



## MALVERN TOWN COUNCIL

# ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY

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Reviewed by:	Environmental Policy Review Task and Finish Group – 1 & 26 August 2022 Operations and Planning Committee - 26 October 2022
Adopted:	Full Council - 3 November 2022
Next review due:	November 2023

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## **MALVERN TOWN COUNCIL**

### **ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY**

#### **1. Introduction**

- 1.1. Malvern Town Council (hereafter referred to as 'The Council') recognises that the day-to-day operations of the council can impact both directly and indirectly on the environment and will work to protect and improve the environment, through good management and by adopting best practice.
- 1.2. MTC is committed to providing a quality service in a manner that ensures a safe and healthy workplace for all employees and minimizes the potential impact on the environment. The council will operate responsibly and in compliance with all relevant environmental legislation, regulations and approved codes of practice, and will strive to use best practice at all times.

#### **2. Aims of this policy**

##### **Malvern Town Council will:**

- 2.1. measure the Council's carbon footprint each year to assess the environmental effects of the Council's activities and strive to continually reduce its carbon emissions. An annual report will be made to Full Council to demonstrate the progress in complying with the environmental policy.
- 2.2. uphold the Council's declaration of a climate emergency and consider the environmental impact of the Council's operations by taking action to reduce carbon emissions and greenhouse gases where practical.
- 2.3. integrate environmental concerns and impacts into all decision making and activities.
- 2.4. seek to protect and, where possible, enhance the quality of the natural environment of Malvern and its open spaces.
- 2.5. promote the efficient use of materials and resources throughout the Council, re-use or recycle where possible and seek to minimise waste, including water, electricity, raw materials and other resources.
- 2.6. use electronic/paperless means of communication wherever possible in all Town Council operations.
- 2.7. purchase recyclable, recycled and environmentally responsible products and materials when available and economically suitable.

- 2.8. ensure sustainable procurement where possible and require suppliers to provide environmental assessments of their environmental activities where appropriate.
- 2.9. train, educate and inform all employees and councillors about environmental issues that may affect their work and encourage employees, councillors, contractors and members of the public to support and promote the Town Council's Environmental Policy.
- 2.10. use local contractors whenever possible and viable, to support the local economy and reduce the impact on the environment.
- 2.11. supply all tendering contractors with the current environmental policy to inform them of the Council's commitment.
- 2.12. work with and support other agencies, projects and the wider community to promote best practice in environmental management and encourage the same in the community; support and initiate projects which contribute towards meeting national environmental objectives across the wider community.
- 2.13. avoid unnecessary use of hazardous products and materials and seek suitable substitution or alternative solutions. The Council will take all reasonable steps to ensure human health and the protection of the environment when such materials are used to include transport, storage, use and disposal.
- 2.14. where required by legislation or where health, safety or environmental hazards may occur, develop and maintain appropriate emergency responses.
- 2.15. continue to investigate technology for greater overall efficiency, to include machinery, IT equipment, vehicles, buildings and any other areas the Council is responsible for.
- 2.16. to consider and use wherever possible, energy saving and efficient practices in the development of new Town Council buildings and the refurbishment of current buildings.
- 2.17. to continue to manage and rewild suitable areas of Town Council-owned land with appropriate planting and design – including trees, permanent planting, insect friendly planting, wetland areas, ponds, waterways/streams, wildlife corridors, hedgerows and continue to replace trees with a two-for-one policy to support biodiversity.
- 2.18. to use wherever possible, green energy suppliers for Town Council contracts.
- 2.19. respond positively to new initiatives regarding combatting climate change and incorporate these into day to day operations where practical.
- 2.20. develop and implement a plan to minimise usage and consider further alternatives of pesticides/herbicides on all Town Council land.

- 2.21. not permit the release of balloons or sky lanterns on its land.
- 2.22. be peat-free in its horticultural activities.
- 2.23. promote and support the use of public transport, cycling and walking, and support initiatives to improve sustainable transport options.
- 2.24. procure machinery, vehicles, and tools with low emissions where possible.
- 2.25. This policy will be reviewed on an annual basis by the Operations and Planning Committee.