

# Information for local councils to start preparing for the website accessibility regulations (August 2019)

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# Background

- The Public Sector Bodies (Websites and Mobile Applications) (No. 2) Accessibility Regulations 2018 came into force on the 23<sup>rd</sup> September 2018.
- Click [here](#) to view the legislation.
- This regulation impacts public sector bodies including: central government and local government organisations. Local councils are considered to be included as part of this.
- The regulations support other legal obligations, particularly the Equality Act 2010 – reasonable adjustments.

# Why this is important

- According to disability charities, there are over 13 million with a disability in the UK. This equates to around 1 in 5 of the UK population.\*
- \*Source: Scope. Click [here](#)
- GOV.UK claims that 4 in 10 local council homepages failed the basic tests for accessibility.\*
- \*Source: GOV.UK. Click [here](#)
- Accessibility is about ensuring that everyone can access to public life in the easiest way possible, including online access.

# Brief Summary of the Regulations

- Accessibility Requirement – Regulation 6: Public sector bodies must comply with the accessibility requirement. This means making their website or mobile application perceivable, operable, understandable and robust.
- Disproportionate Burden – Regulation 7: a public sector body does not have to comply with the accessibility requirement if doing so would impose a disproportionate burden on the public sector body. However this is not an excuse not to comply.

# Brief Summary of the Regulations continued

- Accessibility Statement – Regulation 8 : Public sector body must provide an accessibility statement in accordance with the model accessibility statement, and keep that statement under regular review
- Standards – Regulation 9: websites should meet the international web accessibility standard or its European equivalent

# Brief Summary of the Regulations continued

- Monitoring – Regulation 10: The Minister for the Cabinet Office must monitor the compliance by public sector bodies of their websites and mobile applications with the accessibility requirement.
- Enforcement – Regulation 11: The Equality and Human Rights Commission\* are the enforcement body for the website accessibility requirements.

# Exceptions

- Regulation 4
- The following content on websites and mobile applications do not have to comply with the website accessibility regulations:
  - ❖ Information (office files) published before 23<sup>rd</sup> September 2018, unless it is essential for the council's services
  - ❖ Third party content
  - ❖ Audio, Video
  - ❖ Heritage documents



# Timescales

- Existing websites – 23<sup>rd</sup> September 2020
- New websites created on or after 23<sup>rd</sup> September 2018 – 23<sup>rd</sup> September 2019
- All mobile apps – 23<sup>rd</sup> June 2021

# Actions

Here are some suggestions of actions you can begin to take to help you meet the website accessibility requirements.

- Contact your web provider to ensure compliance and if you need an accessibility statement.
- Look at the government guidance [here](#) to conduct a basic accessibility check.
- Make sure there is a budget in place, within the 2019/20 financial year, for any costs that may arise.
- Add important dates to your calendar (2019/2020/2021).
- Start preparing early, to avoid unnecessary panic.

# Summary

- The website accessibility requirements for public bodies came into force on the 23<sup>rd</sup> September 2018. Local councils will be impacted by this however there is no need to panic.
- These slides were produced to help you prepare. NALC and County Associations will provide information, on any developments.

# THANK YOU

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