

Promoting Social Equality and Justice Through Procurement

East Devon District Council is committed to genuine equality of opportunity, whether required by law or not, in all aspects of our activities whether as an employer or service provider. It is recognised that passive policies will not reverse discrimination and disadvantage, and therefore the Council will actively seek to redress discrimination against disadvantaged people and communities by:

- Ensuring equality of opportunity
- Delivering a fair and just service provision to all residents and visitors to East Devon
- Work towards our equality objectives and monitor the outcomes against the Single Equality Scheme
- Continual monitoring of contracts to ensure our equality objectives are being adhered to.

The Council has a duty to influence and shape the equality agenda with suppliers through our procurement processes. The Council will actively engage with the requirements of the proposed Equality Duty for Public Procurement once it has been enacted. In the meantime, the Council is committed to ensuring that major suppliers and contractors share our equality and diversity vision and values, and work to implement these. To achieve this, the Council will:

- Ensure that our appointed contractors share, and help deliver, our equality objectives
- Signpost training to our contractors wherever required
- Provide reasonable assistance to ensure that our contractors are meeting the equality criteria set out in the agreed contract or service level agreement
- Provide templates, guidance and training on equalities for procurement staff
- Develop pragmatic ways to monitor the equality performance of our key suppliers and provide assistance where required
- Report our progress on Equalities in Procurement to EDDC management

Community cohesion, safety and security is a key part of our corporate priorities and the Council will continue to identify where procurement can ensure that appropriate contracts include provisions for crime and disorder reduction and that procurement arrangements do not have an adverse impact on community safety issues.

The Council will continue to ensure that effective health and safety mechanisms are in place through our procurement practice and our suppliers.

The Council will ensure compliance with the code of practice on handling workforce matters in contracts.