

5th September 2019**Agenda Item:7****REPORT OF THE SERVICE DIRECTOR, PLACE AND COMMUNITIES****MOTION TO FULL COUNCIL – SINGLE USE PLASTICS****Purpose of the Report**

1. To update Members on the progress of actions agreed in the motion on single-use plastics at Full Council in March 2018 and;
2. Seek approval from Committee for future updates on the motion to be delivered through the development of the corporate Environment Strategy

InformationBackground

3. Full Council agreed the following motion on single-use plastics (SUP) in March 2018 for Nottinghamshire County Council: -
 - supports the growing national campaign to highlight the dangers of single-use plastics to our environment, especially our oceans;
 - commits to continue to work with our waste management partners to maximise the amount of plastic and other materials which can be recycled subject to negotiation;
 - commits to review and reduce our reliance on single-use plastic products such as bottles, cups, cutlery and drinking straws throughout the Council's services and facilities, wherever alternative materials will not increase, and ideally can reduce costs to the council taxpayer;
 - will encourage our facilities users and local businesses and other public bodies to make the same commitment to reduce their use of SUPs;
 - agrees that a report should be brought to Communities & Place Committee every six months to update Members on progress towards this objective.
4. This report gives a high-level overview of the actions County Council services have taken so far, as well as proposing how updates on progress towards these actions will be reported going forward.

Update on progress

5. Council services have already implemented a number of changes which have reduced reliance on SUPs. These are briefly outlined below.

Council / Committee meetings

6. SUP water bottles are no longer used for any Council or Committee meetings. Instead jugs and glasses are offered, which is estimated to have saved approximately 2,000 plastic bottles per year.

Catering

7. Reusable cups are offered in Council catering outlets. These are sold on a cost recovery basis only. Year on year this has resulted in a reduction in cup and lid usage of approximately 13,000.
8. Biodegradable takeaway cartons are now used for hot food and PET recyclable salad boxes are also in use.
9. Wooden stirrers for all hot drinks are provided, reducing the reliance on plastic spoons.

Facilities Management

10. Water machines within staff areas no longer have plastic cups available. Facilities have ensured that there is enough glassware for this. Based on last year's usage this will result in reducing the usage of plastic cups by 40,000.

To be implemented

11. Facilities are currently awaiting samples on a biodegradable cup that will be available in all public meeting rooms. Furthermore, all take away cutlery is to be biodegradable by the end of July 2019.

Waste Management Partners and Contracts

12. Discussions continue with Veolia and Waste Collection Authority partners to minimise the impact of SUP and maximise the opportunities for recycling of suitable plastics through kerbside collections.
13. Veolia operate their own closed loop plastic recycling operations in the UK and Europe where targeted plastics get recycled into raw materials for the manufacture of recycled plastic products.
14. Low grade plastics, and products which have unsustainable end markets or are uneconomic to recycle are not targeted within the kerbside recycling collections, however around 95% of all waste collected in the County is now diverted from landfill, with the majority or residual waste now sent for energy recovery
15. Veolia operate within strict legislative parameters and have a full "Duty of Care" audit trails on all waste handled, ensuring that no plastic (or other waste) is released into the environment.

Environment Strategy

16. In May 2019 the following motion was tabled and agreed at Full Council:

17. To that end, this Council resolves to: -

- Welcome current plans to bring proposals to the next Policy Committee to develop a new Corporate Environment Strategy, which will consider the recent Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change report and other relevant information. This will include working through the evidence base, with the intention of setting a carbon neutral target date for Nottinghamshire County Council, and our governance structure will ensure close monitoring of progress and outcomes.
- Integrate this commitment into the Nottinghamshire County Council Four Year Plan 'Your Nottinghamshire, Your Future'.
- Continue to include and strengthen the assessment of the implications for sustainability and the environment in all relevant reports to committees.
- Communicate this commitment with residents, businesses and all strategic partners across Nottinghamshire, and provide ongoing information to residents about how local action can make a difference.

18. Officers briefed Corporate Leadership Team (CLT) in June, and a fully encompassing Corporate Environment Strategy for the County Council was endorsed.

19. A report is currently being developed on the principles and scope of the Corporate Environment Strategy and will be taken to Policy Committee in Autumn 2019, with a strategy itself being approved and implemented by Summer 2020.

20. It is proposed all further updates to Communities and Place Committee regarding the SUP motion are to be delivered through the comprehensive Corporate Environment Strategy to save replication of work.

Other Options Considered

21. To continue to update committee every 6 months as agreed in the SUP motion, however this will duplicate work which will also be delivered through the Corporate Environment Strategy.

Reason/s for Recommendation/s

22. Since the SUP motion was agreed, another motion has been agreed by Full Council. The work carried out on the SUP can be updated through the delivery of the Corporate Environment Strategy which will reduce replication and therefore save on resources.

Statutory and Policy Implications

23. This report has been compiled after consideration of implications in respect of crime and disorder, data protection and information governance, finance, human resources, human rights, the NHS Constitution (public health services), the public sector equality duty, safeguarding of children and adults at risk, service users, smarter working, sustainability and the environment and where such implications are material they are described below. Appropriate consultation has been undertaken and advice sought on these issues as required.

Financial Implications

24. There are no direct financial implications contained within the report.

RECOMMENDATION/S

That Committee:

- 1) Agree for further updates on the Single Use Plastics (SUP) motion from March 2018 to be delivered through Committee Reporting on the development of the Corporate Environment Strategy.

Derek Higton
Service Director, Place and Communities

For any enquiries about this report please contact:
Mick Allen, Group Manager, Place Commissioning, Tel: 0115 9774684

Constitutional Comments (SLB 29/07/2019)

25. Communities and Place Committee is the appropriate body to consider the content of this report

Financial Comments (SES 01/08/2019)

26. There are no financial implications arising from directly from this report.

Background Papers and Published Documents

Except for previously published documents, which will be available elsewhere, the documents listed here will be available for inspection in accordance with Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972.

Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected

- All