

Single Use Plastics Policy and Action Plan

Improvement and Scrutiny Committee – Climate Change, Biodiversity and Carbon
Reduction

22 May 2023

Background

- The Council's **Corporate Environment Policy** commits the Council to:
 - minimising waste by the best practicable environmental option by eliminating, reducing, reusing, composting and recycling
 - ensuring that its purchasing power is used to reduce negative environmental impacts and to improve the environmental standards of products and services the Council purchases
- The Council's **Climate Change Strategy: Achieving Net Zero (2021-2025)** includes ambitions for the Council to:
 - reduce its consumption and generation of resources and waste
 - embed environmental requirements and into all contracts.

Background

- SUP Policy developed by the Council and approved by Cabinet on 14 October 2021.
- An Action Plan to achieve the goals and objectives set out in the SUP Policy was developed and approved by the Corporate Management Team on 26 July 2022.
- The Council's Sustainable Procurement Policy was approved by Cabinet on 16 June 2022.

Progress Update – Measurement and Reporting

Action	Update
Produce a qualitative baseline	SUPs list reviewed annually. Reducing the use of SUPs is included within the Sustainable Procurement Policy.
Annual monitoring report	Incorporated into the annual report on delivery of the Council's Climate Change Strategy and Programme.
Include a clause in large contracts requesting baseline and annual reports monitoring	Opportunities are assessed and implemented within procurement activities on a contract-by-contract basis. Embedding these requirements will enable baseline figures to be established and monitoring to be undertaken.

Progress Update – Sustainable Procurement

Action	Update
Develop Procurement guidance, template documents and qualitative and quantitative measures to use in Council procurement and commissioning	SUPs are an integral part of the Sustainable Procurement Policy. Opportunities to include appropriate wording and measures to reduce the use of SUPs are assessed and implemented on a contract-by-contract basis.
Work with departments to support the review and implementation of actions to reduce SUPs in current contracts	<p>Through implementation of the Sustainable Procurement Policy the Council is seeking to reduce SUPs in new procurement activities and the ongoing management of existing contracts.</p> <p>Good examples of services taking steps to replace the use of plastics with sustainable alternatives – e.g. Children’s Services and Highways.</p>

Progress update – Waste and Recycling

Action	Update
Develop an agreed approach to monitoring waste and recycling from the Council estate	Mapping of corporate waste contracts and processes across the Council and identifying opportunities for standardising corporate approaches and measurement.
Establish Scope 3 emissions from waste produced from the Council estate	Part of wider baselining of the Council's Scope 3 emissions by the end of 2023. Scope 3 emission reduction targets to be set for 2024-25 onwards.
Work with Facilities Management to reduce waste and improve recycling	Work being carried out to enable consistency in the provision of bins and signage across the corporate estate. This includes an audit of waste facilities carried out at County Hall in January 2023.

Progress Update – Internal Engagement

Action	Update
Produce a Staff Guide on SUPs to be made available to all staff through the website	Staff Guide to be finalised once the mapping of the Council's corporate waste contracts and processes has been carried out and consistency in the provision of bins and signage is achieved. Staff Guide to be launched with wider communication on the Sustainable Procurement Policy.
Deliver training and conduct an internal communications campaign about the Staff Guide to promote implementation of the SUP Policy	An internal comms campaign planned for the launch of the Staff Guide. Reducing the use of SUPs is included within a 2-hour climate change training module available to all staff. To be promoted at a staff engagement event at County Hall on 15 June 2023.

Progress update – External Engagement

Action	Update
Engage with special-interest community groups	Engagement with a range of community groups and charities. Positive feedback received and an appetite for collaborative working.
Explore opportunity to promote a reduction in SUPs across the county	Plastic Free County Council accreditation explored. Engagement with district and borough councils. Increased recycling and reuse part of the Council's new Household Waste Recycling Centre (HWRC) contracts.
Work with local producers and businesses to restrict the use of single use products and support the market for remanufactured goods	Sustainable Procurement Policy helping to embed requirements within the supply chain. The Council actively supports the county's network of Repair Cafés and relevant community groups and charities.

Next Steps

- Measurement and Reporting
- Sustainable Procurement
- Waste and Recycling
- Internal Engagement
- External Engagement