

Council first in England to receive equality award

Press Release

13/07/2007

Barking and Dagenham's commitment to fairness and equality has been recognised and applauded by an independent monitoring organisation.

The Council is the first in the country to be awarded the Committed to Equality - c2e Diversity Award Standard.

c2e's team of business leaders supports large organisations to help them develop a way of working that puts equality at the front of everything they do, ensuring that there are good equality processes for staff.



What the c2e assessors found when they visited Barking and Dagenham during April and May 2007, was that the Council was already ahead of many councils in terms of treating all its staff equally.

The judges assessed the Council's individual service areas, and were pleased to discover that the authority had already more than exceeded the standard for ensuring that customers were also treated equally.

From a maximum score of 100, Council services scored between 88 and 94 per cent for their equality commitments, an exceptional achievement.

The c2e logo will now be proudly displayed on all Council letterheads, websites and stationery.

Cllr Charles Fairbrass, Executive Member for Equalities and Diversity, said: "This award is very good news for the Council and shows that our commitment to a fairer and more equal working environment for our staff is paying dividends



"But our commitment isn't just restricted to the Council's workforce. It also extends to the supplier companies and organisation we have contracts with," said Cllr Fairbrass.

"These companies also have a duty to promote equality and diversity and for that reason, our policy commitments to equality form part of any contract we negotiate."

"The c2e awards will greatly encourage us to continue bringing in improvements to our equality and diversity programme for the future." he added.

Notes for Editors

Committed 2 Equality (c2e) is a not for profit organization. In three years time they hope to have 60-80,000 Small and Medium Enterprises and 3,000 large organisations Committed2Equality in the UK

C2e works with public sector and health care services as well as manufacturing, construction, retail and wholesale organisations

C2e supports organisations in the development of their equality policy

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