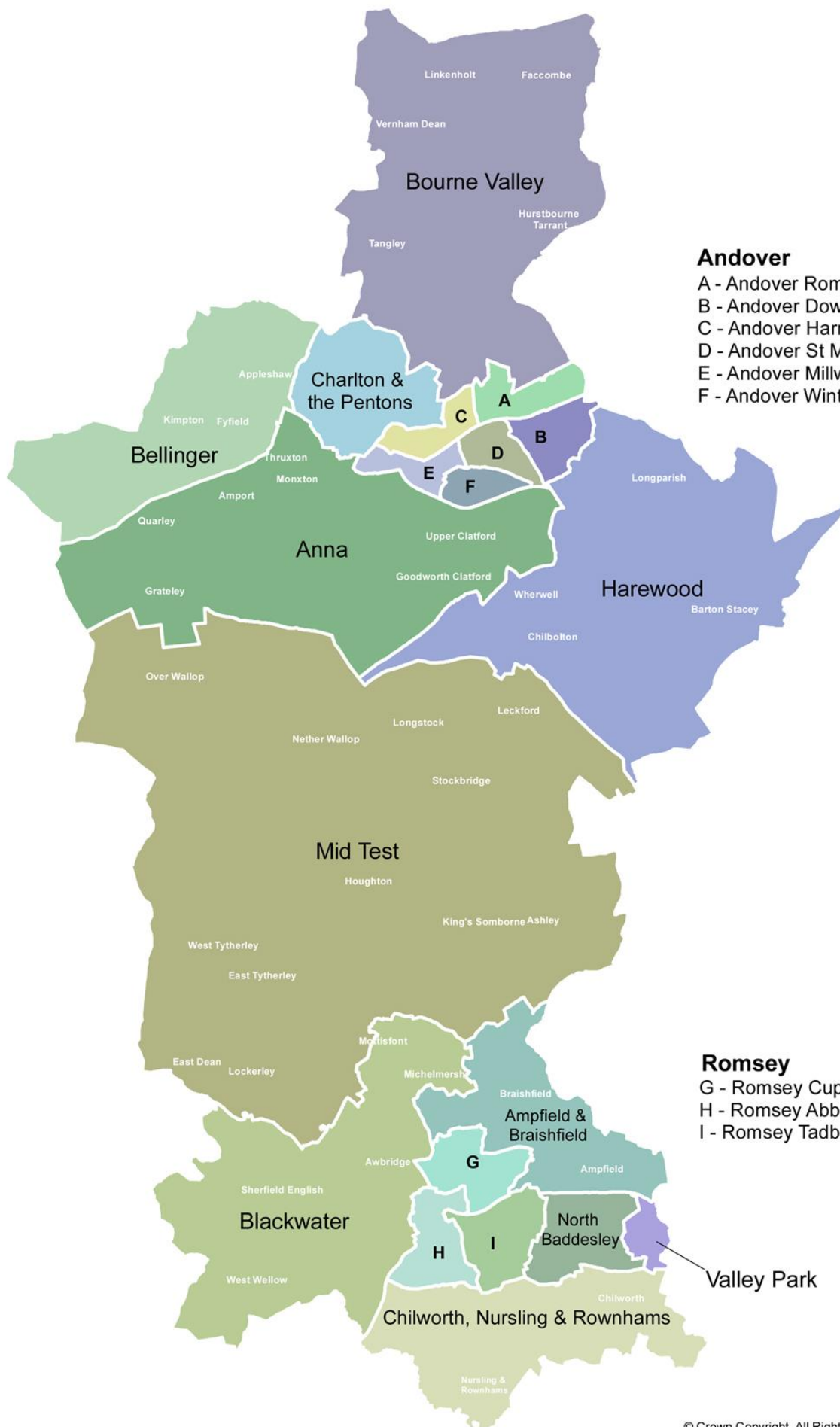


# **Equality information**

**March 2021**



**Andover**

- A - Andover Romans
- B - Andover Downlands
- C - Andover Harroway
- D - Andover St Mary's
- E - Andover Millway
- F - Andover Winton

**Romsey**

- G - Romsey Cupernham
- H - Romsey Abbey
- I - Romsey Tadburn

# Equality information

## Our duties under the Equality Act 2010

We are required to publish information that demonstrates our compliance with the Equality Duty as defined by the Equality Act 2010. This means that we have to show that we have had, in the exercise of our functions, **due regard** to the need to:

- **eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation and any other conduct that is prohibited under the Act;**
- **advance equality of opportunity between people who share a relevant protected characteristic and people who do not share it;**
- **foster good relations between people who share a relevant protected characteristic and those who do not share it.**

These are sometimes referred to as the three aims of the public sector equality duty.

Having **due regard** for advancing equality involves:

- removing or minimising disadvantages suffered by people due to their protected characteristics;
- taking steps to meet the needs of people from protected groups where these are different from the needs of other people;
- encouraging people from protected groups to participate in public life or in other activities where their participation is disproportionately low.

We have to demonstrate that we considered how the decisions we make and the services we deliver affect people who share different protected characteristics:

- age;
- disability;
- gender reassignment;
- sex (gender);
- sexual orientation;
- religion or belief (includes lack of belief);
- race;
- pregnancy and maternity;
- marriage and civil partnership.

There is no explicit legal requirement to collect and use equality information across all the protected characteristics, but in order to have due regard to the aims of the public sector equality duty, we must understand the impact of our policies and decision on people with

different protected characteristics. Collecting and analysing equality information is an important way to develop this understanding.

We must publish relevant information by 30 March each year. We must include information about our employees and people affected by our policies and practices (for example, service users). The information should be accessible to the public and does not have to be published in a separate document.

## **Setting the scene in Test Valley**

The Council is committed to ensuring equality of opportunity for all. As a service provider and an employer we are committed to ensuring fair treatment and equal access to our services, to information and to employment. This means that everyone can expect the same standards of treatment, regardless of their gender, disability, race, ethnic or national origin, age, religion or belief, or sexual orientation.

As a public body we will:

- ensure equality of opportunity for all;
- ensure fair treatment for everyone;
- ensure equal access to services, to information and to employment;
- eliminate unlawful discrimination on grounds of gender, disability, race, ethnic or national origin, age, religion or belief, or sexual orientation for our employees and for service users;
- promote good relations between different groups and individuals within our community;
- ensure quality services for everyone in the community.

As of May 2019, the Council has been following its latest Corporate Plan 2019-2023: *Growing Our Potential*. All commitments made in the current Corporate Plan to equality and diversity will be continued and strengthened over the next three years through our equality objectives. Our vision is to be an organisation of excellence committed to improving the quality of life of all the people in Test Valley. The vision is underpinned by our values: *We value diversity, promote equality of opportunity for all and ensure that our services are accessible to everyone in Test Valley*

Inclusiveness is woven into the fabric of the Corporate Plan. Our communities told us what was important to them and we have developed our Plan accordingly, in order to respond to their most pressing concerns whilst ensuring that we meet the needs of individuals and groups in our communities.

## A snapshot of diversity in Test Valley

<p><b>Gender</b></p>	<p>According to forecasted data 51.8% of Test Valley residents are women and 48.2% are men.<sup>1</sup></p> <p>36%* of Test Valley Borough Councillors are women and three of the eight (37.5%) Cabinet members are female.</p> <p><i>*Test Valley Borough Council currently has a membership of 39 councillors. There are currently four councillor vacancies due for election in May 2021.</i></p>
<p><b>Age – Older</b></p>	<p>According to the Hampshire County Council Small Area Population Forecast for 2021<sup>1</sup>:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 23.4% of the Test Valley population is over 65.</li> <li>• 55.0% of over 65s are women and 45.0% of over 65s are men.</li> <li>• 64.0% of over 85s are women and 36.0% of over 85s are men.</li> </ul> <p>These figures reflect wider trends of an ageing population and women typically living longer than men. This has implications for services such as benefits, social services, leisure provision and transport for the older population.</p>
<p><b>Age – Younger</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 18.9% of Test Valley residents are 15 years of age and under.</li> <li>• 48.8% of those aged 15 and under are girls and 51.2% are boys.<sup>1</sup></li> </ul>
<p><b>Ethnicity</b></p>	<p>According to the 2011 Census, 92.6% of the population in Test Valley is White British, with 7.4% of the population from Black and Minority Ethnic backgrounds.</p> <p>72 different languages are spoken in Test Valley schools, and 10% of pupils have English as an additional language.<sup>2</sup></p>
<p><b>Gypsies and Travellers</b></p>	<p>Very little data is available regarding the number of Gypsies and Travellers in the borough at any one time. The latest EMTAS figures record 22 children from Gypsy/Roma ethnic backgrounds in Test Valley schools.<sup>2</sup></p> <p>At the time of the 2011 Census, there were 153 people who identified as White Gypsies living in the borough.</p>

All data is taken from the ONS 2011 Census unless otherwise stated.

1. Hampshire Small Area Population Forecast, accessed March 2021 - Hampshire County Environment Department's 2018 based Small Area Population Forecasts

<sup>2</sup> EMTAS Spring Survey and Spring Traveller Questionnaire, Hampshire County Council. Accessed March 2021.

<https://documents.hants.gov.uk/education/emtas/DistrictBooklet-TestValley.pdf>

<b>Disability</b>	In 2011, there were 2,047 people with a disability or long-term illness living in Test Valley.
<b>Religion</b>	<p>67.8% of people living in Test Valley have a religious belief or faith, whilst 25.1% claimed to have no religion (7.1% of people declined to specify).</p> <p>Of those who professed a religious belief, 96.9% said they were Christian.</p> <p>0.6% of people with a religious faith are followers of Islam, the second largest religious group in Test Valley.</p>
<b>LGBT</b>	<p>There are no statistics available about the number of gay and lesbian residents in the borough. Stonewall estimates that there are 3.7 million lesbian, gay or bisexual people in the UK, which is 5.8% of the population.</p> <p>The 2011 Census records 136 same-sex civil partnerships in the borough. On 17 July 2013 the government passed the Marriages (Same Sex Couples) Act, and the first same-sex marriages took place on 29 March 2014. Currently there is no data available which shows the number of same-sex marriages in the borough, but across England and Wales a total of 6932 marriages were formed between same sex couples in 2017, a slight decrease of 1.2% from 2016. Of these, 56% were between female couples and 44% were between male couples. In contrast, statistics on civil partnerships show that almost two-thirds (66%) of all civil partnerships formed in 2017 were between men.<sup>3</sup></p> <p>Similarly, there are no reliable statistics for transgender people within Test Valley. A 2018 report published by the Government Equalities Office states that there is 'no robust data on the UK trans population exists' although they estimate that there are approximately 200,000-500,000 trans people in the UK<sup>4</sup>.</p>
<b>Socio-economic</b>	Most of the 20 wards within Test Valley are not considered to be deprived, according to the Indices of Multiple Deprivation 2019. However, Andover Harroway ward has one area which is classified

<sup>3</sup>ONS Marriages in England and Wales. Accessed March 2021.

<https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/birthsdeathsandmarriages/marriagecohabitationandcivilpartnerships/bulletins/marriagesinenglandandwalesprovisional/2016>

<sup>4</sup> Government Equalities Office.

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/721642/GEO-LGBT-factsheet.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/721642/GEO-LGBT-factsheet.pdf)

	<p>as suffering from deprivation and falls amongst the 20% most deprived areas in England.<sup>5</sup></p> <p>2.5% of economically active people in Test Valley are unemployed, compared with 4.2% in Great Britain as a whole.<sup>6</sup></p>
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<sup>5</sup> The English Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD) 2019. Accessed March 2021:  
[http://dclgapps.communities.gov.uk/imd/iod\\_index.html](http://dclgapps.communities.gov.uk/imd/iod_index.html)

<sup>6</sup> Nomis, 2019 Labour market profile. Accessed March 2021  
[https://www.nomisweb.co.uk/reports/lmp/la/1946157309/report.aspx?town=test valley#tabeinact](https://www.nomisweb.co.uk/reports/lmp/la/1946157309/report.aspx?town=test%20valley#tabeinact)

