

Blackwell Parish Council	
Recruitment Policy	
Date approved:	Review Date:

Introduction

The intention of the recruitment policy is to ensure that the Council can attract and retain high calibre employees into relevant job vacancies.

The Council will use this policy in conjunction with the equalities policy and all other relevant legislation. The Council recognises the advantages of recruiting individuals with specialist knowledge and experience of local needs.

The selection process will be carried out according to objective, job-related criteria. The Council will ensure that, through appropriate training, people making selection decisions will not discriminate, whether consciously or unconsciously, in making selection decisions.

All stages of the selection process will focus on the needs of the job as defined in the job description and person specification together with the skills needed to perform effectively. The Clerk and Councillors sitting on a selection panel will ensure that questions they ask of job applicants are not discriminatory or unnecessarily intrusive.

It is the Council's practice to agree with the successful candidate to seek two written references and to ask for documentary proof of qualifications.

Recruitment and Selection Process

The Clerk is responsible for employee recruitment in conjunction with councillors.

Before embarking upon the selection process, the Clerk should have the relevant authority from the Council, an updated job description and an accurate person specification.

Councillors who are selected by the Council to form the interview panel, will preside over the whole selection process.

If any Councillor finds they personally know any of the applicants, they should declare an interest and withdraw from the selection process.

Advertisements will be placed appropriately to allow exposure to all sectors of the community.

Candidates invited to interview will be given where possible at least one week's notice, unless the proposed date(s) for interview are on the job advert.

Unsuccessful candidates will be contacted either by phone, e-mail or letter as soon as practicably possible after the decision has been made.

Reserve candidates may be kept 'on hold' for a period of time, and should be notified of the delay in finalising the outcome of the process.

Job Descriptions

Each job will have an up-to-date job description that accurately reflects the job requirements.

Job descriptions should be written in a clear and concise manner.

All job descriptions will be reviewed by the Council prior to the commencement of the recruitment action.

Person Specification

A person specification will be prepared for every job description reflecting the skills and qualities required to undertake the job.

Person specifications will be reviewed by the Council prior to the recruitment action.

Criteria contained in the specification should be strictly relevant to the requirements of the job. The criteria should not be unnecessarily restrictive, so as to exclude any qualified individuals from applying.

All stated requirements must be clearly justifiable in terms of the principal function of the job (e.g. literacy, numeracy, qualifications, age and any educational level required).

Attracting a Field of Applicants

Advertisements should be approved by the Council prior to being published.

Advertisements must be clear and unambiguous, so that applicants will be able to determine their own suitability.

Short-listing

Short listing must only be based on the information contained in the application form and any covering letter, using the person specification and the job description as assessment criteria.

The criteria for short listing must be consistently applied to all applicants.

The application form should not be used as a test of literacy unless a high standard of literacy is required as a genuine requirement of the job.

If academic qualifications are one of the criteria for initial selection, they should not be unnecessarily high for the particular job.

There should be no unnecessary or unreasonable restrictions on the numbers to be short-listed.

Selection Interview

The Council will seek to ensure that at least three people sit on an interview panel. If recruiting a member of staff other than the Clerk, the Clerk will be able to be a member of the panel.

Interviewers must keep adequate notes of the interview in order to be able to make a fair comparison between candidates. This will be recorded on an interview report form.

In determining whether or not a candidate is to be progressed to the next stage, interviewers may only consider factors relevant to the job requirements. Reasons for unsuccessful candidates should be recorded.

All application forms and interview notes should be kept for six months after the end of recruitment. If any member of an interview panel feels that discrimination has occurred in the selection process, the matter must be reported immediately to the Chairman of the Panel/Council. No selection decision should be made until the issue is resolved.

Candidates from BAME backgrounds should not be asked questions that could be seen as directly or indirectly discriminatory, e.g. questions which test their understanding of 'U.K. Customs'. Neither should their fluency in the English language be used as a selection criterion unless it is a bona fide requirement of the job.

Informal interviews must not take place unless they are clearly part of the approved or agreed selection process for all short-listed candidates.

Letters of Appointment

The appointment letter should also be accompanied by a second copy, which the applicant is required to sign and return to indicate acceptance of the job offered, which will be retained in the Council's personnel records.

Unsuccessful candidate letters should indicate to candidates the name and contact details of the person to contact if further information or feedback is required. Reasons for non-selection should be given to candidates if requested.

All appointments will be subject to receiving two satisfactory references, one of which should be from the most recent Employer or educational institution. If satisfactory references are not received, the Council may withdraw from the employment offer or terminate the employment relationship. This should be made clear in the appointment letter.

References for Departing Staff

When providing references for departing staff the Council will adopt the following criteria:

- The Council will only respond to references requested in writing, and will only respond following confirmation with the employee concerned. All References will be treated with confidentiality.
- The Council will comply with all its statutory obligations under current Data Protection requirements and all other relevant legislation concerned with the storage, processing and distribution of personal data. Personal Data will only be released following receipt of written confirmation from an Employee that they are happy and willing to provide personal data to third parties.
- The Council will not supply open references for departing employees, or provide references solely by telephone.
- The Council is under no statutory, or other form, of obligation to provide a reference to any current or ex-employee of the Council.
- In the event that a reference is provided, it is the Council's duty to ensure that it provides an honest, true and factual employment reference given in an objective, impartial and unbiased manner.
- Whilst every effort will be made to ensure that a reference is provided in an objective, factual and accurate manner, the Council does not accept liability for any perceived omissions, faults or inaccuracies which an employee may feel are contained within a reference provided by the Council.

Records

All records of job applicants and interview notes should be kept for a minimum of 12 months. These must be held in accordance with current Data Protection requirements.

Retention and Development

The Council's objective is to ensure all staff remain satisfied and motivated in the working environment. Regular opportunities will be made available for all employees to input into working practices and to provide business updates. Opportunities will also be made available for staff to access relevant training and development courses which will enhance their skills and abilities to perform their roles with the Council.

In addition, personal progress will be discussed, along with the individual's requirements to further enhance their work and working environment, at annual performance appraisal interviews.

All staff who decide to leave the Council will receive an exit interview. The results of the interview can be used as feedback into the business to enhance service provision staff retention.

To be reviewed annually.

This policy is fully supported by the members of Blackwell Parish Council	
Signed by	Chairman, Blackwell Parish Council
Date	