

<b>14 December 2021</b>		<b>ITEM: 8</b>
<b>Cleaner, Greener and Safer Overview and Scrutiny Committee</b>		
<b>Single Use Plastics Policy</b>		
<b>Wards and communities affected:</b> All	<b>Key Decision:</b> Key	
<b>Report of:</b> Marcelle Puttergill, Performance and Support Manager		
<b>Accountable Assistant Director:</b> Daren Spring, Assistant Director – Street Scene and Leisure		
<b>Accountable Director:</b> Julie Rogers, Director – Public Realm		
<b>This report is public</b>		

## **Executive Summary**

In October 2020, the revised Waste Strategy was adopted. The strategy outlined the proposed changes to the Waste Collection service to ensure that it remained compliant with Central Government Policy as well as providing a collection service aimed at maximising the rate of recycling and re-use of materials. An equally important part of the revised strategy, strongly championed by the cross party waste working group, was a commitment to eliminating and/or reducing reliance on single use plastics within the Council's offices and services. This paper presents the Single Use Plastics Policy for consideration by CGS Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

### **1. Recommendation(s)**

- 1.1 That the Cleaner, Greener and Safer Overview and Scrutiny Committee recommend the approval and adoption of the Single Use Plastic Policy to Cabinet.**

### **2. Introduction and Background**

- 2.1** In light of the Council's declaration of a Climate Emergency in December 2020 and the widely accepted notion that single use plastics contribute adversely to the environment, in their manufacture, disposal and in that they are a widely littered item, it seems appropriate and timely that the Council commits to reducing and where possible eliminating those items from supply chains and activities.

- 2.2 The Single Use Plastics Policy outlines a clear commitment to the principle of elimination where possible as well as providing some clear examples of the actions that can be taken by all to embed the change.
- 2.3 Work has already commenced with the Council's procurement team who have incorporated awareness of single use plastics and the need for their elimination in procurement documents and processes.
- 2.4 Some examples of single use plastics and where they may be eliminated include:
- Plastic wrapping on individual stock items such as Hi-viz jackets
  - Plastic stirrers and cutlery in the café
  - Cleaning wipes for desks and screen that contain plastic
  - Single use water bottles
  - Plastic wrapping on brochures and other Council communications
- 2.5 The challenge for the Council will be for all services to review the items that they use on regular basis and identify viable alternatives that are both less harmful to the environment and cost effective. There may be some items for which alternatives are not feasible. In those instances the aim will be to minimise use where possible, and continue to review options.

### **3. Reasons for Recommendation**

- 3.1 Adopting this policy would be another clear expression of awareness of the environmental impact of single use policies as well as a positive first action to address the issue within the Borough.

### **4. Consultation (including Overview and Scrutiny, if applicable)**

- 4.1 Consultation with elected members was undertaken as part of the Waste Cross Party Working Group convened to oversee the renewal of the Council's Waste Strategy.

### **5. Impact on corporate policies, priorities, performance and community impact**

- 5.1 The anticipated impact of the policy is a reduction in the volume of single use plastics generated by the Council in its delivery of services. There will be no direct impact on the scope, scale or delivery of those services.
- 5.2 Once the policy has been approved, work will be undertaken with all Directorates and Service areas to understand the source of single use plastics within their operations. Timescales, actions and appropriate levels of monitoring will be implemented to ensure that there is sustainable and timely change.

## **6. Implications**

### **6.1 Financial**

Implications verified by: **Laura Last**  
**Senior Management Accountant**

There are no direct financial implications arising from this report.

### **6.2 Legal**

Implications verified by: **Gina Clarke**  
**Corporate Governance Lawyer & Deputy  
Monitoring Officer**

To reduce the impact on the environment of single-use plastics, the Environmental Protection (Plastic Straws, Cotton Buds and Stirrers) (England) Regulations 2020 bans businesses in England (except for exempt users) supplying certain single -use plastics, including straws, cotton swabs, and coffee stirrers to end users. The Regulations make it an offense to supply single-use plastic stirrers to end users. The Regulations are enforced by local authorities.

The adoption of the proposed policy by the Cabinet would demonstrate that the Council is leading by example in taking action to reduce the use of single plastics in Council Offices and work practices. In addition, it also includes taking action to educate local businesses and others on the ban of single use plastics.

### **6.3 Diversity and Equality**

Implications verified by: **Rebecca Lee**  
**Team Manager, Community Development**

There are no diversity and equality implications arising from this report.

### **6.4 Other implications** (where significant) – i.e. Staff, Health Inequalities, Sustainability, Crime and Disorder and Looked After Children

N/A

## **7. Background papers used in preparing the report** (including their location on the Council's website or identification whether any are exempt or protected by copyright):

N/A

## **8. Appendices to the report**

Appendix 1 – Single Use of Plastics Policy

### **Report Author:**

Marcelle Puttergill

Performance and Support Manager

Public Realm