

HIGH PEAK BOROUGH COUNCIL

The Executive

13 February 2020

TITLE:	Recommendations from the Single Use Plastic Working Group
EXECUTIVE COUNCILLOR:	Councillor Todd- Executive Councillor for Climate Change, Environment and Community Safety
CONTACT OFFICER:	Nicola Kemp – Head of Service Commissioning
WARDS INVOLVED:	All

Appendices Attached

- 1. Single Use Plastics Full Council motion from the High Peak Labour group**
- 2. HPBC Single use plastics policy**

1. Reason for the Report

- 1.1** To provide the Executive with an overview of the work of the Single Use Plastic Working Group (SUPWG) and its recommendations.

2. Recommendation

2.1 That the Executive:

- Approves the adoption of the Single Use Plastics Policy for HPBC thus demonstrating our commitment to this important matter (as provided at Appendix 2),
- Supports the development of awareness campaigns with partners to encourage employees, residents, schools and businesses to reduce their reliance on single use plastics and to continue to support national campaigns such as Spring Clean events which encourage increased involvement in community litter picks.
- Determines the feasibility of developing a certification for local businesses who swap packaging and reduce their reliance on single use plastics. The group suggested that it be explored to determine whether the certification could be undertaken via our existing licensing systems or food safety inspections, or be monitored and awarded by local community groups.

3. Executive Summary

3.1 At the meeting on 12 December 2018, the Council resolved as follows:

'The Council notes:

- the serious concerns about plastic pollution set out by Councillor Todd and Councillor Kerr in their notice of motion (see Appendix 1) , in particular relating to single use plastics;
- the proposed principles, remedies and actions set out in the notice of motion (see Appendix 1)
- the widespread public and corporate support for effective action to deal with plastic pollution.

The Council therefore requests the Chair of the Community Select Committee to establish a sub-committee to undertake appropriate research, taking into account evidence from local public sector and corporate partners with the task of recommending an effective, achievable, timed and costed plan of action by the Council for consideration as part of the new Corporate Plan agreed for implementation during the four years after the May elections 2019.'

3.2 At its meeting on the 6th February 2019, this Committee appointed members to the SUPWG and agreed the terms of reference for the group's future work. Whilst the group initially met on the 25th March 2019 the membership of the group subsequently changed due to the local elections in May. The SUPWG membership from this time included Councillors Collins, Haken, Kelly, Kerr, Stone and Young.

3.3 The SUPWG during its meetings considered a range of briefing notes and presentations from key partners. At its final meeting in November 2019 the group agreed the following recommendations be proposed to the Community Select Committee:

- To develop a single use plastics policy for HPBC thus demonstrating our commitment to this important matter (as provided at Appendix 2),
- To develop awareness campaigns with partners to encourage employees, residents, schools and businesses to reduce their reliance on single use plastics and to continue to support national campaigns such as Spring Clean events which encourage increased involvement in community litter picks.
- To determine the feasibility of developing a certification for local businesses who swap packaging and reduce their reliance on single use plastics. The group suggested that it be explored to determine whether the certification could be undertaken via our existing licensing systems or food safety inspections, or be monitored and awarded by local community groups.

3.4 The financial implications of the proposed HPBC Single Use Plastics Policy is not fully known at this stage. A significant proportion of aspirations seek to encourage our partners and community to reduce their reliance on single use plastics and to recycle as much plastic as practicable. AES have confirmed that they will be able to develop a number of awareness campaigns from

within their existing budgets and will seek to launch their first campaign “leave it loose” in the coming months.

- 3.5 The most significant area of risk in regards to financial implications is in regard to future procurement activities. In having a desire to reduce our reliance on single use plastics, the cost of sourcing alternative products could increase. Until procurement exercises are undertaken and tenders received and assessed, the financial impact of changing from single use plastic products will not be fully known.

4. **How this report links to Corporate Priorities**

- 4.1 This report links to two Corporate Priorities:
- Effective recycling and waste management and
 - Effective provision of quality parks and open space.

5. **Alternative Options**

- 5.1 Inevitably there are two options available to the Committee:
1. To propose that the Executive approve the recommendations as detailed at 2.1 demonstrating our commitment to this important issue. **(Recommended)**
 2. To do nothing. This could be reputationally damaging for the Council in light of its plans to declare a climate change emergency. **(not recommended)**

Mark Trillo

Executive Director (People) and Monitoring Officer

Web Links and

Background Papers

12.12.18 Full Council minutes
6.2.19 Community Select minutes
25.3.19 Single use plastic working group minutes
31.7.19 Single use plastic working group minutes
24.10.19 Single use plastic working group minutes
14.11.19 Single use plastic working group minutes

Contact details

Nicola Kemp
Head of Service Commissioning
nkemp@highpeak.gov.uk

6. **Detail**

- 6.1 At the meeting on 12 December 2018, the Council resolved as follows:
‘The Council notes:
- the serious concerns about plastic pollution set out by Councillor Todd and Councillor Kerr in their notice of motion (see Appendix 1) , in particular relating to single use plastics;
 - the proposed principles, remedies and actions set out in the notice of motion (see Appendix 1)
 - the widespread public and corporate support for effective action to deal with plastic pollution.

The Council therefore requests the Chair of the Community Select Committee to establish a sub-committee to undertake appropriate research, taking into account evidence from local public sector and corporate partners with the task of recommending an effective, achievable, timed and costed plan of action by the Council for consideration as part of the new Corporate Plan agreed for implementation during the four years after the May elections 2019.'

6.2 At its meeting on the 6th February 2019 this Committee appointed members to the SUPWG and agreed the terms of reference for the group's future work. The membership of the group was confirmed as Councillors Atkins, Flower, Haken, Kerr, Todd and Young and it was agreed that the first meeting be held on the 25th March 2019.

6.3 At the first meeting it was agreed that the purpose/role of the group would be:

To identify an effective, achievable, timed and costed plan of action by the Council in regards to single use plastics for consideration as part of the new Corporate Plan agreed for implementation during the four years after the May elections 2019

The group also agreed the following programme of future meetings:

1. Service provision - explanation of existing council recycling services, implications of draft Resources & Waste Strategy and consideration of the future impact on HPBC,
2. Influencing partners – feedback from partners in regards to current activity and future plans (to inc. contracted partners, Nestle etc), consideration of plastic use to be fed into corporate procurement processes,
3. Promotion and support – communication activities to encourage residents and businesses,

6.4 Following the May local election the membership of the group changed slightly Councillors Collins, Haken, Kelly, Kerr, Stone and Young became the confirmed members of the working group

6.5 At the meeting on the 31st July 2019 two briefing notes were provided to members, detailing:

- the recycling services currently available to residents and business of the High Peak and
- an overview of the recently issued draft national Resources & Waste Strategy.

6.6 At its meeting on the 24th October, partners were invited to update the group on their activity to reduce single use plastics. Members received a presentation from Parkwood Leisure who detailed their activity across the High Peak leisure centres and at the Pavilion Gardens complex. A briefing note was also provided by Nestle and Alliance Environmental Services Ltd (AES).

6.7 At 14th November meeting, colleagues from ANSA and AES attended, providing examples of behavioural change campaigns they were successfully delivering in Cheshire East. It was requested by the group that these be replicated across the High Peak.

- 6.8 At its final meeting in November 2019 the group agreed the following recommendations be proposed to the Community Select Committee:
- To develop a single use plastics policy for HPBC thus demonstrating our commitment to this important matter,
 - To develop awareness campaigns with partners to encourage employees, residents, schools and businesses to reduce their reliance on single use plastics and to continue to support national campaigns such as Spring Clean events which encourage increased involvement in community litter picks.
 - To determine the feasibility of developing a certification for local businesses who swap packaging and reduce their reliance on single use plastics. The group suggested that it be explored to determine whether the certification could be undertaken via our existing licensing systems or food safety inspections, or be monitored and awarded by local community groups.
- 6.9 The draft Single Use Plastics Policy for HPBC is provided at Appendix 2.
- 6.10 The financial implications of the proposed policy are not fully known at this stage. A significant proportion of aspirations seek to encourage our partners and community to reduce their reliance on single use plastics and to recycle as much plastic as practicable. AES have confirmed that they will be able to develop a number of awareness campaigns from within their existing budgets and will seek to launch their first campaign “leave it loose” in the coming months.
- 6.11 The introduction of recycling facilities to enable our employees and members to recycle the commonest types of plastics from within the main council offices i.e. bottles, tubs and trays is being explored by the Assets team. It is hoped that such facilities will be introduced at Buxton Town Hall before the end of the current financial year. This will include the provision of dedicated recycling bins and communication material in kitchen areas to ensure recycling is as easy as possible.
- 6.12 Support of local and national campaigns including community and voluntary litter pick initiatives will have negligible financial impact on the council. In recent years our support of such activities have increased and additional resources including extra litter picking equipment has been funded from sources supplied by Government.
- 6.13 The most significant area of risk in regards to financial implications is in regard to future procurement activities. In having a desire to reduce our reliance on single use plastics the cost of alternative products could increase. Until procurement exercises are undertaken and tenders received and assessed the financial impact of changing from single use plastic products will not be fully known.