achieve their potential, irrespective of any defining feature that may give rise to unfair discrimination.

### **Gender**

The Council is fully committed to:

- challenging gender stereotypes
- supporting Councillors and employees in balancing their life at work and at home
- supporting employees who become pregnant and taking active steps to facilitate their return to work after maternity leave.

### **Trans-gender status**

People who plan to undergo, are undergoing, or have undergone gender reassignment are protected against all forms of discrimination and harassment and will be treated with dignity and respect.

### **Marital status**

People are treated fairly and equally within the Council irrespective of their marital, civil partnership or family status.

### **Race**

The Council is committed to:

- challenging racial stereotypes
- understanding, respecting and valuing different racial and cultural backgrounds and perspectives.

**Disability**

The strengths of people with disabilities are recognised and valued within the Council through:

- focusing on what people can do rather than on what they cannot
- challenging stereotypes about people with disabilities
- making appropriate adjustments in the workplace to help people with disabilities achieve their full career potential.

**Age**

Age diversity is promoted and valued through challenging age stereotyping.

**Religious belief**

People are treated fairly in the Council irrespective of their religious beliefs and practices by recognising individuals' freedom of belief and right to protection from intolerance and persecution.

**HIV**

Discrimination against an employee or potential employee on grounds that he or she has, or is thought to have, HIV or AIDS is not acceptable, and confidentiality will be respected in line with the wishes of an individual with HIV or AIDS.

**Sexuality**

People are treated fairly in the Council irrespective of their sexuality through:

- respecting different lifestyles
- challenging negative stereotypical views.

**Policy Review**

This Policy will be regularly monitored and reviewed:

- In accordance with changes in legislation or any changes made by the Council
- Following any issues or concerns raised with the Council
- In all other circumstances, annually