

COWES TOWN COUNCIL



Website Accessibility Statement

Accessibility statement for <https://www.cowestowncouncil.org.uk>

This accessibility statement applies to <https://www.cowestowncouncil.org.uk>.

This website is run by Cowes Town Council. We want as many people as possible to be able to use this website. For example, that means you should be able to:

- change colours, contrast levels and fonts using browser or device settings
- zoom in up to 400% without the text spilling off the screen
- navigate most of the website using a keyboard or speech recognition software
- listen to most of the website using a screen reader (including the most recent versions of JAWS, NVDA and VoiceOver)

We've also made the website text as simple as possible to understand.

[AbilityNet](#) has advice on making your device easier to use if you have a disability.

How accessible this website is

We aim to meet the [World Wide Web Consortium \(W3C\) Web Content Accessibility Guidelines \(WCAG\) 2.2](#) at AA level.

We know some parts of this website are not fully accessible:

- you cannot modify the line height or spacing of text
- most older PDF documents are not fully accessible to screen reader software
- live video streams do not have captions
- you cannot skip to the main content when using a screen reader
- there's a limit to how far you can magnify the map on our 'contact us' page

Feedback and contact information

If you find any problems not listed on this page or think we're not meeting accessibility requirements, contact Cowes Town Council, details below.

If you need information on this website in a different format like accessible PDF, large print, easy read, audio recording or braille:

- Email us at townclerk@cowestowncouncil.org.uk
- Phone us on 01983 209022
- Send via post to Town Clerk, Cowes Town Council, Northwood House, Ward Avenue, Cowes, Isle of Wight, PO31 8AZ

We'll consider your request and get back to you within 15 working days.

If you cannot view the map on our '[contact us](#)' page, call or email us for directions.

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're not happy with how we respond to your complaint, contact the [Equality Advisory and Support Service](#) (EASS).

Technical information about this website's accessibility

Cowes Town Council is committed to making its website accessible, in accordance with the Public Sector Bodies (Websites and Mobile Applications) (No. 2) Accessibility Regulations 2018.

Compliance status

The website has been tested against the [Web Content Accessibility Guidelines \(WCAG\) 2.2 AA standard](#).

This website is not compliant with the Web Content Accessibility Guidelines version 2.2 AA standard. The non-compliances and exemptions are listed below.

Non-accessible content

The content listed below is non-accessible for the following reasons.

Non-compliance with the accessibility regulations

Some images do not have a text alternative, so people using a screen reader cannot access the information. This fails WCAG 2.2 success criterion 1.1.1 (non-text content).

When we publish new content we'll make sure our use of images meets accessibility standards.

Text contrast

Some text has a contrast ratio between text and the background colour below 4.5:1.

Buttons contrast

Some buttons have a contrast ratio between the button and the background colours below 3:1.

Text size

Some header and footer text size has been identified as very small. This will be resolved when the website is re-designed

Navigation and accessing information

There's no way to skip the repeated content in the page header.

It's not always possible to change the device orientation from horizontal to vertical without making it more difficult to view the content.

It's not possible for users to change text size without some of the content overlapping.

PDFs and other documents

The accessibility regulations do not require us to fix PDFs or other documents published before 23 September 2018 if they're not essential to providing our services.

Any new PDFs or Word documents we publish will meet accessibility standards.

Preparation of this accessibility statement

This statement was prepared on 29 January 2026.

This website was last tested on 11 December 2024 by self-assessment against the WCAG 2.2 AA standard.

We used this approach to decide on a sample of pages to test with static content, links and pictures using the [WAVE web accessibility evaluation tool](#).

We tested our main website platform, available at <https://www.cowestowncouncil.org.uk>

What we're doing to improve accessibility

We plan to improve accessibility on this website when it is re-designed.

This statement was adopted on 16 July 2020. (Minute No. 8110 refers)

Reviewed 2 September 2021 (Minute No. 8353 refers)

Reviewed 1 September 2022 (Minute No. 8561 refers)

Reviewed 7 September 2023 (Minute No. 8776 refers)

Reviewed 5 September 2024 (Minute No. 8994 refers)

Reviewed and Amended 6 February 2025 (Minute No. 9097 refers)

Reviewed 5 February 2026 (Minute No. 9317 refers)