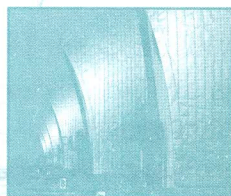
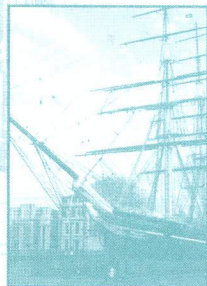


# Greenwich Council's Equality Policy



## Introduction

We are committed to promoting equality of opportunity, good community relations, and to tackling all forms of discrimination in Greenwich through the Council's roles as service provider and commissioner, employer and community leader. We will work with our partners in the private, public and community sectors to achieve our objectives. We believe that the diversity of Greenwich is one of our greatest assets and should be celebrated and valued.

Our commitment to equality expressed in the Greenwich Strategy and our 'Vision For The Borough' will help to ensure that all residents benefit from the long term plans to make Greenwich a better place to live, work, learn and visit. Our commitment is also embedded in our Management Values which emphasise the value we place on our diverse workforce. Equality considerations are a fundamental aspect of our Best Value Reviews and help to ensure they are mainstreamed into all our services. This Policy will also help us to meet the equality objectives included in the Greenwich Social Inclusion and Justice Strategy.

The Equality Policy forms the basis of our commitment to the Equality Standard for Local Government which we adopted in October 2002.

The Standard will:

- provide a systematic framework for mainstreaming equality
- help us to meet our obligations under the law
- integrate policies and objectives with Best Value
- encourage anti-discrimination practice appropriate to Greenwich
- provide a basis for tackling all forms of institutionalised discrimination
- provide a framework for improving performance over time

There are five levels to the Standard which will be monitored by the Audit Commission. The Council aims to achieve the highest level.

This Policy sets out our commitments. The objectives within the Policy will be implemented through a Corporate Equality Plan setting out clear targets and timetables for achieving them.

The Policy replaces the Strategic Equalities Vision for Greenwich 1997. Its scope is more focused than that of the Vision in order to ensure that the more exacting requirements of the Equality Standard are fully met.

