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To: Members of Improvement and Scrutiny Committee – Climate Change, Biodiversity and Carbon Reduction

16 July 2021

Dear Councillor

Please attend a meeting of the **Improvement and Scrutiny Committee – Climate Change, Biodiversity and Carbon Reduction** to be held at **2.00 pm** on **Monday, 26 July 2021** in the **Council Chamber, County Hall, Matlock**; the agenda for which is set out below.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Helen E. Barrington'.

Helen Barrington
Director of Legal Services

A G E N D A

PART I - NON-EXEMPT ITEMS

1. To receive apologies for absence
2. To receive Declarations of Interest (if any)
3. Public Questions (30 minutes maximum in total) (Pages 1 - 2)

(Questions may be submitted to be answered by the Scrutiny

Committee, or Council officers who are attending the meeting as witnesses, on any item that is within the scope of the Committee. Please see the procedure for the submission of questions at the end of this agenda.)

4. Climate Change Strategy (Pages 3 - 16)
5. Single Use Plastics Policy (Pages 17 - 30)
6. Work Programme Planning

Procedure for Public Questions at Scrutiny Committee meetings

Members of the public who are on the Derbyshire County Council register of electors, or are Derbyshire County Council tax payers or non-domestic tax payers, may ask questions of the Improvement and Scrutiny Committees, or witnesses who are attending the meeting of the Committee. The maximum period of time for questions by the public at a Committee meeting shall be 30 minutes in total.

Order of Questions

Questions will be asked in the order they were received in accordance with the Notice of Questions requirements, except that the Chairman may group together similar questions.

Notice of Questions

A question may only be asked if notice has been given by delivering it in writing or by email to the Director of Legal Services no later than 12noon three working days before the Committee meeting (ie 12 noon on a Wednesday when the Committee meets on the following Monday). The notice must give the name and address of the questioner and the name of the person to whom the question is to be put.

Questions may be emailed to democratic.services@derbyshire.gov.uk

Number of Questions

At any one meeting no person may submit more than one question, and no more than one such question may be asked on behalf of one organisation.

Scope of Questions

The Director of Legal Services may reject a question if it:

- Exceeds 200 words in length;
- is not about a matter for which the Committee has a responsibility, or does not affect Derbyshire;
- is defamatory, frivolous or offensive;
- is substantially the same as a question which has been put at a meeting of the Committee in the past six months; or
- requires the disclosure of confidential or exempt information.

Submitting Questions at the Meeting

Questions received by the deadline (see **Notice of Question** section above) will be shared with the respondent with the request for a written response to be provided by 5pm on the last working day before the meeting (ie 5pm on Friday before the meeting on Monday). A schedule of questions and responses will be produced and made available 30 minutes prior to the meeting (from Democratic Services Officers in the meeting room).

It will not be necessary for the questions and responses to be read out at the meeting, however, the Chairman will refer to the questions and responses and invite each questioner to put forward a supplementary question.

Supplementary Question

Anyone who has put a question to the meeting may also put one supplementary question without notice to the person who has replied to his/her original question. A supplementary question must arise directly out of the original question or the reply. The Chairman may reject a supplementary question on any of the grounds detailed in the **Scope of Questions** section above.

Written Answers

The time allocated for questions by the public at each meeting will be 30 minutes. This period may be extended at the discretion of the Chairman. Any questions not answered at the end of the time allocated for questions by the public will be answered in writing. Any question that cannot be dealt with during public question time because of the non-attendance of the person to whom it was to be put, will be dealt with by a written answer.



FOR PUBLICATION

DERBYSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

IMPROVEMENT AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – CLIMATE CHANGE, BIODIVERSITY AND CARBON REDUCTION

26 July 2021

Report of the Executive Director Adult Social Care and Health

Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan

(Cllr Barry Lewis, Cabinet portfolio holder for Strategic Leadership, Culture, Tourism and Climate Change)

1. Purpose

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide an update on the development of the Council's Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan developed by consultants, Arup, to outline the priority actions identified, and to provide information on the governance structure and proposed plan for delivering the actions within the Strategy across the Council.

2. Information and Analysis

Background

- 2.1 In November 2019, the Council approved its Carbon Reduction Plan and the Derbyshire Environment and Climate Change Framework, following publication of its Climate and Carbon Reduction Manifesto in May 2019.
- 2.2 The Carbon Reduction Plan sets out how the Council could reduce emissions from its own estate and operations to net zero by 2032, or sooner, and the Derbyshire Environment and Climate Change Framework sets out an approach for all local authorities in Derbyshire to work together to reduce county-wide emissions to net zero by 2050.

- 2.3 The Council has undertaken significant work over the last few years on reducing greenhouse gases within the Council, which has seen a 55% reduction in emissions from the Council's property (excluding schools), streetlighting, core fleet and grey fleet between 2009 and 2019-20. The Council has also worked closely with partner organisations to further develop the approach and actions set out in the Derbyshire Environment and Climate Change Framework.
- 2.4 However, the Council realises that there is a lot more to do in order to remain on target to meet the ambition of being a net zero Council by 2032, or sooner, and for the Council to fully play its role in ensuring the county is net zero by 2050.
- 2.5 Through a series of ten workshops held with Elected Members and senior leaders in late 2020, the Council identified future steps it needs to undertake to take forward the agenda over forthcoming months and years. The workshops also identified that the development of an overarching strategy and action plan to direct effort and resource on climate change and carbon reduction across the Council should be a key priority.
- 2.6 A report was presented to the Corporate Management Team (CMT) on 1 December 2020, setting out proposals to commission a Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan for the Council to build on the outcomes from the series of workshops held.
- 2.7 Consultants, Arup, were commissioned to develop the Strategy, and have engaged with internal and external stakeholders and taken into consideration existing studies and work to produce a Strategy and Action Plan. The Strategy will be used to direct the associated programme of work for the Council in the short, medium and longer term.
- 2.8 Understanding the areas of Council activity where change is required to make the most significant impact is an essential element of this approach as is the development of governance arrangements which are fit for purpose moving forward.

The Derbyshire County Council Climate Change Strategy: Achieving Net Zero 2021-2025

- 2.9 A final version of the Strategy has been produced with input from specialist Services from across the Council. The document is now undergoing a final detailed review. It is a technical document which, it is proposed, will be available for public viewing on the Council's website.

An 'easy-read' version of the document will also be produced and made available.

2.10 The Strategy is set out with the following structure:

- **Introduction** – Sets out the wider context in which the Strategy sits, its scope and objectives, and why the Strategy is needed.
- **Developing our Strategy** – Summary of the work undertaken to date, and the activities carried out to develop the Strategy.
- **Delivering our Strategy** – Sets out the role of the Council, Derbyshire's residents, businesses and communities to deliver the Strategy, the crucial partnership working that needs to be developed, the funding and resource requirements and extension of skills and training provision.
- **Our Emissions Pathway** – Details of emissions to date across the Council and the County, and the pathways to achieve net zero emissions.
- **National Action** – Outlines the progress in national climate change action considered crucial to deliver our net zero vision.
- **Roadmap** – Sets out the key targets and priority actions against five themes: Council Estate and Operations, Low Carbon Economy, Decarbonising the Domestic Sector, Transport and Travel, and Waste.
- **Monitoring and Reporting** – Sets out the monitoring, evaluation and reporting requirements needed to deliver the Strategy successfully and effectively.
- **Adaptation and Natural Capital** – Although not a focus of the Strategy, climate change adaptation and natural capital are crucial complementary pieces of work, and the document begins to set out how they will be addressed.
- **Action Long List** – Provides a long list of direct and enabling actions that the Council can take in the short and long term. Actions beyond 2050 will be developed in successive strategy updates.

2.11 The Strategy contains 28 priority targets across five key themes (four county-wide, and one concerning the Council's estate and operations) which commits the Council to playing its role in delivering net zero buildings, expanding local renewable energy generation, changing transport choices, generating green jobs and preventing waste being sent to landfill. These priority actions within the Strategy are presented as Appendix 2.

2.12 These priority actions are supported by over 120 supplementary actions, initiatives and projects, which it is anticipated the County Council will either lead or support. The Council needs to enable and empower its partners, residents and businesses to take action to tackle climate change.

- 2.13 The Strategy covers the period 2021-25 and will be reviewed and updated fully in 2025 to provide a Strategy beyond 2025. The targets set for each area may be revised at any time as further studies are carried out, as well as identifying new priority actions and completion of existing actions.
- 2.14 This Strategy will be complemented by the production of a Natural Capital Strategy and a strategy to build the resilience of Derbyshire to a changing climate.

Programme management and governance

- 2.15 The approach to reducing emissions from the Council's estate and operations, and across the County, and the priority actions presented in the Strategy, have implications for all departments. As such, a clear governance and delivery structure has been established. The governance structure is shown in Figure 1.

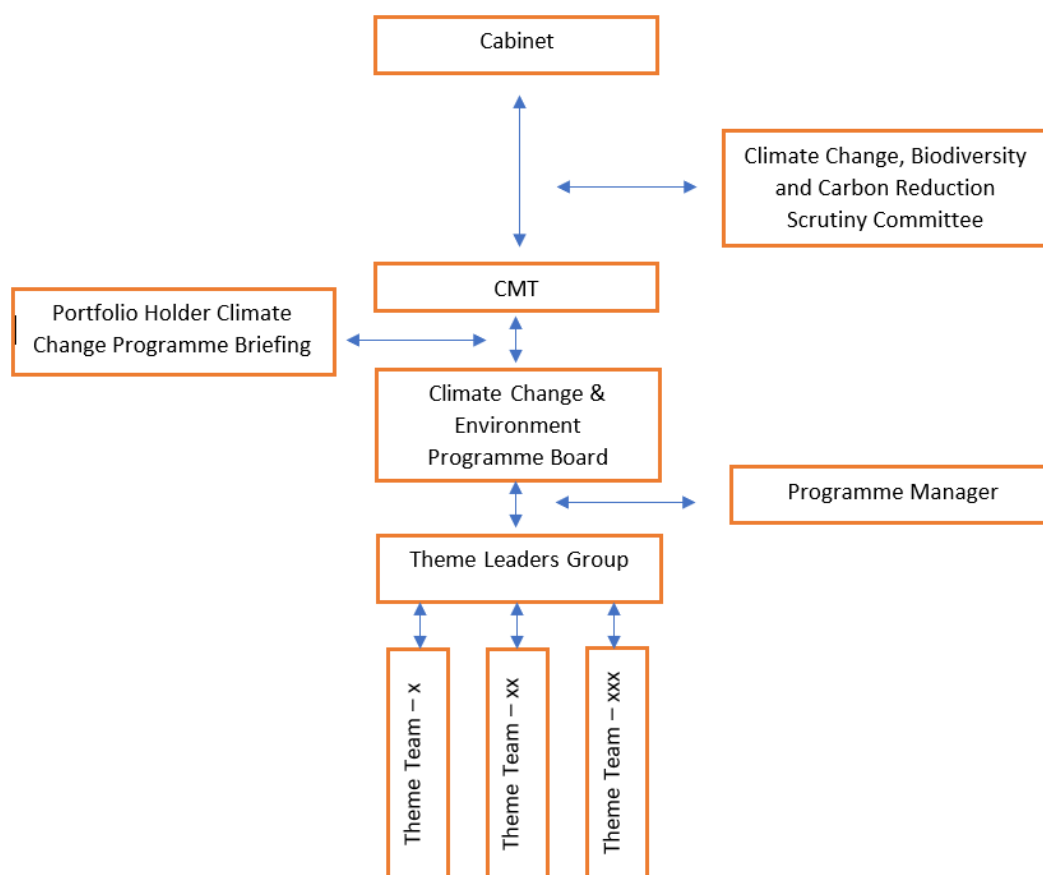


Figure 1: Derbyshire County Council Climate Change Governance Structure

- 2.16 A Climate Change and Environment Programme Board (CCEPB) has been established to provide strategic oversight and direction for the

delivery of the climate change programme. The Board's primary purpose is to ensure the successful delivery of the programme's outcomes, and to make recommendations around the commissioning and resource implications of priority projects and initiatives. The Board also provides assurance that the programme is aligned with the Strategy and the Council's carbon reduction targets and is delivering the required outcomes and carbon reductions.

2.17 To deliver the actions and priorities, Theme Teams are being established. Each Theme Team will be led by a Theme Lead who will oversee the projects and activities relevant to their strategic theme. Some issues will require action across several of these themes. A Theme Leaders Group, comprising of the Theme Leads, and the Programme Manager, will coordinate activities across the themes, and the Programme Manager will provide the link between the Theme Leaders Group and the CCEPB.

2.18 Themes identified to structure the delivery of the Strategy around, and their respective Leads are as follows:

- Derbyshire County Council property and estate – David Beard, Commissioning, Communities and Policy (CCP)
- Procurement – Stuart Etchells, CCP
- Highways – Neill Bennett, Place
- Fleet – Richard Bright, Place
- Schools – Iain Peel, Childrens Services
- External transport and travel – Richard Lovell, Place
- Low carbon economy – Allison Westray-Chapman, Place
- Planning – Dave Arnold, Place
- Internal engagement and training – Sally Pearson, CCP
- External engagement – Julie Odams, CCP and Sara Bains, Adult and Social Care
- Natural Capital – Adam Lathbury, Place
- Waste – Ruth Robinson, Place

2.19 Theme Leads will be working with the Programme Manager over the next few months to confirm priorities and develop actions plans at the Theme level.

Next Steps

2.20 The Strategy is currently undergoing a final detailed review. Once this review has been completed, the Strategy will be shared and presented to CMT, and will also be shared in full with the Climate Change, Biodiversity and Carbon Reduction Scrutiny Committee.

- 2.21 An easy-read version of the Strategy will be produced, summarising the key points and priority actions.
- 2.22 It is the intention that the Strategy will be presented to Cabinet in October 2021, with a view to launch and publication shortly thereafter, potentially as part of Derbyshire Country Council's activities around the UN Climate Change Conference 2021 (COP26).

3. Alternative Options Considered

- 3.1 N/A

4. Implications

- 4.1 Appendix 1 sets out the relevant implications considered in the preparation of the report.

5. Consultation

- 5.1 N/A

6. Background Papers

- 6.1 N/A

7. Appendices

- 7.1 Appendix 1 – Implications
- 7.2 Appendix 2 – Priority actions

8. Recommendation(s)

That the Committee:

- a) Support the priority actions within the Climate Change Strategy (as presented in Appendix 2) and note the intention to present the Strategy to Cabinet in October 2021 and to launch and publish the Strategy shortly thereafter.
- b) Support the governance structure that has been established to deliver the programme of work, and support Theme leads within their portfolios to identify and confirm short- and longer-term priorities.

9. Reasons for Recommendation(s)

- 9.1 To ensure the Council can publish and embed the Strategy, and deliver the necessary actions needed to ensure net zero targets and ambitions for the Council and wider county are achieved.

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Implications

Financial

- 1.1 The delivery of the actions within the Strategy will have Financial implications for the Council. These will be expressed on a project-by-project basis.

Legal

- 1.2 Some of the actions within the Strategy may have Legal implications. These will be expressed on a project-by-project basis.

Human Resources

- 1.3 Some of the actions within the Strategy may have Human Resource implications. These will be expressed on a project-by-project basis.

Information Technology

- 1.4 Some of the actions within the Strategy may have Information Technology implications. These will be expressed on a project-by-project basis.

Equalities Impact

- 1.5 Some of the actions within the Strategy may have Equalities Impact implications. These will be expressed on a project-by-project basis.

Corporate objectives and priorities for change

- 1.6 The Strategy supports the Council's ambition to be a net zero organisation by 2032, or sooner, and for the county to be net zero by 2050, and informs the action that needs to be taken to achieve these ambitions.

Other (for example, Health and Safety, Environmental Sustainability, Property and Asset Management, Risk Management and Safeguarding)

- 1.7 Some of the actions within the Strategy may have other implications. These will be expressed on a project-by-project basis.

Priority Actions

Priority actions from the Strategy are presented in the tables below, split by the themes within the Strategy: Council Estate and Operations; Low Carbon Economy; Decarbonising the Domestic Sector; Transport and Travel; and Waste. These are supported by a longer list of over 120 actions, initiatives and projects, which are presented within the Strategy.

Council Estate and Operations

Priority Actions	Cost of implementation and impact on reducing carbon emissions
Include as part of the Asset Management and broader Council Property review, the identification of buildings for energy efficiency retrofitting and buildings and land for the installation of renewable energy generation technologies, the development of a net zero design standard for estate development.	Low cost High impact
Develop a Sustainable Procurement Framework and ensure environmental and social sustainability is embedded within all contracting and procurement activities.	Low cost High impact
Review the Council's commissioning principles to ensure that climate change is embedded across our services and partner working.	Low cost High impact
Expand the Council's electric vehicle sharing programme and look to install electric vehicle charging points at all key Council sites, coupled with a behaviour change campaign and evaluation of working practices to facilitate a zero-emission fleet.	High cost High impact
Carry out a feasibility study to identify low carbon energy procurement options.	Low cost Medium impact
Include climate change training as part of the induction process for all Elected Members and staff to strengthen knowledge of carbon emissions, climate resilience and net zero development.	Low cost Medium impact

Low Carbon Economy

Priority Actions	Cost of implementation and impact on reducing carbon emissions
Work with our Local Authority partners to develop a Renewable Energy Strategy for the county and identify opportunities for renewable energy generation, as well as the decarbonisation of heating and energy use in homes.	Medium cost High impact
Through Vision Derbyshire, continue working with the borough and district councils to develop a Strategic Joint Planning Framework for Derbyshire to ensure that planning measures for net zero commercial buildings are integrated into Local Plans.	Medium cost High impact
Work with local academic institutions, trade unions, and regional Chamber of Commerce to identify geographical areas for low carbon industry growth, as well as assessing and develop the capabilities and skills of the region in supplying those industries	High cost High impact
Deliver the Derbyshire Green Entrepreneurs Fund and provide additional support for reducing environmental impacts, driving innovation, and creating sustainable growth opportunities for smaller businesses.	High cost Medium impact
Work with the Midlands Energy Hub, D2N2 LEP and universities and colleges to build technical and economic capabilities across the region to deliver renewable energy and low carbon projects.	High cost Medium impact
Liaise with Western Power Distribution (WPD) and the D2N2 LEP to understand local grid capacity and constraints for future energy generation opportunities.	Low cost Low impact
Through the COVID Recovery Strategy, identify high carbon commercial industries and support the business community in shifting to and benefiting from the low carbon economy.	High cost Low impact

Decarbonising the Domestic Sector

Priority Actions	Cost of implementation and impact on reducing carbon emissions
Conduct a feasibility assessment of the low carbon heat and renewable energy opportunities within the county's domestic property sector.	Medium cost High impact
Work with partner local authorities to adopt a whole-system Local Area Energy Planning approach to increase onsite low-carbon energy generation and reduce the demand for energy.	Medium cost High impact
Through Vision Derbyshire, continue working with the borough and district councils to develop a Strategic Joint Planning Framework for Derbyshire to ensure that planning measures for net zero domestic buildings are integrated into Local Plans.	Medium cost High impact
Work with local authority and wider government partners to develop a Regional Skills Strategy that pinpoints priority areas for upskilling of the domestic construction and retrofit sector and creates investor-ready programmes to receive support from the proposed National Skills Fund.	High cost High impact
Through Vision Derbyshire develop and implement an approach to supporting the de-carbonising of homes, recognising the specific opportunities and challenges faced by renters and homeowners and reflecting the need to particularly support those in fuel poverty.	Medium cost Medium impact
Develop an information sharing campaign to educate homeowners and renters on how to improve the energy efficiency of their property.	High cost Medium impact

Transport and Travel

Priority Actions	Cost of implementation and impact on reducing carbon emissions
Promote integrated, and place-based development in transport planning as part of Derbyshire's COVID recovery and economic revival of market towns, to reduce emissions from first and last mile journeys and provide an economic boost to local retail and businesses.	High cost High impact
Support the new Enhanced Bus Partnership arrangements being introduced in Derbyshire as part of the new National Bus Strategy. This will involve Derbyshire County Council and the bus operators investing in new service provision, improved roadside bus infrastructure, mobility as a service, integrated ticketing systems, and upgraded information provision.	High cost High impact
Continue to support the above average growth of zero emissions vehicle ownership in the country by establishing public-private investment partnerships to develop a network of mixed speed public charging and hydrogen infrastructure, which is affordable, consistent, accessible and user friendly for residents and visitors.	High cost High impact
Support the implementation of the Derbyshire Cycling Plan and the Local Cycling and Walking Investment Plan. Support actions for increasing the uptake of active transport to reduce emissions and improve health and wellbeing for all.	High cost Medium impact
Evaluate the use of smart technologies and alternative fuels to reduce the emissions associated with commercial and freight transports e.g. consolidation hubs, hydrogen sub-stations, transport mobility hubs, mobility as a service etc.	Medium cost Low impact

Waste

Priority Actions	Cost of implementation and impact on reducing carbon emissions
Identify solutions to increase the diversion of organic waste including food, soiled materials, carpets, organic textiles, etc. from landfill	High cost Medium impact
Undertake a cross authority behaviour change campaign to promote reduction in waste and resource consumption in the home and businesses.	High cost Medium impact
Work with local producers and businesses to restrict the use of single use products and support the market for remanufactured goods.	High cost Medium impact
Explore the potential for partnering with local charities and organisation to segregate and redistribute good quality products from HWRC.	Medium cost Low impact

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FOR PUBLICATION

DERBYSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

IMPROVEMENT AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – CLIMATE CHANGE, BIODIVERSITY AND CARBON REDUCTION

26 July 2021

Report of the Executive Director Adult Social Care and Health

Proposals for a Single Use Plastics Policy

(Cllr Barry Lewis, Cabinet portfolio holder for Strategic Leadership, Culture, Tourism and Climate Change)

1. Purpose

1.1 This paper addresses the issues surrounding procurement and use of Single Use Plastic and sets out an outline of proposals for a Single Use Plastics Policy and Action Plan for consideration by the Scrutiny Committee.

2. Information and Analysis

2.1 Derbyshire County Council's Ambition

Derbyshire County Council is leading a once-in-a-generation opportunity to reduce carbon emissions generated in Derbyshire to help meet ambitious national targets needed to address the global climate change crisis. Action is needed on an unprecedented scale and local authorities have a crucial role to play through leading by example and inspiring and encouraging communities to play their part.

The Council is already getting its own house in order by cutting emissions from its buildings and operations to reduce the council's carbon footprint to net zero by 2032 or sooner. But the Council wants to go even further to fulfil its climate and carbon reduction pledges set out in May 2019 and to deliver its Climate Change Strategy due to be published autumn 2021. This includes building on measures already put in place to remove single use plastics from catering at County Hall and minimising use of single use plastics across all our operations.

2.2 Derbyshire County Council Climate Change governance

Climate change is a multi-faceted, cross-departmental issue requiring support and action from all employees so co-ordination of the different agendas is essential in order to achieve our aims and to maximise the co-benefits of tackling climate change. Governance of climate change within the Council has recently been reviewed with Theme Teams, each with a named lead officer, co-ordinating and delivering projects across departments. A Climate Change and Environment Programme Board will oversee the work. Some issues will require action across several of these themes: Single Use Plastics is one of these issues. The Theme Lead for Single Use Plastics is Procurement working collaboratively with Waste colleagues and with input from other relevant themes as necessary.

2.3 The scale of plastic in the UK

Plastic is one of the most useful inventions in recent history. In the UK it is estimated that five million tonnes of plastic are used every year, nearly half of which is packaging which is used just once. The low cost of plastic has encouraged the development of many single use plastic (SUP) items.

SUPs can be described as any disposable plastic item that is designed to be used only once or for a short period of time. Single use plastics are often used in packaging, consumer products, cosmetics, personal protective equipment and healthcare products. Examples include plastic bags, disposable utensils, beverage containers, balloons and wet wipes. The pandemic is causing a rise in SUP items such as aprons, health care equipment and lateral flow test kits.

A comprehensive list of SUPs used by the Council can be found at Appendix 2. Single use plastic has a number of benefits. These include contributing to food safety and hygiene and reducing packaging weight in transit and thereby reducing energy and emissions that would be generated by using alternative materials.

There are three key issues linked to the development of a SUP policy:

- Plastic pollution is litter - Plastic pollution is both a global and local issue that affects the natural and urban environment, oceans and coasts and impacts on the health and wellbeing of many living creatures. Derbyshire has some of the most beautiful and accessible countryside in Britain including the Peak District National Park and the Derwent Valley World Heritage Site. The quality of our environment contributes greatly to the local economy and supports a diverse range of habitats and species which are at risk due to plastic pollution.

Plastic pollution from SUPs found in our towns and villages impacts aesthetically but is also costly to clear up. When SUP items are not adequately captured and managed at their end of life, they represent a real threat to our ecosystems by degrading into tiny particles. Known as micro-plastics, they can contaminate the food web including being ingested by plankton. There is a need to stop more plastics entering our

ecosystems and a further challenge to remove what is already there. Plastic pollution in our streams and rivers ultimately flows to the seas causing considerable damage to marine wildlife. By reducing or removing SUPs, the County Council is leading by example in finding alternatives to the types of SUPs that could pollute our environment if not disposed of correctly.

- Disposal of waste plastics – In developing a more sustainable planet it is vital to avoid the generation of waste but, where it is produced, it needs to be recognised that all wastes have a value and can be used elsewhere. There is a need to develop alternatives through supporting research and innovation and to develop the circular economy to ensure 'single use plastic' is not an end product but part of a cycle. Whilst plastics have many advantages as packaging for our goods and the manufacture of everyday items in our lives it is a difficult material to recycle and dispose of. The types of polymers used to produce some items are currently hard to recycle so they often end up as residual waste and are sent for final disposal.

The numbers of SUP items are high; the UK Government estimates that every year 4.7 billion plastic straws, 316 million plastic stirrers and 1.8 billion plastic-stemmed cotton buds end up in landfill. Replacing all these items with alternatives which are biodegradable or recyclable is a major technological and economic challenge. The difference between recyclable, biodegradable and compostable plastics is given at Appendix 3.

Countries around the world have issued bans to accepting certain types of plastic waste resulting in local authorities in the UK having to find alternative end destinations for plastic waste which has in turn increased their costs. It is often difficult for local authorities to find recycling solutions for certain types of black plastic and mixed-grade plastics. It is therefore important, where possible, to avoid the use of SUPs in the first place and, where they are purchased, to use alternative materials or ensure that they contain recycled content and can be recycled.

- SUP is found in many products: medical supplies that cannot be reused for safety and hygiene reasons, personal protective equipment, cigarette filters, chewing gums, disposable nappies, food packaging, balloons, cups, straws and many more. Recyclable or readily biodegradable alternatives are not always available. Where they are available, they are often more expensive and the Council needs to recognise the impact on Council finances of this and provide staff with guidelines on an acceptable level of increased cost. This may have implications for the financial controls currently in place.
- Plastic contributes to climate change - Chemicals derived from fossil fuel production are used to make almost all plastics. The more plastic that is made, the more petrochemicals are required, and the more

petrochemicals are required, the higher the demand for gas, oil and even coal. By reducing or removing SUPs, the County Council is helping to reduce the demand for fossil fuels, thereby reducing the carbon dioxide (CO₂) in the atmosphere.

2.4 National Policy and guidance

The UK Government under Prime Minister May had a strategic ambition to “...work towards all plastic packaging placed on the market being recyclable, reusable or compostable by 2025.” The UK Government published its *25-Year Environment Plan* in 2018, which includes a target of “achieving zero avoidable plastic waste by the end of 2042”. Furthermore in 2018, the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) published *Our waste, our resources: A strategy for England* which sets out several plastic waste reduction reforms to help the Government achieve its ambitious plans for a greener future. These include a plastic packaging tax, introducing a Deposit Return Scheme and consistency in household and business recycling collections in England. Successive UK Governments have also signed up to many international agreements aimed at reducing plastic in the marine environment. It is important that the Council plays its part in these agreements as plastic entering the streams and rivers in Derbyshire will end up in our seas and oceans harming wildlife and communities across the world as well as leaving a legacy for future generations.

In addition, there are several voluntary initiatives aimed at changing the way that plastics are designed, produced, used, re-used, disposed of and reprocessed by all stakeholders in the plastics chain. Examples of these include:

- the “Plastics Pact”, a collaboration of businesses, which has set a target to eliminate unnecessary single-use plastic packaging, for all plastic packaging to be re-usable, recyclable or compostable and for 70% to be recycled or composted by 2025. Derbyshire’s SUP outline policy includes key elements from this Pact.
- The “Plastics Industry Recycling Action Plan” (PIRAP), an industry action plan which includes: increased collection of recyclable plastics; improved sorting; and developing end markets for recycled plastics.
- The “UK Circular Plastics Network” (UKCPN), which aims to bring together plastic product users through a programme of networking and knowledge-sharing events.

2.5 Development of a Derbyshire County Council SUP Policy

Single Use Plastic is often regarded as a ‘waste’ issue, though as this paper sets out, procurement plays a key role in use of SUPs. Therefore, development of a Sustainable Procurement Policy should also be considered in the context of SUPs. A draft outline Single Use Plastic Policy for the Council and suggested key actions have been set out in Appendices 4 and 5.

3. Alternative Options Considered

3.1 No alternatives are considered, the issues for consideration are presented in this report for discussion.

4. Implications

Appendix 1 sets out the relevant implications considered in the preparation of the report.

5. Consultation

5.1 In developing this paper, consultation has been undertaken with the Council's Environmental Sustainability Group.

6. Background Papers

6.1 None.

7. Appendices

Appendix 1 - Implications

Appendix 2 - Single Use Plastics used by Derbyshire County Council

Appendix 3 - Recyclable, biodegradable and compostable plastics

Appendix 4 - Derbyshire County Council's draft Single Use Plastic Policy

Appendix 5 - Single Use Plastics key actions 2021-22

8. Recommendation(s)

That the Committee:

- a) considers the resource implications and sustainability issues raised in this report regarding development of a corporate policy for the use of Single Use Plastics, and
- c) resolves to support the further development for submission for Cabinet approval of a policy based on the initial draft outlined in Appendix 4 to this report.

9. Reasons for Recommendation(s)

9.1 To ensure that the implications regarding development of a Single Use Plastics Policy are understood, and that the approach and content of the Single Use Plastics Policy that is under development is considered fit for purpose and supported by the Committee.

Report Author: Denise Ludlam
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Implications

Financial

1.1 It should be recognised that in implementing this policy, there are resource implications and that officer time will be needed to support its delivery and monitoring.

Legal

2.1 All Council procurement and contracting activities need comply with the applicable public procurement and contracting legislation and law, including the Public Contracts Regulations 2015 which prescribe processes for public contracts for goods and services above certain thresholds. The 2015 Regulations have been amended in accordance with the terms of the withdrawal of the UK from the EU by the Public Procurement (Amendment etc.) (EU Exit) Regulations 2020.

Human Resources

3.1 Training and guidance will need to be provided for staff to understand the issues involved

Information Technology

4.1 There are no Information Technology implications associated with this report.

Equalities Impact

5.1 There are no equalities impact implications associated with this report.

Corporate objectives and priorities for change

6.1 The Strategy supports the Council's ambition to be a net zero organisation by 2032, or sooner, and for the county to be net zero by 2050, and informs the action that needs to be taken to achieve these ambitions.

Environmental Sustainability

7.1 Development and implementation of this policy will improve the environmental sustainability of the Council.

Other (for example, Health and Safety, Property and Asset Management, Risk Management and Safeguarding)

Single Use Plastics used by Derbyshire County Council

What is a single use plastic?

Plastic designed to be used just once and/or for a short period of time before being disposed of such as:

Office Plastics

Laminating Sheets
Windowed envelopes

Bubble envelopes
Bubble film bags
Adhesive tape

Drink and Food Plastics

Drinks bottles and cartons
Yoghurts in plastic pots
Wrapping around outers of drinks
Food and Sandwich wrappers
Coffee machine pods packaging

Milk pods
Stirrers
Disposable cups
Disposable plates
Disposable cup lids

Cleaning Plastics

Cleaning Product bottles
Bin bags

Cleaning Product packaging

Health and Hygiene Plastics

Latex cleaning gloves
Plastic aprons
Disposable aprons
Disposable gloves
Wipes
Air freshener packaging
Food probe wipes
Covid-19 related products

Sample bottles
Clinical wash bags
Laundry bags
Sanitary hygiene bags
Plasters
Sickness bags
Antiseptic wipes

Other plastics

Vinyl banners
Hazard tape

Workwear packaging

Packaging

The packaging that surrounds almost everything we buy. Beware – some packaging will be essential to provide longevity to the product and / or protect the product whilst in transit. But do challenge if it needs to be made of plastic.

Recyclable, biodegradable and compostable plastics

Plastics are sometimes referred to as either recyclable, biodegradable or compostable which can lead to confusion.

Recyclable plastics are usually made from petrochemicals and fossil fuels. Not all plastics made from petrochemicals and fossil fuels can be recycled.

Compostable plastics claim to be derived from renewable materials like corn, potato, and tapioca starches, cellulose, soy protein, and lactic acid. They also claim to be non-toxic and decompose back into carbon dioxide, water, and biomass when composted. However, this does not mean that putting a compostable drinks bottle or cup in your home compost bin or in garden waste that is then composted by your local council will mean it will decompose. The reality is it won't. Virtually all such plastic products that claim to be compostable will only fully decompose in a compost facility that is dedicated to such materials. Over time compostable plastics may well decompose in landfill but there is currently very little evidence on this whole subject of compostable plastics and the environmental impacts.

The right conditions must exist for compostable plastic to biodegrade and some home composting systems simply do not reach a high enough temperature to biodegrade the compostable plastics so need to go to an industrial composting facility. There are currently insufficient facilities available should the UK make a large-scale switch to biodegradable plastics.

It should also be noted that some plastics are labelled as compostable but do contain plastic from a petrochemical source – even if only a tiny amount. As such they cannot be composted. Any suggestions that a product is compostable (within the recycling facilities currently available) needs, therefore, to be verified. Onus should be placed on the supplier to provide evidence of this and must be agreed as achievable by the Council.

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Derbyshire County Council's draft Single Use Plastic Policy

Derbyshire County Council will act to remove and reduce the use of Single Use Plastic from its operations and services as well as working towards finding positive solutions for reducing unnecessary waste across Derbyshire.

A SUP action plan will be developed to support the implementation and monitoring of this policy. The action plan will be regularly reviewed and updated.

Derbyshire County Council will:

(i) Lead by example

- Embed the SUP policy into other key Council strategies, policies and plans and support officers to:
 - Understand the acceptable price differential when procuring alternatives to SUPs by providing guidance on the value of sustainability when procuring alternatives
 - Recognise and avoid buying and using SUPs across Council buildings and services
 - Seek more sustainable alternatives to SUPs
 - Ensure that SUPs which are procured have a recycled content of at least 30% and / or can themselves be recycled

(ii) Work with our suppliers and contractors

- Highlight the avoidance of SUPs in the Council's Sustainable Procurement Policy
- Request that suppliers have a SUP policy in place or can demonstrate that they are working to minimise the use of SUP's in their organisation and are finding sustainable alternatives (where appropriate)
- Embed requirements for the reduction of SUP in procurement and tender processes for the Council

(iii) Support the avoidance of SUPs across Derbyshire

- Work with event organisers to reduce and eliminate where possible SUPs across all Derbyshire events held on Council land and property and share guidance for this more widely
- Continue to support local communities and businesses by sharing best practice, raising awareness, supporting and promoting positive initiatives, campaigns and actions for reducing waste

This policy will be reviewed every three years.

Policy approved: XX XXX 2021

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Single Use Plastics key actions 2021-22

The Single Use Plastics Policy will be implemented and monitored through delivery of actions set out in the Single Use Plastics Action Plan which will be reviewed annually. Key actions to be included are set out below.

Key actions
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop and seek approval for a corporate Single Use Plastics Policy
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Agree targets for delivery
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue to identify SUPs used by the Council adding to the list in Appendix A
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Produce a Staff Guide on SUPs to be made available to all staff through the website
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conduct an internal communications campaign increasing awareness of the Staff Guide
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop Procurement guidance, template documents and qualitative and quantitative measures to use in Council procurement and commissioning.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify resources and methods to monitor the use of SUPs
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work with departments to support the review and implementation of actions to reduce SUPs in current Council Contracts.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop support materials to promote the Council's SUPs Policy

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