

	<p><b>Princes Risborough Town Council</b></p> <p><b>SINGLE USE PLASTICS POLICY</b></p>	<p><b>Date Agreed</b></p> <p><b>30<sup>th</sup> September 2025</b></p>
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## PURPOSE

To detail the Town Council's policies and procedures in respect to eliminating plastic waste.

## PURPOSE AND SCOPE

**1.0** Princes Risborough Town Council currently has a commitment to plastic-free alternatives and plastic free initiatives.

**1.1** The aim is to reduce the single-use plastic items used across Town Council owned buildings and facilities.

## POLICY STATEMENT

**2.0** Plastic waste is one of the greatest environmental challenges facing the world today. Ocean Conservancy estimates that there are currently more than 200m tonnes of plastic in the world's oceans, and that some 100,000 sea mammals and one million birds die from eating or becoming tangled in plastic waste each year.

**2.1** Princes Risborough Town Council's primary function in implementing this policy is to support initiatives that mitigate the effect of single-use plastics in terms of their impacts within the town, and to make our part of the world a healthier, greener and happier place to be.

**2.2** The Council will work towards minimising use of single-use plastics across its own operations and services and by all staff and pro-actively work with partners to find positive solutions for reducing unnecessary waste plastics across the town.

## DEFINITIONS

**3.0** Single-use plastics can include any disposable plastic item which is designed to be used only once e.g. plastic bags, disposable utensils, beverage containers, coffee capsules, wet wipes, razor blades, plastic drinks bottles, food wrappers, bottle tops, straws, stirrers and plastic lids.

## IMPLEMENTATION OF SINGLE-USE PLASTICS POLICY

**4.0** To support Princes Risborough Town Council becoming a single-use plastics free town, the Town Council commits to:

- Work with staff to ensure that single-use plastics are eliminated across Town Council premises
- Work with event suppliers to reduce single-use plastics across all Town Council events and share guidance for this more widely.
- Support communities and litter-pick initiatives to ensure Princes Risborough town, parks, streams and open spaces are free from plastic litter.
- Require Town Council suppliers to minimise the use of single-use plastics in their service provision and find sustainable alternatives (where appropriate).
- Where the use of plastics is unavoidable, the Town Council will encourage the use of recycled plastics, where practicable, and support manufacturers that make products from locally sourced waste plastics.
- Work with partners in joint ventures and innovative projects for reducing single- use plastic waste.
- Share best practice and information about plastic free initiatives, to residents, businesses, visitors and beyond through the Town Council's social media and communication channels.
- Work with the local authority, other town and parish councils in the area and to share best practice and implement joint initiatives.

**4.1** The Town Council will work to embed these commitments into other key council strategies, policies and plans.

**Review date: September 2027**