

STROUD DISTRICT COUNCIL
ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

**AGENDA
ITEM NO**

7 JUNE 2018

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Report Title	SINGLE USE PLASTICS AND RECYCLING
Purpose of Report	To inform the Committee of progress made to remove single use plastics from SDC facilities.
Decision(s)	The Committee resolves to: Note the position as set out in the report.
Consultation and Feedback	Details are contained within the body of the report.
Financial Implications and Risk Assessment	<p>Whilst the purpose of the report is to update the Committee with progress of the removal of single use plastics, there may be some transitional costs to the council in achieving this. Any additional costs will need to be met within existing resources.</p> <p>Adele Rudkin, Accountant 01453 754109 adele.rudkin@stroud.gov.uk</p>
Legal Implications	<p>The Council's decision on the 26 April 2018 (repeated below) sets out the monitoring, updating and reporting mechanism it required to take place. This report is in addition to those and for noting purposes only. There are no specific decisions required and therefore no legal implications.</p> <p>Craig Hallett, Solicitor & Deputy Monitoring Officer Tel: 01453 754364 Email: craig.hallett@stroud.gov.uk RC16.05D21.05</p>
Report Authors	<p>Barry Wyatt, Director of Development Services Tel 01453 754210 Email: barry.wyatt@stroud.gov.uk</p> <p>Mike Hammond, Head of Community Services Email: mike.hammond@stroud.gov.uk Tel 01453 754447</p>
Options	The report is for information only.
Performance Management Follow Up	Updates on progress will be monitored by this committee.

1. Introduction

- 1.1 The recent focus on pollution caused by plastics has come about as a result of Sir David Attenborough's recent series '*Blue Planet II*', highlighting the staggering scale of harm plastic waste has on the marine environment.

- 1.2 The purpose of this report is to outline plans that are being implemented in order to remove single use plastics from the District Council's supply chain in line with the Council motion passed on Thursday 26 April 2018, and to highlight our the importance of our duty as a waste collection authority.

2. Progress so far

- 2.1 Changes have already been implemented at Ebley Mill and Stratford Park Leisure Centre, working with our onsite caterer and SLM, other changes are in progress as set out below.

Ebley Mill

- Replacing plastic stirrers with metal spoons,
- Replacing take-a-way containers with compostable containers,
- Compostable cutlery
- Replace plastic straws with paper straws
- Replace plastic cups in reception with recycled paper cups,
- Replace plastic cups in Council Chamber and Committee Room with reusable cups,
- Water refill points in Reception and Riverside Restaurant,
- Riverside Restaurant will offer discount if you bring in your own reusable cup for hot drinks.

The Pulse

- All vending supplying drinks will be 100% recyclable
- Users are encouraged to refill own bottles at water points
- Two water points within the Pulse

Stratford Park Leisure Centre

SLM (the operators of SPLC) are in the process of preparing a company single-use plastic policy to include.

- Replacing plastic stirrers for wooden,
- Replace polystyrene plates for thick cardboard,
- Replace polystyrene take away chip bowls for paper bags,
- Replace sauce sachets with sauce bottles
- Replace sachets with salt and pepper pots
- Two water fountains are to be installed on the Outdoor pool with signage to encourage refilling of bottles,
- Within the Leisure Centre a further fountain will be provided with recyclable drinking cones and signage to encourage refilling of bottles

The following measures have already been implemented:

- Coffee cups are now recyclable,
- Both Britvic & Lucozade have confirmed all their bottles are 100% recyclable

3. Kerbside recycling and residual collections

- 3.1 While the District Council has limited direct means by which it can reduce the use of single use plastics within the district, it can ensure that it undertakes a responsible approach to providing an effective domestic recycling collection service, where the recycle is then processed by reputable merchants.
- 3.2 In respect of residual waste that includes non-recyclable single use plastics (and a proportion of unsorted recyclable plastics) these are responsibly collected to ensure that they are not released in to the environment, prior to transfer to the Waste Disposal Authority (GCC) for final disposal.
- 3.3 Without such a rigorous and responsible approach to the collection of waste and recycling within the District, it is highly likely that single use plastics would be entering the environment unmanaged and consequently creating a more harmful impact.

4. Council agreed motion

- 4.1 At the Council meeting on the 26 April 2018 a motion was passed regarding the reduction of Single Use Plastic in the Stroud District, this is set out at Appendix A.

As per item 2 below, a task and finish group consisting of elected members will be established. The group will need to consider how the council can 'extend its reach' in terms of moving beyond the changes that it has implemented in its own facilities. Taking into consideration its own duties as the waste collection authority whilst recognising the constraints on Council resources.

Appendix A

The Council:

- 1. Become a 'single use plastic free' authority as soon as possible by ending:**
 - a. the purchase and procurement of single use plastics through the Council's supply chain and**
 - b. the sale and provision of single use plastic products such as bottles, cups, cutlery and drinking straws at Ebley Mill and at all Council events.**
- 2. Form a task and finish group which will report to the July 2018 meeting of Strategy and Resources, setting out an action plan to deliver this commitment.**
- 3. Encourage the District's businesses and institutions to commit to reducing single use plastic waste in their organisation, for example, by taking the 'plastic free pledge'.**

4. Encourage local shops, cafes, restaurants and market stall holders to:
 - a. provide a discount to customers who purchase drinks or food in their own reusable containers and invite customers to bring their own; and
 - b. support the Refill initiative, and where possible, offer free tap water refills.
5. Provide information to residents on how to minimise use of single use plastic products and how to avoid disposal of plastic items via waste water.
6. Investigate the possibility of requiring pop-up food and drink vendors at large events in the District to avoid single use plastic as a condition of their contract.
7. Explore the creation of a 'plastic free network' that could provide business support, practical guidelines and advice to help local businesses and organisations transition from single use plastic to sustainable alternatives.
8. Seek to eliminate single use plastic at all SDC facilities by 2020, and from the Council supply chain by 2025.