



Single use Plastic Policy 2023

Adopted – 10 October 2023 – Planning Committee

1. Devizes Town Council's Single Use Plastic Policy Statement

Devizes Town Council recognises that plastic waste is one of the greatest environmental challenges facing the world today. In the UK, it is estimated that each person creates 98kg of plastic waste per year, much of it is single-use packaging. In Devizes on 2023, that stacks up to 1764 metric tonnes, that's about 600 elephants!

Plastic waste often does not decompose and can last centuries in landfill, end up as litter in the natural environment, or is incinerated. All of these options can pollute the air we breathe, soils, rivers and oceans, and harm the creatures that inhabit them and for this reason the Council has adopted this policy.

2. Policy Purpose and Intent

- a) Ensure Town Council staff and Councillors work towards the elimination of single-use plastics across our offices, outlets and workspaces.
- b) Support our schools, organisations and community groups in their efforts to become single-use plastic-free.
- c) Work with event organisers to eliminate disposal packaging and serve-ware across events held in Town Council Buildings and on Town Council land.
- d) Encourage local businesses in the implementation of Government policy on single-use plastic and work with market traders to switch to more sustainable products.
- e) Communicate the importance of protecting our urban and rural environments from plastic waste with Sustainable Devizes and other organisations.
- f) Share best practice and information about plastic free initiatives to residents, businesses, visitors through the Town Council's social media and communication channels.
- g) Share information regarding the recycling of waste placed in Town Council bins.
- h) Communicate the policy to Wiltshire Council and encourage WC facilities in Devizes, such as the Library and Leisure Centre to adopt the policy.

- i) Continue to support Clean Up Devizes (CUDS) organisers and other community litter-pick initiatives to keep our parks, roads and open spaces free from litter.
- j) Embed this policy into all key Town Council strategies, policies and plans, for example the Sustainable Events Guidance.
- k) Appoint a Councillor who will champion this policy.
- l) Review the impact of this policy in a year's time.

3. Policy Delivery

The mechanism for the delivery of this policy will be through the council's appointed plastic reduction councillor and the council's sustainability working party.