

# **Malmesbury Town Council**



## **Environment and Climate Protection Policy DRAFT**

Author: SUP (Environment and Climate Protection) Steering Group

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## **Policy Statement**

Malmesbury Town Council are committed to protecting the health and wellbeing of our local environment and beyond. We acknowledge that non-recyclable single use plastics (SUPs) are a threat to our wildlife and environment on a local, national and global scale and Malmesbury Town Council further acknowledges the global climate emergency, which has been declared by the UK Government and by Wiltshire Council.

Malmesbury Town Council recognises its obligation to take such steps as are necessary and practicable, to limit any detrimental impact it has on the immediate local and wider environment and on the global climate.

The Council aims to ensure its staff and Councillors keep abreast of and use, peer reviewed scientific data to underpin the actions it takes in order to limit its impact on the environment and climate.

The Council will ensure these principles inform the way the it delivers contracts, engages services and conducts its events and day to day business.

The Council is also committed to supporting and encouraging residents and community groups, to take such actions as are necessary and practicable, to limit their detrimental impact on the environment and the global climate. In order to do this, the Council is committed to consulting with residents, to better understand how it can support in this work.

### **Introduction**

1. This policy sets out the ways in which the Council's environmental and climate protection obligations will be met
2. The areas included are:
  - Forming a Sub-committee, which will report to the Policy and Resources Committee
  - Assessing current practice in relation to environmental and climate protection
  - Education and awareness
  - Making recommendations for action
  - Future contracts
  - Future services
  - Future procedures
  - Resources and Constraints
  - Community consultation
  - Community support
  - Policy review and efficacy

### **Forming a sub-committee**

3. A sub-committee, formed of serving Councillors, should be tasked with facilitating the assessment of the Council's current practice, providing a focal point for support and encouragement for community organisations wishing to engage and work with the Council on the implementation of this policy, and identifying and making recommendations for action, which will be reported and agreed with to P&R and Full Council as appropriate.

#### **Assessment and audit of current practice**

4. The assessment/audit of current practices should be reviewed on a regular basis, to ensure the potential for improvement as the legislative and technological landscape changes and develops. The assessment/audit can be delegated to organisations and groups as appropriate, as long as those organisations and groups measure against recognised/validated criteria.

#### **Education and awareness**

5. The Council and Councillors should acquire the appropriate peer-reviewed Earth Systems Science data, produced by recognised bodies such as the IPCC, which should then be referred to when making recommendations and for the purposes of decision making.

#### **Future contracts, services and procedures**

6. The Council should agree a robust set of principles that can be used as part of any tender process. These principles should also be used to scrutinise plans for services that it delivers and procedures that it designs and implements. These principles should be reviewed on a regular basis and adapted in light of changes and developments in the legislative and technological landscape.

#### **Resources and constraints**

7. All of the above actions will be governed by Local Government Legislation and within the budgetary and resource constraints and obligations of the Council.

#### **Community consultation**

8. The Council will facilitate consultation with, and note the needs of, residents of Malmesbury, so that actions taken by the Council do not increase the risk of poverty and disadvantage amongst its residents.

#### **Community support**

9. The Council recognises the need for residents to take responsibility for taking actions that limit their impact on, and protect the environment and global climate. It is committed, through the Environment and Climate Change Sub-Committee and other Council Committees as appropriate, to encouraging and supporting, as far as is practicable and appropriate, the community to take action.

#### **Legal Implications**

10. Local Government Act 1972, the Localism Act 2011.

#### **Policy review and efficacy**

11. This Policy will be reviewed every three years, or as needed, by the Policy and Resources Committee, in conjunction with the Town Clerk.