

Report to:

**TOURISM, ECONOMY AND RESOURCES
SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

Relevant Officer:

Sharon Davis, Scrutiny Manager

Date of Meeting

12 September 2018

SINGLE USE PLASTICS SCRUTINY REVIEW

1.0 Purpose of the report:

1.1 To outline the work and outcomes of the Single Use Plastics Scrutiny Review.

2.0 Recommendation(s):

2.1 To note the outcome of the Single Use Plastics Scrutiny Review

2.2 To include monitoring of work being undertaken to end the usage of single use plastics, as agreed by Council, on the Committee work programme.

3.0 Reasons for recommendation(s):

3.1 To ensure the Committee is aware of the outcome of the review and to monitor the implementation of the 27 June 2018 Council motion to end, where practically possible, single use plastic usage by May 2020.

3.2a Is the recommendation contrary to a plan or strategy adopted or approved by the Council? No

3.2b Is the recommendation in accordance with the Council's approved budget? Yes

3.3 Other alternative options to be considered:

The Committee could decide not to monitor the implementation of the 27 June 2018 Council motion. However this is not recommended.

4.0 Council priority:

4.1 The relevant Council priorities are

- "The economy: Maximising growth and opportunity across Blackpool"
- "Communities: Creating stronger communities and increasing resilience"

5.0 Background information

- 5.1 The negative effects of single use plastics (SUP) on the environment have been a topical issue of concern following reports across a variety of forms of media.
- 5.2 In response to this a number of other local authorities have undertaken to reduce or end SUP usage in recent years and there are campaigns to encourage individuals to reduce their personal use. In light of this Scrutiny Members felt that it was important that a review panel be established to look into the issue at Blackpool.
- 5.3 Therefore the Committee at its 25 April 2018 meeting agreed to establish a review panel to investigate the use of SUPs by the organisation and what action, if any, was being undertaken to reduce its usage.
- 5.4 The Scrutiny Review Panel comprised of Councillors Rowson (Chairman), Mrs Callow, Callow, Critchley, Hobson, Humphreys, Hunter, Mrs Scott and Scott.
- 5.5 The following key areas for consideration were identified for the review:
- The use of one use/plastic cups and other products (plastic stirrers, coffee cups) by the Council. E.g. those used in Committee rooms at the town hall, in Bickerstaffe meeting rooms, Members rooms.
 - Identifying products that the Council provides that are used in schools as part of the free school breakfast initiative and in Children’s Centres, sports centres, at Council events, crematoriums etc.
 - Identifying potential alternatives to products currently used e.g. wooden stirrers, biodegradable coffee cups
 - Consideration of the potential introduction of a proposed policy, or a drive to become plastic free.
 - Consideration of if/how local businesses could be influenced. To support the work already being undertaken.
- 5.6 The Review Panel held three meetings between May and July 2018, including an initial scoping meeting. Members heard evidence from the Head of Waste Policy and Partnerships and received information on SUP usage from a variety of Council services and two of its wholly-owned companies.
- 5.7 At the 27 June 2018 Council meeting Councillor Humphreys submitted the following motion for consideration:
- ‘This Council supports Surfers Against Sewage “Plastics Free Coastlines” movement, committing to plastic free alternatives and supporting plastic free initiatives within Lancashire.

The Council commits to lead by example to remove single-use plastic items from its premises. It must also encourage plastic free initiatives, promoting the campaign and supporting its events.

A representative of this Council, appointed by the Leader of the Council, will volunteer to become a member of the Surfers Against Sewage “Plastic Free Coastlines” Steering group, in order to support them in developing a local action plan.

Blackpool Council therefore commits to eliminating, wherever practically possible, its use of single use plastics by May 2020 and to work with our wholly owned companies to the same end.’

- 5.8 The motion was carried at the meeting.
- 5.9 In light of the adoption of a deadline by the Council to eliminate the use of SUPs it was felt by members of the review panel that there would no longer be value in continuing the review or seeking to make any recommendations. However it was still felt that this issue should be monitored to ensure the motion was implemented as envisioned. It was agreed that this should be through the Tourism, Economy and Resources Scrutiny Committee, as the issue fell within its remit.
- 5.10 Members also sought to be assured that a Council officer had been appointed to be responsible for the implementation of the motion. John-Paul Lovie, Head of Waste Policy and Partnerships has subsequently been identified and will attend a future meeting of the Scrutiny Committee to present an update report on the implementation of the motion.
- 5.11 Does the information submitted include any exempt information? No

6.0 List of Appendices:

6.1 None

7.0 Legal considerations:

7.1 None

8.0 Human resources considerations:

8.1 The ending of Single-Use Plastics could have implications for human resources, however these were not considered by the review group during the course of its work.

9.0 Equalities considerations:

9.1 None

10.0 Financial considerations:

10.1 Ending the use of Single Use Plastics and a move to greener products at the Council was recognised as potentially having an increased financial cost. However the review group had not explored this issue in any detail before it came to an end.

11.0 Risk management considerations:

11.1 None

12.0 Ethical considerations:

12.1 There are a number of ethical consideration surrounding the use of plastics and there effect on the environment.

13.0 Internal/external consultation undertaken:

13.1 The review group requested information regarding Single-Use Plastic usage from across the Council's services and wholly-owned companies as part of its evidence gathering.

14.0 Background papers:

14.1 None