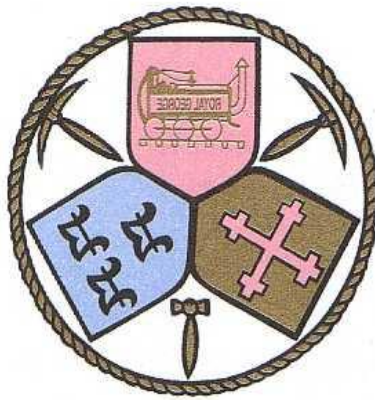


SHILDON TOWN COUNCIL



Annual Leave Policy

ANNUAL LEAVE POLICY

Statement

Employees are entitled to the annual leave set out in their Contract of Employment and are required to take their leave during the relevant leave year to help ensure an effective work-life balance. However, annual leave arrangements are subject to prior approval by Managers, who must take into account the operational needs of the Council.

Purpose

The purpose of the Procedure is to ensure annual leave is managed fairly and consistently across the Council, with due regard to the operational needs of each service area, and to inform employees of the procedure for applying for and approving annual leave.

Annual Leave Guidelines

- The Council's leave year runs from 1st April to 31st March.
- The following notice would normally be required for annual leave:
 - 1-2 days Three days notice But left at Managers' discretion
 - 3-5 days Seven days notice
 - 6 or more days Three weeks notice
- Requests for annual leave should be made no more than 12 months in advance of the planned leave.
- The maximum single period of leave, under normal circumstances, will be two weeks. Requests for longer periods of leave will require the approval of the Town Clerk.
- All leave should be taken within the relevant leave year. If exceptional circumstances apply, approval of the Town Clerk must be obtained.
- Subject to the above, and the provisions of the Council's Sick Pay Scheme, any **untaken leave will be lost** and employees **will not be entitled to pay in lieu of untaken holidays**.
- Annual leave should be planned over the year and not 'saved' until the end of the financial year.

- In some years, employees will be required to retain annual leave for use during any period of Council close down e.g. Christmas and New Year period. Employees will be notified of this as soon as practicable, and by no later than October of that year.
- Every effort will be made to accommodate requests for annual leave. However, during peak operating periods or when planned major events are taking place, approval of leave requests will be at the Manager's discretion.
- Where multiple requests are received in the same operational area for leave during the same period – e.g. factory summer break – it may not be possible to approve all requests. In such circumstances, approval will be granted on the basis of the date the request is received. In subsequent years where the same employees request the same period, a rota arrangement will be applied.
- The operational needs of the service must be given priority over any annual leave requests.
- Any leave taken without the prior approval of the Manager will be classed as unauthorised absence and may result in pay being withheld.
- Employees must advise their Manager of any changes. This includes changes to dates of holiday plans in advance of such changes. This includes changes to dates of holidays which will require further management approval and cancellation of a planned holiday which may require further management approval and cancellation of a planned holiday which may require consequent changes to holiday relief cover arrangements.

Procedure for Obtaining Approval of Annual Leave

The employee's Manager must approve all annual leave in advance. Members of staff wishing to take annual leave should follow the procedure set out below:

- All requests for annual leave should be made in writing on the annual leave form, at the earliest reasonable opportunity.
- The Manager will consider the application, having regard to the needs of the service and leave already in place before a final decision is made.
- Only on receipt of a signed leave form, authorised by the Manager, should the member of staff commit him or herself to any leave plans, particularly where a deposit has to be paid.
- When approval has been granted, the annual leave form should be completed, signed by the Manager and forwarded to the Administration Section, Council Offices.

- If leave is refused, the Manager will notify the member of staff immediately.
- It is the responsibility of the employee to keep their own personal holiday card up-to-date.

If an employee wishes to make a complaint regarding the application of the procedure, they should do so according to the provisions of the Council's Grievance Procedure.