

Single Use Materials Policy

Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council



March 2020

STOCKTON – ON – TEES BOROUGH COUNCIL SINGLE USE MATERIALS POLICY

This Single Use Materials policy statement outlines Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council's commitment to increase reuse and recycling, phase out single use materials by 2025 and contribute to SBC's overarching Environment Policy as part of our commitment to the environment.

‘Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council commits to becoming a “Single Use Materials-free” Local authority by March 2025, demonstrate leadership on phasing out unsustainable practices, and inspire and work with partners and providers to adopt similar commitments’.

1. To increase recycling and reduce single use materials across all SBC operations we will:

- Audit current internal waste, recycling and procurement arrangements, document waste and recycling tonnages and adopt targets for year on year improvements
- Adopt an ‘action plan to zero 2020 – 2025’ on single use materials and targets for year on year improvements in recycling
- 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 an awareness campaign to raise the profile of the policy, encourage behaviour change and create ‘champions’ to inspire others
- By 2025 phase out the availability of all single use materials, including plastics, in SBC services and operations, and provide only reusable and recoverable products
- Annually publish our performance against the policy and targets

2. In working with the supply chain we will:

- Engage with procurement, suppliers and contractors to phase out the removal of all single use materials from the procurement processes
- Work with all Council directorates, external event organisers and partner organisations phase out the use of single use material products across the Borough
- Engage with partners in joint ventures and innovative projects to raise awareness, reduce and phase out single use material waste

3. To raise awareness and stimulate action in the wider community we will:

- Collaborate with the ‘Bright Minds Big Futures’ programme and engage young people to driver and deliver education programmes on single use materials
- Support schools and other educational establishments and programmes through waste education projects
- Engage with and support local communities to encourage waste reduction, reuse and recycling and phase out single use materials in communities
- Work with Communications and Media, partner organisation and communities to raise awareness through wide ranging communication methods including social media

4. To comply with legislation and other requirements we will:

- Provide training, advice and support to Elected Members and staff to ensure legal compliance
- Review and audit our activities and keep up to date with changes in environmental legislation

5. To manage the Single Use Materials Policy we will:

- Maintain partnerships with local, regional and national organisations.
- Engage regularly with Elected Members and staff to deliver the policy
- Regularly review best practice, government guidance and legislation
- Review the policy annually and regularly publish performance data at: www.stockton.gov.uk/environment-and-housing

This policy is underpinned by adopted policies on environment and climate change.

Signed: _____

Name: Councillor Bob Cook

Position: Leader of Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council

Date: March 2020

Review Date: March 2021