**[Name of Council]**

**Climate Resilience Policy**

**Introduction**

[Name of Council] recognises the urgent need to prepare for the increasing risks posed by climate change, including extreme weather events, flooding, heatwaves, and food scarcity. Building local resilience is essential to protect our community, environment, and economy from these challenges.

This policy sets out [Name of Council]’s commitment to integrating climate resilience into all decision-making processes and supporting local initiatives that enhance our ability to adapt to climate-related risks.

**Aims**

The purpose of this policy is to:

* Identify and assess climate-related risks specific to our parish/town.
* Develop strategies to improve resilience against climate challenges, including flooding, drought, heatwaves, and food insecurity.
* Ensure climate resilience is embedded in council operations, planning, and community engagement.
* Encourage collaboration with local, regional, and national organisations to support and implement effective climate adaptation measures.
* Lead by example by promoting sustainable practices within the council and the wider community.

**Assessing Climate Risks**

To build resilience, [Name of Council] will conduct climate risk assessments to identify local vulnerabilities. This includes:

* Analysing historical and projected information on extreme weather events, such as flooding, storms, and droughts.
* Mapping flood-prone areas and ensuring community awareness of flood risks and preparedness measures.
* Assessing heatwave risks, particularly for vulnerable groups such as the elderly, young children, and those with health conditions.
* Identifying risks to food security, including the availability of locally grown food and the impact of extreme weather on food supply chains.
* Using tools such as the Cheltenham Climate Impact Assessment Tool <https://www.local.gov.uk/case-studies/cheltenham-borough-council-climate-impact-assessment-tool> to measure climate impacts and inform decision-making.

**Developing Strategies**

[Name of Council] will implement practical strategies to enhance community resilience, including:

**Flood and Water Management**

* Supporting the installation of sustainable drainage systems (SuDS) to prevent surface water flooding.
* Encouraging flood prevention measures, such as improved drainage, water storage, and tree planting.
* Promoting rainwater harvesting and greywater recycling to reduce pressure on water supplies.

**Heatwave Preparedness**

* Increasing tree planting and green infrastructure to provide shade and reduce urban heat.
* Creating cooling spaces in public areas, such as shaded seating and water access points.
* Raising awareness of heatwave health risks, particularly among vulnerable groups.

**Food Security and Sustainability**

* Supporting community food-growing initiatives, such as allotments, community gardens, and urban orchards.
* Encouraging local food networks to reduce reliance on long supply chains and strengthen food resilience.
* Promoting food-sharing schemes, such as food pantries and community fridges, to reduce waste and support those in need.

**Integrating Climate Resilience into Council Operations**

[Name of Council] will ensure that all policies and decisions consider climate resilience by:

* Embedding climate risk assessments into planning and infrastructure projects.
* Encouraging energy-efficient buildings, including retrofitting council-owned properties to improve insulation and heating efficiency.
* Reviewing procurement policies to prioritise sustainable and climate-resilient goods and services.
* Training councillors and staff in climate adaptation strategies to improve awareness and action.
* Monitoring and reducing the council’s carbon footprint, including promoting active travel and low-emission transport.

**Community Engagement and Collaboration**

Resilience-building requires the support and participation of the entire community. [Name of Council] will:

* Engage residents through public consultations, surveys, and workshops on climate resilience.
* Work with schools and youth groups to educate young people about climate adaptation.
* Partner with regional and national organisations to share best practices and access funding for resilience initiatives.
* Encourage volunteer-led initiatives, such as repair cafés, local environmental groups, and conservation projects.

**Funding and Support**

[Name of Council] will seek external funding opportunities to support climate resilience initiatives, including:

* Applying for climate resilience grants from local, regional, and national funding bodies.
* Exploring opportunities to partner with businesses to develop community-led sustainability projects.
* Allocating budget resources where possible to implement climate adaptation measures.

**Monitoring and Review**

This policy will be reviewed annually to assess progress and ensure it remains relevant to evolving climate risks and opportunities. [Name of Council] will:

* Publish an annual climate resilience report outlining actions taken and future plans.
* Update the policy in response to new scientific data, community feedback, and best practices.
* Monitor the effectiveness of resilience measures through regular assessments and feedback from residents.

**Conclusion**

[Name of Council] is committed to building a **climate-resilient, sustainable community** that is prepared for the challenges of a changing climate. By taking a proactive approach, embedding climate considerations into decision-making, and working collaboratively with residents and stakeholders, we can ensure a healthier and more sustainable future for all.

Date adopted:

Review date: