TELSCOMBE TOWN COUNCIL

Single Use Plastics Policy

Introduction

Plastic waste is one of the greatest environmental challenges facing the world today. The UK government estimates that there are currently more than 150m 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.

Telscombe Town Council is committed to tackling the plastic waste problem by taking responsibility for its own impact on the environment and society, both within the local area and across the globe. The Town Council will work towards minimising the use of single-use plastics across its own facilities, services and by all staff and work pro-actively with partners to find positive solutions for reducing unnecessary waste plastics across the town.

What are single-use plastics?

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, tea bags, wet wipes, disposable razors, plastic drinks bottles, food wrappers, bottle tops, straws, stirrers and plastic lids.

Plastic is a major contributor to climate change - chemicals derived from fossil fuel production are used to make almost all plastics. The more plastic made, the more petrochemicals are required, and the more petrochemicals required, the higher the demand for gas, oil and even coal. By reducing or removing SUP this will mean Telscombe Town Council are helping to reduce the demand for fossil fuels, thereby reducing the CO2 in the atmosphere. This will support Telscombe Town Council's climate change emergency work.

To support Telscombe & East Saltdean becoming single-use plastics free, the Council commits to:-

- Work with staff to ensure that single-use plastics are eliminated across our offices.
- Support the community in its efforts to make their buildings plastic-free zones.
- Communicate the importance of protecting our urban, rural and marine environments and support and promote positive initiatives, town campaigns and actions for reducing plastic waste.
- Work with our event organisers to eliminate single-use plastics across town events held on Council land and share guidance for this more widely.
- Support communities and litter-pick initiatives to ensure our parks, beaches and open spaces are free from plastic litter.
- Use government legislation that regulates against the use of single-use plastics to support our efforts where we can.

- Require all our 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 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 Council's social media and communication channels.

The Council will work to include these commitments into its strategy objectives, policies and plans.

Policy	Single Use Plastics
Review Cycle	Every 3 years, or earlier in the event of legislative changes
Date Last Adopted	September 2026
Previous Adoption Dates	September 2020, September 2023
Responsibility	Policy & Resources Committee and then adoption by Full Council