



BRACKLEY TOWN COUNCIL

Accessibility Statement

BLANK

This statement applies to the website www.brackleynorthants-tc.gov.uk. This website is run by Brackley Town Council (with hosting provided by an external website provider). We are committed to making it accessible in accordance with the WCAG 2.2 AA standard. We want as many people as possible to be able to use this website. For example, you should be able to:

- change colours, contrast levels and fonts;
- zoom in up to 300% without the text spilling off the screen;
- navigate most of the website using just a keyboard;
- navigate most of the website using speech recognition software;
- listen to most of the website using a screen reader.

We have also designed the website content to be as clear and easy to understand as possible. Text is structured logically with headings and sections to help all users, including those using assistive technologies, navigate and comprehend information efficiently.

AbilityNet is a UK charity that helps people with disabilities use technology. They provide guidance on making devices and websites easier to use. www.abilitynet.org.uk.

This site is *partially* compliant with the WCAG 2.2 AA standard, due to the non-accessible content and exemptions detailed below

How accessible this website is

We have made the majority of the content on this website accessible in accordance with the Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG) version 2.2 at the AA standard.

All new content is created with accessibility in mind, including appropriate use of alternative text for images, accessible links, headings, and other structural elements, in line with WCAG 2.2.

However, some content is not yet fully accessible due to technical or practical limitations, legacy formats, or disproportionate resource requirements. We continue to improve accessibility where practicable, and alternative formats are available on request.

- some PDF and Word documents, particularly historic documents, may not be fully accessible to screen reader software or assistive technologies.
- interactive virtual tours do not yet include full text alternatives and may not be fully navigable using a keyboard or assistive devices.
- Some images and graphics do not have appropriate text alternatives.
- Third-party content embedded from external sources may not meet WCAG 2.2 standards.

Technical information about this website's accessibility

Brackley Town Council is committed to making its website accessible, in accordance with the Public Sector Bodies (Websites and Mobile Applications) Accessibility Regulations 2018. The website is designed to meet WCAG 2.2 AA standards wherever possible.

Non accessible content – Disproportionate burden

We strive to ensure that all new and updated content on this website meets WCAG 2.2 accessibility standards. However, some older and archived material remains non-compliant due to the scale and technical challenge of updating legacy files. We have carried out a disproportionate-burden assessment (Regulation 7, Public Sector Accessibility Regulations) and determined that fully remediating all historic content would require extensive resources (staff time, budget and technical effort) for very limited additional benefit to users. For example, fixing thousands of scans, PDFs and images would divert most of the Council's web development budget and prevent progress on other essential services. We are nevertheless committed to providing information in alternative accessible formats (e.g. large print, HTML or tagged PDFs) on request, in line with our Equality Act duty to make reasonable adjustments.

The following types of historic content are affected:

1. **News and events archives:** Hundreds of older news articles and event pages contain images and links that lack proper alt text or up-to-date markup, so they are not fully accessible. (Retrospective fixes would involve reviewing and rewriting large amounts of content, which is disproportionately resource-intensive.)
2. **Past magazine (Town Talk) editions:** PDF editions published over many years often include photographs or diagrams without descriptive alt text. Each PDF would need rework or transcription to meet WCAG 2.2, which would be very time-consuming.
3. **Event photo galleries:** Thousands of historical event photographs are displayed without individual alt descriptions. Adding meaningful alt text to each image would require significant volunteer or contractor hours.
4. **Council meetings archives:** Historic agendas, minutes and supporting documents (often scanned or PDF) frequently include embedded images or complex layouts that do not meet accessibility criteria. Remediating every past meeting record (including many multi-page PDF packs) would be a major undertaking.
5. **Finance and other legacy documents:** Older financial statements, reports and leaflets (many in PDF) contain charts or images without accessible equivalents. Overhauling all these files would far exceed available staff and budget.

6. **Other archived material:** This includes legacy content such as static maps, scanned heritage documents and third-party reports. Maps and pre-2018 documents are specifically exempt from the regulations unless needed for a service, and externally-sourced content (e.g. from partners or social media) may not be under our control. We note that, under the regulations, we are not required to update such content if doing so imposes a disproportionate burden.

While we cannot promise to fix all past content immediately, we will continue improving accessibility going forward (e.g. new content will be created with accessibility in mind). In the meantime, if you need any information from these legacy materials in a different format, please contact us and we will provide it in an accessible form. Our goal is to ensure that no one is unable to access information: any request for an alternative format will be considered a reasonable adjustment, and we will respond within a reasonable timeframe (typically within 10 business days).

This statement is made under the Public Sector Bodies (Websites and Mobile Applications) (No. 2) Accessibility Regulations 2018. We have documented our disproportionate-burden assessment as required. We have considered factors such as the Council's limited size and resources, the age and volume of the content, and the expected benefit to users. We understand that issues like lack of staff time or expertise alone cannot justify a burden claim; instead, we have identified genuine technical and cost obstacles. By providing alternative formats on request, we aim to meet our duty to make reasonable adjustments for disabled users.

Sources: UK government guidance on public-sector accessibility and disproportionate burden; example parish council accessibility statements.

What we are doing to improve accessibility

We have a rolling programme of updating the content and design of this website in accordance with the guidelines set out by the WCAG and will continue to assess and improve our accessibility based on these guidelines, user testing and user feedback.

How we tested the website

We tested this website against the Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG) version 2.2 AA standard.

Testing was carried out using a combination of automated accessibility testing tools and manual checks. These included reviewing key pages for keyboard navigation, colour contrast, heading structure, form accessibility, and compatibility with screen reader software.

We tested a representative sample of pages and content types across the website, including documents, images, and interactive features.

This website was last tested on **5 January 2026**. We carry out ongoing monitoring and review as part of our commitment to improving accessibility.

Feedback and contact information

If you need information on this website in a different format, please contact us using one of the following methods:

- **Email:** office@brackleynorthants-tc.gov.uk
- **Telephone:** 01280 702441
- **Post:** Brackley Town Council, 20 High Street, Brackley, Northants NN13 6HD

We will respond to your request and provide the information in the format you need, where possible, usually within 15 working days.

Reporting accessibility problems with this website

We're always looking to improve the accessibility of this website. If you find any problems not listed on this page or think we're not meeting accessibility requirements, please contact us using any of the means listed above.

Enforcement procedure

The Equality and Human Rights Commission (EHRC) is responsible for enforcing the Public Sector Bodies (Websites and Mobile Applications) (No. 2) Accessibility Regulations 2018 (the 'accessibility regulations'). If you are not happy with how we respond to your complaint, you can contact the Equality Advisory and Support Service (EASS) for further advice and support: [Contact Us – Equality Advisory and Support Service](#)

Preparation of this accessibility statement

This statement was prepared on 18 March 2026 and last reviewed on the same date. It was produced by Brackley Town Council officers as part of a self-assessment process, with input from our external website provider where relevant. The assessment included both automated and manual testing of representative pages.

We review this statement regularly to ensure it remains accurate and up to date, at least quarterly or after significant website changes. Previous versions of this statement are archived to maintain a clear record of updates, and the final version is approved internally. Alternative formats of the statement are available on request.