

<b>24 January 2023</b>		<b>ITEM: 5</b>
<b>Cleaner, Greener and Safer Overview &amp; Scrutiny Committee</b>		
<b>Single Use Plastic Policy Implementation</b>		
<b>Wards and communities affected:</b> N/a	<b>Key Decision:</b> Non-Key	
<b>Report of:</b> Susan Reddick - Strategic Lead Waste		
<b>Accountable Assistant Director:</b> Daren Spring - Assistant Director Street Scene and Leisure		
<b>Accountable Director:</b> Julie Nelder – Acting Director Public Realm		
<b>This report is Public</b>		

## **Executive Summary**

This report will suggest an approach whereby all services are reminded to find viable alternatives to SUPs which are both less harmful to the environment and cost effective.

### **1. Recommendation(s)**

#### **1.1 To agree the approach across the Council to implement to eliminate where possible SUP's from Thurrock Council**

### **2. Introduction and Background**

2.1 A policy was approved at the Cabinet meeting 9th Feb 2022 to eliminate, where possible, SUPs from Thurrock Council  
<https://democracy.thurrock.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CIId=129&MID=5957#A115084>

2.2 This plan will suggest an approach whereby all services are reminded to find viable alternatives to SUPs which are both less harmful to the environment and cost effective. A key challenge for the plan is to balance both coordination and execution effort and cost against rigor and thoroughness. Although the title of the policy is the removal of SUPs from council properties, the policy also extends to events on council land, educating public and supporting schools with regard to eliminating SUPs.

### **3. Issues, Options and Analysis of Options**

### 3.1 Option 1

3.2.1 Implement a framework whereby all services undertake a review of SUPs used in their area and commit to dates when alternatives will be used. The responses can then be consolidated into a Thurrock SUP plan and updated monthly by each area. This approach would require suitable project governance across Thurrock Council to ensure the assurances are delivered against.

### 3.2.2 Option 2

3.2.3 Implement a procurement process to ensure that the policy is considered at the point of procurement for new procurements and a review is carried out for live contracts.

3.2.4 For existing Council Office contracts, review the contracts regarding the policy and seek where possible to ensure compliance

3.2.5 Develop a communications plan to support the plan delivery and to publicise the initiative

3.2.6 Develop an approach for supporting schools and events on council land

## **4. Reasons for Recommendation**

4.1 Option 2 is recommended as this option will be less labour intensive and will be implemented as part of the day-to-day process of procurement, rather than as a separate project.

## **5. Consultation (including Overview and Scrutiny, if applicable)**

5.1 Cleaner, Greener and Safer Overview & Scrutiny

## **6. Impact on corporate policies, priorities, performance and community impact**

6.1 This will allow us to support the roll out of the Single Use Plastic Policy which will allow us to reduce our reliance on SUP's, which also supports the Government's 2018 25 Year Environment Plan.

## **7. Implications**

### **7.1 Financial**

Implications verified by: **Laura Last**

## Senior Management Accountant

The council continues to experience significant revenue budget pressures and exceptional wider financial risks and, as a result, a section 114 notice was issued on 19th December 2022. There are no direct finance implications arising from this report

### 7.2 Legal

Implications verified by: **Gina Clarke**  
**Corporate Governance Lawyer and Deputy Monitoring Officer**

The Environmental Protection (Plastic Straws, Cotton Buds and Stirrers) (England) Regulations 2020 bans businesses in England (except for exempt users) supplying certain single-use plastics, including straws, cotton swabs, and coffee stirrers to end users. The Regulations make it an offense to supply single-use plastic stirrers to end users. The Regulations are enforced by local authorities. Adoption of the recommendation in the report by a Cabinet decision would demonstrate that the Council is leading by example in taking action to reduce the use of single plastics in Council Offices and work practices.

### 7.3 Diversity and Equality

Implications verified by: **Roxanne Scanlon**  
**Community Engagement and Project Monitoring Officer**

There are no direct diversity or equality implications arising from this update report

### 7.4 Other implications (where significant) – i.e. Staff, Health Inequalities, Sustainability, Crime and Disorder, and Impact on Looked After Children

NA

## 8. Background papers used in preparing the report

- 8.1 Single Use Plastic Policy  
<https://democracy.thurrock.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=129&MID=5957#A115084>

## 9. Appendices to the report

- 9.1 Single Use Plastic Policy

<https://democracy.thurrock.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=129&MID=5957#A115084>

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