BARNSLEY
Metropolitan Borough Council

My Ref: FOI/4404
Your Ref:
Date: 16/05/2025
Enquiries to: Information Requests
E-Mail: informationrequests@barnsley.gov.uk

Dear Requester,

Re: Request for Information – Freedom of Information Act 2000

I wish to confirm that the council has completed its search for the information which you requested.

The information requested and our findings are as follows: -

Your questions and my findings are as follows:-

Your questions and my findings are below:-

1. **Has your authority adopted the social model of disability in its practices?**
   Yes.

2. **If yes to Q1, has this been formally adopted at a council meeting or similar?**
   While no single document confirms a formal adoption, the council's operational practices, equality initiatives, and internal communications strongly reflect the values and framework of the social model of disability.

3. **Have your staff and councillors been trained in disability awareness, including the social model of disability?**
   Yes, Barnsley Council has provided disability awareness training to staff and councillors, which includes reference to the social model of disability. This is embedded within our Equality, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) e-learning offer and is further supported by guidance and training materials across services.

4. **Do your equality impact assessments include reference to the social model of disability and its implications for policy decisions?**
   The EIA toolkit and guidance notes both reflect the principles of the social model, even if the term itself is not always used. They emphasise:
   - The need to treat people differently to achieve equality of outcome.
   - The importance of recognising and removing barriers that individuals may face.
   - The role of policy in creating a level playing field

5. **Does your authority employ an access officer or similar (e.g. access design officer or disabilities officer) to provide advice to officials and others about access standards and design? If yes, please provide the specific job title.**
   No.

6. **Does your authority have a policy or charter covering accessible streets for disabled people, for example a Streets Charter, accessible streets policy or similar? If so, please can you provide a copy.**
   No

7. **Is your authority part of the Disability Confident scheme? If so, at what level - Committed, Employer, Leader?**
   Yes. Employer Level.

If you have any queries about this letter, please contact Information Requests via email.

Please remember to quote the reference number above in any future communications.

If you are unhappy with the way the Directorate has handled your request, you may ask for an internal review. Please clearly mark your correspondence 'Complaint' and address it to:

Barnsley MBC
Information Requests Team
PO Box 634
Barnsley
S70 9GG
email: informationrequests@barnsley.gov.uk

If you are not content with the outcome of the internal review, you have the right to apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at: -

Customer Services Team
Information Commissioner's Office
Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
Cheshire
SK9 5AF

Email: http://www.ico.org.uk/foicomplaints

Kind regards,

Information Requests Team, Barnsley MBC

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