

BEARSTED PARISH COUNCIL
EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES POLICY
Document Reference – BPC_POL06

Version History & Change Control

Version	Release Date	Distribution	Notes	Adopted?	Date Adopted
1.0	9 th May 2016	Full Council	For adoption at Full Council meeting 10 th May 2016		

Document Sign Off and Adoption

Signed off for Adoption by Councillor 1:

Name: _____

Position: _____

Signature: _____

Date: _____

Signed off for Adoption by Councillor 2:

Name: _____

Position: _____

Signature: _____

Date: _____

Adoption Witnessed by the Clerk to Bearsted Parish Council:

Name: _____

Signature: _____

Date: _____

1. LEGAL POSITION

It is unlawful to discriminate against an individual on the following grounds:

- **age**
- **disability**
- **gender reassignment**
- **marriage and civil partnership**
- **pregnancy and maternity**
- **race**
- **religion or belief**
- **sex**
- **sexual orientation**

Under the Equality Act 2010 these are known as “protected characteristics”.

2. PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to provide equal opportunities to all employees, irrespective of their characteristics (unless there are genuine occupational qualifications or objectively justified reasons for a different approach to be taken). We oppose all forms of unlawful and unfair discrimination whether it is direct or indirect discrimination, victimisation or harassment on the grounds of any of the protected characteristics defined in the Equality Act 2010.

3. SCOPE

All employees whether full-time, part-time, fixed term contract, agency workers or temporary staff, will be treated fairly and equally. Selection for employment, promotion, training, remuneration or any other benefit will be on the basis of aptitude and ability. All employees will be helped and encouraged to develop their full potential and the talents and resources of the workforce will be fully utilised to maximise the efficiency of the council.

4. OUR COMMITMENT

Every employee is entitled to a working environment that promotes dignity and respect to all. No form of intimidation, bullying or harassment will be tolerated.

The commitment to equal opportunities in the workplace is good management practice and makes sound business sense as it seeks to utilise the talents available from the local community, representing Society as a whole.

Breaches of our equal opportunities policy will be regarded as serious misconduct and could lead to disciplinary proceedings. Employees are entitled to complain about discrimination or harassment or victimisation through the council's Grievance procedure.

This policy is fully supported by all Members of the Parish Council and adopts the model contract as devised by the employee professional body in the local government sector (the Society of Local Council Clerks).

The policy will be monitored and reviewed annually. Other Personnel policies will be reviewed against the values stated in this main Equal Opportunities policy to ensure that the council strives to remain an Equal Opportunities employer.

This policy will be implemented within the framework of the relevant legislation, which includes:

- Equal Pay Act 1970
- Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974
- Sex Discrimination Act 1975
- Gender Reassignment Regulations 1999
- Race Relations (Amendment) Act 2000
- Disability Discrimination Act 1995
- The Protection from Harassment Act 1997