

## APPENDIX F



Shaun Cropper  
Equalities Adviser  
Melton Borough Council  
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Station Approach  
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Date: 10 October 2019  
My ref:  
Your ref:  
Contact: Andrew Jeffreys  
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Email: [Andrew.jeffreys@leics.gov.uk](mailto:Andrew.jeffreys@leics.gov.uk)

Dear Shaun,

As Cabinet Lead Member for Communities and Equalities at Leicestershire County Council, I welcome the opportunity to comment on the Borough's draft single equality scheme and objectives for 2020-24. This is very timely as the County Council is itself refreshing its own Equality Strategy for the same period.

We support the scheme's approach to identifying and delivering equalities priorities by ensuring that decisions are based on sound evidence, appropriate consultation and engagement with protected characteristic and representative / other groups, and a clear alignment to strategic outcomes. The County Council is committed to improving our knowledge of the people who work for us and the communities we serve, increasing people's engagement with the Council and opportunities to take part in society, ensuring that we provide responsive, inclusive and high quality services, leading and working with partners as well as promoting success and best practice in everything we do.

In terms of the scheme's equality objectives, the focus on homelessness, working closely with communities so that delivery of council services can be better matched to local needs, and leading on identifying and resolving tensions affecting communities and protected groups complements a number of the key outcomes in Leicestershire County Council's Strategic Plan 2018-2022 – in particular, for affordable and good quality homes that people can enjoy as part of thriving, integrated and safe communities. Also, recognising the value of improving the quality and provision of information as a key element of promoting inclusion and access to the council's services is welcomed, as is the innovative approach to better understanding specific factors of tensions and inequalities within communities.

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In terms of implementing the scheme, it is hoped that the action planning process to meet the objectives will be flexible enough to take account of specific needs, for example, around ensuring that ageing well initiatives also include working age adults, and increasing the range of opportunities for young people in the borough.

I hope you find these comments of use.

Yours sincerely,

**Mrs Louise Richardson, CC**  
**Cabinet Lead Member – Communities and Equalities**  
**Leicestershire County Council**

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