EQUALITY, INCLUSION AND DIVERSITY POLICY

A) STATEMENT OF POLICY

1) The terms equality, inclusion and diversity are at the heart of this policy. 'Equality' means ensuring everyone has the same opportunities to fulfil their potential free from discrimination. 'Inclusion' means ensuring everyone feels comfortable to be themselves at work and feels the worth of their contribution. 'Diversity' means the celebration of individual differences amongst the workforce. We will actively support diversity and inclusion and ensure that all our employees are valued and treated with dignity and respect. We want to encourage everyone in our business to reach their potential.

2) We recognise, support and uphold the Equality Act (2010) to ensure that all employees whether full-time, part-time, fixed term contract, agency workers or temporary staff, will be treated fairly and equally regardless of:

   - Age
   - Disability
   - Gender reassignment
   - Marriage and civil partnership
   - Pregnancy and maternity
   - Race
   - Religion or belief
   - Sex
   - Sexual orientation

   We oppose all forms of unlawful and unfair discrimination whether it be direct or indirect discrimination, victimisation or harassment on the grounds of any of the protected characteristics defined in the Equality Act 2010.

3) We recognise that discrimination is unacceptable and although equality of opportunity has been a long standing feature of our employment practices and procedures, we have made the decision to adopt a formal policy. Breaches of the policy will lead to disciplinary proceedings and, if appropriate, disciplinary action up to and including dismissal.

3) We will ensure that the policy is circulated to any agencies responsible for our recruitment and a copy of the policy will be made available for all employees and made known to all applicants for employment.

4) The policy will be communicated to all private contractors reminding them of their responsibilities towards the equality of opportunity.

5) The policy will be implemented in accordance with the appropriate statutory requirements and full account will be taken of all available guidance and in particular any relevant Codes of Practice.

6) We will maintain a neutral working environment in which no employee or worker feels under threat or intimidated.

B) RECRUITMENT AND SELECTION

1) The recruitment and selection process is crucially important to any equality, inclusion and diversity policy. We will endeavour through appropriate training to ensure that employees making selection and recruitment decisions will not discriminate, whether consciously or unconsciously, in making these decisions.

2) Promotion and advancement will be made on merit and all decisions relating to this will be made within the overall framework and principles of this policy.

3) Job descriptions, where used, will be revised to ensure that they are in line with this policy. Job requirements will be reflected accurately in any personnel specifications.

4) We will adopt a consistent, non-discriminatory approach to the advertising of vacancies.

5) We will not confine our recruitment to areas or media sources which provide only, or mainly, applicants of a particular group.

6) All applicants who apply for jobs with us will receive fair treatment and will be considered solely on their ability to do the job.

7) All employees involved in the recruitment process will periodically review their selection criteria to ensure that they are related to the job requirements and do not unlawfully discriminate.

8) Short listing and interviewing will be carried out by more than one person where possible.

9) Interview questions will be related to the requirements of the job and will not be of a discriminatory nature.

10) We will not disqualify any applicant because he/she is unable to complete an application form unassisted unless personal completion of the form is a valid test of the standard of English required for the safe and effective performance of the job.

11) Selection decisions will not be influenced by any perceived prejudices of other staff.

C) TRAINING AND PROMOTION

1) Senior staff will receive training in the application of this policy to ensure that they are aware of its contents and provisions.

2) All promotion will be in line with this policy.

D) MONITORING

1) We will maintain and review the employment records of all employees in order to monitor the progress of this policy.

2) Monitoring may involve:

   a) the collection and classification of information regarding the race in terms of ethnic/national origin and sex of all applicants and current employees;

   b) the examination by ethnic/national origin and sex of the distribution of employees and the success rate of the applicants; and

   c) recording recruitment, training and promotional records of all employees, the decisions reached and the reason for those decisions.

3) The results of any monitoring procedure will be reviewed at regular intervals to assess the effectiveness of the implementation of this policy. Consideration will be given, if necessary, to adjusting this policy to afford greater equality of opportunities to all applicants and staff.

Name: David Neal

Date: May 2026

Position: Director

Signature: 

Next review: May 2027