

DIVERSE COUNCIL DECLARATION

Cardiff Council is committed to continuing to improve diversity in democracy across the city and become a Diverse Council. This declaration provides a clear public commitment to improving diversity in democracy in our city.

While Cardiff performs better than many councils in terms of councillor diversity, people from Black, Asian and ethnic minority backgrounds, women, younger people and those with a disability are not yet proportionately represented in the Welsh capital's council chambers.

Endorsing this declaration is a key element of Cardiff Council's support for the Diversity in Democracy programme, led by the Welsh Local Government Association (WLGA), which aims to advance equality and diversity in local democracy.

Delivering an ambitious local 'Diversity in Democracy' action plan will contribute to an invigorated local democracy and help to deliver a council which reflects the great diversity of our city's communities.

As a diverse Council, Cardiff Council will:

Broaden Local Democratic Representation

We will:

- Encourage and enable people from underrepresented groups to stand for office.
- Seek support from all elected members and political groups on the council to work with local party associations to encourage recruitment of candidates from underrepresented groups.
- Ensure residents from all communities understand the role and functions of local councillors and the council

Support involvement with local decision-making

We will:

- Proactively engage organisations supporting under-represented groups to enhance democratic awareness.
- Support the work of the Race Equalities Task Group in developing proposals to engage our city's diverse neighbourhoods within local democracy.
- Establish a mentoring programme - working with a range of stakeholders to provide a pipeline of mentors and mentees for prospective councillors.

Support Councillors to discharge their responsibilities effectively

We will:

- Provide flexibility in council business and activities to support Elected Members and allow them to meet their personal, professional, cultural and caring commitments and responsibilities.
- Work in accordance with the standards set out in the Wales Charter for Member Support and Development.
- Continue to demonstrate our duty of care for elected members by supporting their wellbeing and safety needs when performing their role as councillors.
- Achieve the Wales Charter for Member Support and Development to demonstrate the highest possible standards of support and development for our elected members to assist them in meeting the challenges and expectations of their diverse roles ranging from of community leader to their special responsibilities within the Council.
- Ensure that all elected members have the opportunity to take up the allowances and salaries to which they are entitled, particularly any reimbursement for costs of care, so that all elected members receive fair remuneration for their work and that the role of an elected member is not limited to those who can afford it.
- Continuing to promote the highest standards of behaviour and conduct from elected members and those intending to stand for office on the Council.

Develop a 5-year action plan to delivery our Diverse Council commitment:

- Following the Local Elections in 2022 develop a Diverse Council Action Plan 2022-27 in consultation with representative and community groups, to be submitted for consideration by the Council.