

## **High Peak Borough Council – Single Use Plastics policy**

Plastic waste is one of the greatest environmental challenges facing the world today. The UK government estimates that there are more than 150 million tonnes of plastic in the world's oceans affecting some 100,000 sea mammals and 1 million birds each year.

High Peak Borough Council wishes to become a leader in tackling climate change and has declared a climate change emergency. By tackling plastic waste we will be demonstrating that we are taking responsibility for our impact on the environment and community across the High Peak and beyond, thus signifying our commitment to this important issue.

Single use plastics include any disposable plastic item which is designed to be used only once. Examples include: plastic bags, disposable utensils, drinks containers and plastic cups, coffee sachets, milk portions, straws and stirrers.

To help the High Peak reduce its reliance on single use plastic we will commit to delivering the following:

1. Work towards minimising the use of single use plastics across our own operations and services. Where the use of plastics is unavoidable, we will where practicable, encourage the use of recycled plastics.
2. Work with our partners to develop communication campaigns to encourage our employees, schools, businesses and the local community to recycle as much plastic as practicable and support them to reduce their reliance on plastics and in particular single use plastic.
3. Provide recycling facilities within our offices to enable employees and members to easily recycle the commonest forms of plastic alongside other easily recyclable materials.
4. Work with our partners to minimise their reliance on single use plastics within their service provision and to encourage the use of sustainable alternatives (where appropriate).
5. Ensure all future procurement activity we undertake considers the elimination of single use plastics, where practicable, and encourages the use of sustainable or reusable alternatives.
6. Encourage organisers of events held on our land or in our buildings to reduce and in time eliminate the use of single use plastic.
7. Support community and voluntary litter pick initiatives to reduce and in time eliminate plastic litter from across the High Peak.
8. Support and promote local and national campaigns which seek to reduce our communities' reliance on plastics.