

## AT A GLANCE

### *Equity*

#### Definition

In the context of sustainable communities the term Equity relates to:

- Being inclusive and fair to all, regardless of people's gender, religion, ethnic origin, race, age etc.
- All people throughout a community, in a village, town or city having similar rights and opportunities and basic needs to maintain a good quality of life.
- The needs of future generations being taken into consideration in current decisions and actions.
- The fairness of relationships between people, groups of people and generations of people.
- All people, regardless of race, income, sex, age or disability being treated equally, appropriately and having the same opportunities.

Equitable communities provide opportunities for everyone to participate in all activities, benefits and decisions; they consider how their choices affect current residents and how they will affect future generations. Equity is not one of the themes included in the Egan Review but has been included in IGNITE because it is an important concept for sustainable communities, as has been discussed above.

#### How is the theme reflected in IGNITE?

The Equity theme has 7 sub themes, as follows:

- **Advice**

This concerns an opinion which someone offers people about what you should do or how you should act in a particular situation. The Citizens Advice Bureau, for example, offers free advice and information service to help people resolve legal, money or other problems.

- **Equal opportunities and diversity**

This includes treating all people equally and not being influenced by a person's gender, religion, race, disability, age, marital status or ethnic origin for example.

- **Civil and human rights**

Civil rights: this relates to the rights that each person has in a society, whatever their race, sex or religion

Human rights: this relates to the basic rights which it is generally considered all people should have, such as justice and the freedom of expression.

- **Inclusive design**  
This relates to the design of products, information and environments that can be used by all people, to the greatest extent possible.
- **Rural Communities**  
This refers to communities within the countryside, situated a distance from main cities. Government defines rural areas on the basis of density of population and includes settlements with a population under 10,000.
- **Urban Communities**  
This refers to a city or town; these are usually built up and have a highly dense population.
- **Social inclusion**  
This concerns the reduction of inequalities between the least advantaged groups and communities and the rest of society by closing the opportunity gap and ensuring that support reaches those who need it most.

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