

POLICY: ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

PURPOSE: Melbourn Parish Council recognises that it has a responsibility to the environment beyond the meeting of legal and regulatory requirements. We are committed to actively reducing our environmental impact and carbon footprint, by continually improving our environmental performance. This should become an integral part of our operating strategy and methods, with the objective of improving the quality of life in Melbourn and the surrounding area. We will encourage residents, employees, suppliers, service providers and other stakeholders to support this goal.

SCOPE: This Policy applies to the operations of Melbourn Parish Council

POLICY:**1. General.** We will –

- 1.1 Comply with or exceed all relevant regulatory requirements
- 1.2 Implement a mechanism to track and report on environmental performance
- 1.3 Adopt strategies to improve/reduce environmental impact of Council operations
- 1.4 Incorporate environmental factors and impact into Council decisions
- 1.5 Actively promote awareness of environmental dangers and protection with residents, employees, suppliers, service providers and other stakeholders
- 1.6 Ensure that proper financial support is made available to support environmental protection goals by taking these needs into account when setting the annual precept or the use of other local authority funds

2. Energy & Water. We will –

- 2.1 Use low-energy lighting and other appliances/equipment
- 2.2 Adjust heating and air-conditioning to minimise usage
- 2.3 Include energy efficiency as an important factor with new projects, new equipment, events and any other area over which the Council has control or influence
- 2.4 Include into contracts with service providers the expectation that environmental efficiency is an important factor in the proper execution of the work, especially where groundwork requires the use of water

3. Transportation. We will –

- 3.1 Minimise the need for fossil fuels in the way the Council carries out or contracts its work, through the use of local services as far as is practicable
- 3.2 Encourage and promote non-motorised forms of travel, such as the use of bicycles and dedicated bicycle routes and public transport
- 3.3 Look for opportunities to facilitate ‘greener’ travel, such as recharge points for electric vehicles

4. Consumables Recycling. We will –

- 4.1 Minimise the use of paper, plastic and other packaging as part of the Council business by encouraging use of electronic alternatives (paper) and avoidable plastic (bottled water)
- 4.2 Install and promote recycling points, both within direct Council operations and also where this is possible in the case of refuse collected on behalf of the general public
- 4.3 Use recycled paper or other materials wherever possible

5. Maintenance, Cleaning and Groundworks. We will –

- 5.1 Research and select chemicals chosen for cleaning, weed/pest control or for any other purpose on the basis of doing minimum harm and, where these are found to be unnecessary, avoided altogether.
- 5.2 Plan Council projects in a way that considers the environmental impact, minimising any consequential problems where possible
- 5.3 Set out contracts, job descriptions and service agreements in a way that puts best management of the environment at the centre of considerations

6. Culture and Future Council Strategy. We will –

- 6.1 Involve staff in the implementation of this policy, to underpin commitment and improved performance
- 6.2 Provide councillors and staff with relevant environmental training
- 6.3 Use development funds (section 106) when available to plan better ways of improving the environment of Melbourn and the surrounding area.

- 6.4 Actively involve and consult the general public about the environment and how it could be improved; if development funding is available, to consult with the public in how this can best be used, such as tree planting schemes

Document Approval:



(Chair to Melbourn Parish Council)

Date of Parish Council meeting: 13 January 2020

Review Policy: Every 12 months