

An achieving authority has the following characteristics:

- Councillors and officers take direct and personal responsibility for promoting greater equality and test themselves on progress by the outcomes they achieve.
- It has undertaken equality mapping and has a good understanding of its communities, including the extent of inequality and disadvantage, and used the information to inform corporate and service priorities.
- It has set stretching equality priorities in consultation with partners in the public and voluntary and community sectors and these are reflected in its sustainable community and other relevant strategies, local and multi-area agreements, and local targets.
- It works with partners in the public and voluntary and community sectors to develop joint equality strategies.
- It uses equality impact assessments (EqIAs) to review all major corporate and service changes in policy and regularly conducts service and employment EqIAs.
- It has set appropriate corporate and service/unit objectives to address persistent inequalities and to narrow the gap related to race, gender, disability, sexual orientation, age, religion and/or belief, or other areas of inequality for service delivery. This is based on impact assessments and consultation with internal and external stakeholders and partners.
- It has set appropriate corporate and service/unit employment and pay related objectives for race, gender, disability and age, religion and/or belief and sexual orientation.
- Equality objectives are integrated into the local authority's business and service planning processes.
- All relevant data on service access is monitored against the equality strands.
- There are good practices of delivery in all the sections of the council with few adverse impacts found in impact assessments. Where adverse impacts have been found these have been mitigated.
- Key stakeholders and community members, including those who are vulnerable and marginalised, are able to scrutinise and challenge performance on equalities issues.
- It has developed information and monitoring systems that allow it to disaggregate data where appropriate and to assess progress in achieving objectives and targets. It reviews them in the light of changing needs, when necessary.