

Single Use Plastics and Recycling – Update

This information sheet is a follow up to the report brought to committee on 7th June 2018-
<https://www.stroud.gov.uk/media/682440/item-10-single-use-plastics-and-recycling.pdf>

The report noted the extensive work undertaken at the time, which included the removal of many single use plastic items from Ebley Mill, The Pulse and Stratford Park Leisure Centre. The report also outlined a number of wide-reaching recommendations, to further reinforce the SDC stance.

The bullet points below provide a brief summary of the progress that has been made in the intervening period:

- Procurement; The introduction of the Social Value Portal when procuring SDC contracts over £75k. This has obliged contractors to illustrate the social value they will bring in relation to environmental sustainability. There are two Themes, Outcomes and Measures (TOMs) that are particularly relevant:
 - 1) Total volume or reduction in plastics against a relevant benchmark
 - 2) Reduction of waste through product reuseWork is ongoing to incorporate social value on contracts of a lower value too.
- Business; Promotion of the local organisation Stroud District Action on Plastic (SDAP). SDAP have been engaging with residents, businesses, schools and communities in the district, helping organisations and individuals to make better choices in the use of plastics.
- Education; The use of targeted recycling and plastic awareness campaigns. Stroud District Council, in conjunction with partners of the Gloucestershire Resources and Waste Partnership, have run campaigns to encourage the responsible recycling of plastic, highlighting alternatives to single use plastic consumption.
- Licensing; The signposting to guidance on operating plastic free and minimising waste produced at events.
- Facilities Management; The restricting of single use items. Stratford Park Leisure Centre continue to make improvements and have introduced plastic recycling within the centre, encouraging all users to dispose of their plastic bottles and other plastic waste responsibly. In addition, they have introduced an incentive scheme that encourages customers to use their own re-usable drinking cups.
- Facilities Management; The discontinuation of single use items. At The Pulse further improvements have been made, notably removing the use of single use shoe covers. In 2019 The Pulse used 30,000 pairs which amounts to around 150kg of landfill waste. This has now been reduced to zero.
- Education; The use of Council Tax billing to mailshot our plastic infographic. This allowed every household to easily identify plastic compounds that can be recycled at the kerbside, with further advice on how to recycle non-standard items. This has now been superseded by the introduction of a new tool (The Waste Wizard) allowing

residents to search for reuse and recycling advice on any item - <https://www.stroud.gov.uk/environment/bins-rubbish-and-recycling/waste-wizard>.

Whilst the overall approach has been cross council, the Multi Service Team (Community Services), will have a key role going forward, with the focus on making further impacts to kerbside recycling.

Advice and resident engagement will be fundamental, with both local and national campaigns supported and promoted via the Councils media channels.

Discussions with an organisation called Podback are ongoing, investigating the collection of single use coffee pods at the kerbside. Small electrical items (WEEE) are also being considered.

There is also a drive to improve the quality of recyclate and reduce the prevalence of non-recyclable items within the kerbside material. Ongoing work is identifying the items that persistently contaminate loads, which in time, will lead to engagement with residents in an effort to standardise behaviours and reduce 'wishcycling'.