

Why do we ask so many questions?

Information about equalities monitoring



Most forms we fill in these days have some kind of monitoring questionnaire attached to them. But why do we have to answer questions about our age, race, disability, gender, sexuality and religion? Isn't it a bit intrusive?

Different people have different needs

The council can't assume that what suits one set of people will suit everyone. We need to know who makes up our communities and what they need from council services.

For example, if we were making changes to improve a local park that is used mostly by older people and dog walkers, it wouldn't make sense to spend public money on a new children's climbing frame.

Asking questions to find out more about the people using council services helps us to target resources at the people and places that really need it.

But are the questions we ask always relevant?

No, not always. Whether you are male or female might not make any difference to how we process your planning application, but it might help us to design more family-friendly public toilets.

However, we cannot design a different form for every survey we issue so we ask the full set of questions every time, but always give you the option not to answer.



If you do choose to answer monitoring questions you can rest assured that the information is treated as confidential and anonymous, and only used to help improve the services we provide.

We can't improve without your help: the more we find out about who you are, the better we can make the services that matter to all of us.

Please contact us for more information. Telephone **01305 838000** or visit **www.weymouth.gov.uk**