

STOCKTON-ON-TEES BOROUGH COUNCIL

CABINET RECOMMENDATIONS

PROFORMA

Cabinet Meeting19th March 2020

1. Title of Item/Report

Single Use Materials Policy 2020-2025

2. Record of the Decision

As part of the Council's commitment to environmental improvement and sustainability, consideration was given to a proposed new Council Single Use Materials Policy 2020-2025.

The Council had previously demonstrated its environmental commitment through a variety of strategic and operational commitments ranging from the significant investment and performance in areas such as energy reduction in street lighting, to reducing the Council's greenhouse gas emissions.

Previous Environment Policy, adopted in December 2017, included the priority of managing resources sustainably. This was consistent with the Governments 'Resources and Waste Strategy for England' 2018 which set out how the UK would double resource productivity and eliminate avoidable waste of all kinds (including plastic waste) by 2050, with a focus on minimising waste, promoting resource efficiency and moving towards a circular economy.

There was now a drive for a more circular economy, maximising the value of resources and minimising waste and its impact on the environment. The Council, as the largest local authority in the region, had a key role to play in single use material waste, particularly plastic. Single use materials such as plastics, were products designed for a single use after which they were recycled or disposed as solid waste, often implying cheapness and short-term convenience rather than medium to long-term durability. Plastic was the most prominent and high profile material with 79% of the plastic waste ever produced now residing in landfills or in the environment and only 9% ever having been recycled.

The Council, in recognising the importance of its role and enhancing the Environment Policy, was therefore proposing to commit to:

- Minimising the dependence on single use materials across the Council

- Increasing the amount of recycling and reducing the amount of general waste to Energy from Waste
- Separating out materials via collection facilities in all main buildings
- Phasing out all single use materials by 2025 from Council activity
- Leading by example, influencing partners, suppliers and contractors, and increasing public awareness of the issue.

By adopting the Single Use Materials Policy, it would seek to ensure that we minimise and phase out the use of single materials across the Council by 2025 and:

- Audit all current internal arrangements, adopt an 'action plan to zero' on single use materials in the next 12 months, and agree targets for annual improvements
- Implement a phased approach to new internal waste and recycling collection facilities in all operational assets, beginning with our six main administrative buildings in 2020/21
- Implement awareness campaigns, engage with suppliers, contractors and stakeholders to phase out the removal of all single use materials from Council processes
- Engage with partners in joint ventures and innovative projects to raise awareness, reduce and phase out single use material waste
- Measure and publically report the impacts of the Policy and actions on reducing waste and our pathway to Zero Single Use Materials
- Deliver communications campaigns on single use materials and recycling

RESOLVED that Cabinet note the report and the rationale for a new Single Use Materials Policy and approve the attached policy.

3. Reasons for the Decision

To ensure Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council has an adopted framework for our actions across the organisation to reduce the use of single use materials, improve the management of resources and to contribute to the overall improved environmental performance of the organisation. It will provide the guiding principles and objectives for our decisions on products and materials, and strengthens the ability to maintain good environmental performance from contractors, suppliers and partner organisations.

4. Alternative Options Considered and Rejected

None

5. Declared (Cabinet Member) Conflicts of Interest

None

6. Details of any Dispensations

N/A

7. Date and Time by which Call In must be executed

Midnight, Friday 27th March 2020

Proper Officer
23 March 2020