

8. Accessibility

We have a clear responsibility to ensure that all web content is accessible to all, in line with the Authority's commitment to equalities.

Simple navigation, clear site structure, meaningful terminology, and multiple access routes to the same information are all employed to help users find and interpret information quickly and easily. Download times are kept to a minimum to assist users with low spec technology.

The internet can play a key role in tackling social exclusion, providing opportunities for information access and communication to people with a learning or physical disability. The Disability Discrimination Act applies to all information and services provided on a website. Many blind people use screen readers – an example of 'assistive technology' - to help them interpret web pages. The site is programmed to support this technology.

The site is developed to comply with [WAI Level AA](#) and **all** content should adhere to this standard. As part of the Authority's commitment to equalities, there is a longer-term aim to conform with [RNIB's](#) See it Right initiative. Validation tools are used to check for accessibility on a continuous basis.

Font size is designed to enable users increase or decrease the size by changing their browser settings.

Font type is Verdana for easy reading.

Font style - Capital letters are generally harder to read than lower case so capitals should not be used for continuous text. Similarly Italics are not permitted.

Colour Contrast

The contrast between the background and the type is critically important. The better the contrast, the more legible it is hence the use of black text on a white background to display the majority of content. Colour must not be used to convey information or meaning.

Navigational aids

A number of navigation aids to help people work their way around the site are provided. Recurring features such as site navigation, breadcrumb trails and headings are always in the same place and same style.

Links

Where a link is provided to another web page or a downloadable document:

- a link to the Access Adobe site must be provided
- meaningful link text must be provided
- an appropriate logo (eg PDF, Word) must be provided.

Where a link opens in a new browser window (restricted to when a small window is required) eg maps, terms & conditions, help, this must be clearly stated on the page.