



GREAT BARTON PARISH COUNCIL **EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES & DIVERSITY POLICY**

Introduction

Gt Barton Parish Council is committed to providing and promoting equal opportunities, elimination of discrimination and encouraging diversity in the Community.

Gt Barton Parish Council aims to create a culture that respects and values each other's differences and which promotes dignity, equality and diversity.

An up-to-date copy of this policy shall be maintained on Gt Barton Parish Council's website.

1. Statement on Equal Opportunities

- a) Great Barton Parish Council is committed to the principle of equal opportunities and declares its opposition to any form of less favourable treatment, whether through direct or indirect discrimination accorded to the general public including on the grounds of their race, religious beliefs, creed, colour, disability, ethnic origin, nationality, marital/parental status, sex or sexual orientation, age or political opinion.
- b) Great Barton Parish Council recognises its obligations under the Equality Act 2010. This act requires equal treatment in access to employment as well as private and public services, regardless of the protected characteristics of age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, race, religion or belief, sex and sexual orientation.
- c) Great Barton Parish Council, recognises its obligations under the Sex Discrimination Acts, Race Relations Act and Disability Discrimination Act and the spirit and intent of the related Codes of Practice:
 - i. for the elimination of discrimination on grounds of sex or marital status and the promotion of equality of opportunity in employment;
 - ii. for the elimination of discrimination on grounds of race and the promotion of equality of opportunity in employment;
 - iii. for the elimination of discrimination on the grounds of disability and the promotion of equality of opportunity in employment.

2. General Practices

- a) Great Barton Parish Council states its wholehearted support for the principles and practices of equal opportunity and recognises that it is the duty of all councillors and employees to accept

their personal responsibility for fostering a fully integrated community at work by adhering to the principles of equal opportunity and maintaining racial harmony.

- b) Great Barton Parish Council will actively promote equal opportunities throughout the organisation through the application of policies which will ensure that individuals receive treatment that is fair and equitable and consistent with their relevant aptitudes, potential, skills, experiences and abilities. The Clerk will seek to ensure that all employees comply with these principles.
- c) Great Barton Parish Council will ensure that individuals are recruited and selected, promoted and trained on objective criteria having regard to the relevant aptitudes, potential, skills, experiences and abilities. In particular, no applicant will be placed at a disadvantage by requirements or conditions which are not necessary to the performance of the job or which constitute indirect unfair discrimination. Reasonable adjustments will be taken where a disabled person is put in a detrimental position and such reasonable adjustments remove the detriment.
- d) Great Barton Parish Council recognises the problems that sexual or racial harassment may cause at work and is committed to ensure that such unacceptable behaviour does not take place. All such cases will be dealt with under the appropriate Grievance and Disciplinary Procedure.
- e) Great Barton Parish Council recognises that the detriment a disabled person endures as a consequence of their disability can, in many instances, be removed by the adoption of reasonable adjustments. Great Barton Parish Council is committed to ensure that such adjustments will be affected where reasonably practicable and where the detriment is substantial.

3. Training and Advertising

- a) Great Barton Parish Council will train, develop and promote on the basis of merit and ability only.
- b) When vacancies are advertised both internally and externally, the Parish Council will continue to ensure that such advertising, both in placement and content, is compatible with the terms of this Policy. All recruitment and selection documentation should be retained for one year and will clearly record the reasons for an appointment.
- c) To this end, "word of mouth" advertising, personal contacts and family relationships will be discouraged as the only means of recruiting new staff or promoting existing staff.

4. Communication

- a) The principles in this Policy will be brought to the attention of all councillors and staff.
- b) All councillors and employees are encouraged to bring to the attention of the Clerk any act of discrimination they observe.
- c) Councillors and employees who are newly disabled are encouraged to bring this to the attention of the clerk to enable a review of their treatment to be made. This review will include an assessment of physical features and arrangements to ensure that these do not place the disabled person at a substantial disadvantage. Where they do, then adjustments will be affected where reasonable to do so.
- d) 4. Great Barton Parish Council will welcome and consider fully any constructive criticism or suggestion from any group or individual as to how this policy may be improved or more effectively implemented.

5. Sexual and Racial Harassment

- a) Sexual and racial harassment are both forms of unlawful sex and racial discrimination and as a consequence is unlawful behaviour. It is also improper and inappropriate behaviour which lowers morale and interferes with the effectiveness of people at work.
- b) It is the policy of this organisation to make every effort to provide an environment free from sexual or racial harassment and intimidation.
- c) All councillors and employees are expected to comply with the policy and to ensure that such conduct does not occur. Appropriate disciplinary action including summary dismissal for serious offences will be taken against any employee who violates this policy.

2. Volunteers, Partners and Client Services

- a) Great Barton Parish Council intends to act with due regard to this policy and with due regard for the law.
- b) Great Barton Parish Council will encourage everyone with whom it works to act in a manner which is supportive of our principles.
- c) Great Barton Parish Council will work with due concern for vulnerable groups such as children or mentally disabled people and take advice whenever appropriate. It will consult with representatives of groups possibly subject to discrimination and act on such advice whenever appropriate.

Great Barton Parish Council adopted this policy on 20th April 2009.

Date	Changes made
11.11.19	Introduction added, policy streamlined by excluding the examples within the subsections and name change to include 'diversity'.

Reviewed August 2025