

**Council: Tuesday, 16 July 2013**

**Non Executive Business Item:** Councillor Brian Coleman

Same Sex Marriage Bill

Council notes the "Same Sex Marriage Bill" currently going through Parliament. Whilst confirming its commitment to equality the Council also supports traditional marriage. Whilst containing "opt outs" for the Church of England and other religious bodies, the Council regrets that this proposed legislation contains no protection for Council staff who for reasons of conscience do not wish to conduct "same sex marriage ceremonies.

The Council calls on the Acting Chief Executive to write to the Secretary of State at the DCMS calling for such protection for staff to be inserted in the Bill during its progress in the House of Lords.