

**CAMBRIDGESHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL DRAFT PLASTICS STRATEGY**

*To:* **General Purposes Committee**

*Meeting Date:* **28th May 2019**

*From:* **Gillian Beasley, Chief Executive**

*Electoral division(s):* **All**

*Forward Plan ref:* **Not applicable**      *Key decision:* **No**

*Purpose:* **To share a draft of the Council's Plastics Strategy for review.**

*Recommendation:* **General Purposes Committee is asked to comment on the draft Plastics Strategy and recommend it for approval to the next Full Council meeting.**

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## 1. BACKGROUND

- 1.1. There is increasing public concern around the environmental impact of plastic waste in our water systems. This concern, and mounting calls for action, has been reflected in various legislations and policies brought forward by central Government, including “A Green Future: Our 25 Year Plan to Improve the Environment”, a plan already endorsed by the Council which includes a commitment to achieve zero avoidable plastic waste by the end of 2042.
- 1.2. Councillor Anna Bailey proposed a motion to Full Council on 15th May 2018 to reduce the Council’s reliance on single-use plastics which was supported by Full Council. Subsequently, Full Council on 19th March 2019 approved the future governance of an approved Plastics Strategy and Action Plan to sit under the remit of General Purposes Committee (GPC) with the Chief Executive reporting progress to GPC. In addition, Public Health was to be consulted on the Strategy and Action Plan.

## 2. MAIN ISSUES

- 2.1. *Our approach.* To deliver a sustained improvement to our use of and disposal of plastics across the Council and beyond, the expertise and enthusiasm of a number of services was needed to agree and guide the changes. A number of quick wins were actioned, such as the removal of plastic cutlery, but to deliver longer term change a more comprehensive response is required. A cross-service working group was established in October 2018, comprising staff from Waste, Facilities Management, Procurement, Communications, Flood and Water and led by the Energy Investment Unit. Drawing on the skills, knowledge and enthusiasm of the group, a strategy and action plan has been developed. In addition, Public Health has reviewed the draft Strategy and Action Plan and is supportive of its contents.
- 2.2 *The Strategy.* Plastics are used across the Council both in service delivery and the provision of wellbeing and housekeeping services for staff and Members. To systematically reduce single use plastics a draft Strategy and Action Plan has been developed (see **Appendix 1**) which describes why and how the Council will play its part in reducing its own use of single use plastics and influence others to do the same. The strategy looks to tackle the impacts of plastic products procured as part of its wide range of services and seek to influence our supply chain and the broader community.
- 2.3 The draft Strategy includes four strategic themes covering:
  - **Getting our own house in order**  
Actions to address the Council’s internal use of single-use plastic.
  - **Working with suppliers and contractors**  
As a Council, we can influence the supply chain provision of goods and services through setting standards on plastics via procurement.
  - **Helping raise awareness across Cambridgeshire**  
The Council is a member of various partnerships, putting us in a unique

position to use these relationships to influence and encourage action on plastic waste.

- **Enabling Cambridgeshire to take action**

As a Waste Disposal Authority, the Council works closely with Waste Collection Authorities to enable households to manage their waste sustainably.

- 2.4 *The Action Plan.* There are number of quick wins in the Plan that are already underway or delivered. These include removing plastic bottles from vending machines in Shire Hall, the removal of plastic straws, cups and utensils, and the establishment of Shire Hall as a TerraCycle Crisp packet recycling point. A waste-bin audit has also been undertaken by Amey (our waste contractor) to identify if Council staff and Members know which recycling bins to dispose of their waste plastics. This will help inform communications to staff and Members on plastics disposal as we move forward. Also included in the Plan are deeper actions that require procurement and legal inputs to design out single use plastics (where appropriate) from delivery of services.
- 2.5 *Monitoring and measurement.* The action plan is a dynamic document. Five performance indicators have been identified to provide a proxy position on progress across the four main themes. A baseline position has been set on these indicators to monitor and report progress.
- 2.6 Resources to deliver the action plan will come from the Transformation team supported by the working group of plastics free champions. The working group is keen to oversee/guide the delivery of the action plan as many of the actions can be delivered from within existing budgets. Some of the actions entail reviewing what we do and how we do it, or build on work that is already planned. Where additional resources are required these will need to be found from within existing budgets across the Council, private sector sponsorship or seeking grant support.

### **3. ALIGNMENT WITH CORPORATE PRIORITIES**

#### **3.1 A good quality of life for everyone**

Plastics pollution is negatively impacting our environment. It is littering our local rivers and water ways and disrupting the habitats and food health of water based animals.

#### **3.2 Thriving places for people to live**

Minimising plastic consumption across all our services will show leadership to our communities and businesses of the importance we place on environmental quality of life.

#### **3.3 The best start for Cambridgeshire's children**

Embedding a culture of minimal plastic consumption into Cambridgeshire's schools,

both through procurement and education packages, will encourage Cambridgeshire's children to understand the positive impact they can have on their environment and the difference they can make.

## **4. SIGNIFICANT IMPLICATIONS**

### **4.1 Resource Implications**

Paragraph 2.6 above highlights the resource requirements to deliver the strategy and action plan.

### **4.2 Procurement/Contractual/Council Contract Procedure Rules Implications**

Changes to our standard terms and conditions will be required through the inclusion of a clause that refers to the Council's Plastics Strategy. Where practical, the elimination of single-use plastics will be expected and alternatives found.

### **4.3 Statutory, Legal and Risk Implications**

The Strategy future-proofs the Council, particularly regarding procurement requirements, ahead of anticipated changes to legislation regarding single-use plastics.

### **4.4 Equality and Diversity Implications**

Members of the Equality and Diversity Action Group were consulted on the draft Strategy. Certain actions proposed in the Action Plan such as the removal of plastic bottles from vending machines may disproportionately impact those with disabilities (cans sometimes being hard to handle and open). To mitigate this impact various types of "opening aids" are provided in the Food Hub in Shire Hall.

### **4.5 Engagement and Communications Implications**

Staff consultation on the Draft Strategy and Action Plan took place at the end of January 2019. Ongoing engagement, both internal and external is required to bring about the systematic change needed.

### **4.6 Localism and Local Member Involvement**

There are no significant implications within this category, and all Members should be aware of the Plastics Strategy following its consideration at Full Council.

### **4.7 Public Health Implications**

Public Health has reviewed the draft Strategy and Action Plan and no significant implications have been reported.

<b>Implications</b>	<b>Officer Clearance</b>
<b>Have the resource implications been cleared by Finance?</b>	<b>Yes</b> <b>Name of Financial Officer: Sarah Heywood</b>
<b>Have the procurement/contractual/ Council Contract Procedure Rules implications been cleared by the LGSS Head of Procurement?</b>	<b>Yes</b> <b>Name of Officer: Gus De Silva</b>
<b>Has the impact on statutory, legal and risk implications been cleared by the Council's Monitoring Officer or LGSS Law?</b>	<b>Yes</b> <b>Name of Legal Officer: Fiona McMillan</b>
<b>Have the equality and diversity implications been cleared by your Service Contact?</b>	<b>Yes</b> <b>Name of Officer: Elsa Evans</b>
<b>Have any engagement and communication implications been cleared by Communications?</b>	<b>Yes</b> <b>Name of Officer: Joanna Shilton</b>
<b>Have any localism and Local Member involvement issues been cleared by your Service Contact?</b>	<b>Yes</b> <b>Name of Officer: Emma Fitch</b>
<b>Have any Public Health implications been cleared by Public Health</b>	<b>Yes</b> <b>Name of Officer: Stuart Keeble</b>

## **SOURCE DOCUMENTS**

<b>Source Documents</b>	<b>Location</b>
A European Strategy for Plastics in a Circular Economy	<a href="http://ec.europa.eu/environment/circular-economy/pdf/plastics-strategy-brochure.pdf">http://ec.europa.eu/environment/circular-economy/pdf/plastics-strategy-brochure.pdf</a>
Plastic waste inputs from land into the ocean.	<a href="http://science.sciencemag.org/content/347/6223/768">http://science.sciencemag.org/content/347/6223/768</a>
Marine Litter Report. Surfers Against Sewage.	<a href="https://www.sas.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/SAS-Marine-Litter-Report-Med.pdf">https://www.sas.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/SAS-Marine-Litter-Report-Med.pdf</a>
Environmental Impact of Microplastics	<a href="https://publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201617/cmselect/cmenvaud/179/179.pdf">https://publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201617/cmselect/cmenvaud/179/179.pdf</a>
Components of plastic: experimental studies in animals and relevance for human health	<a href="https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/19528057">https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/19528057</a>
Economic valuation of marine litter and microplastic pollution in the marine environment: An initial assessment of the case of the United Kingdom.	<a href="https://www.researchgate.net/publication/283680054_Economic_valuation_of_marine_litter_and_microplastic_pollution_in_the_marine_environment_An_initial_assessment_of_the_case_of_the_United_Kingdom">https://www.researchgate.net/publication/283680054_Economic_valuation_of_marine_litter_and_microplastic_pollution_in_the_marine_environment_An_initial_assessment_of_the_case_of_the_United_Kingdom</a>
Valuing Plastics: The business Case for Measuring, Managing and Disclosing Plastic Use in the consumer Goods Industry	<a href="http://wedocs.unep.org/handle/20.500.11822/9238">http://wedocs.unep.org/handle/20.500.11822/9238</a>
Plastics Market Situation Report Spring 2016.	<a href="http://www.wrap.org.uk/sites/files/wrap/Plastics_Market_Situation_Report.pdf">http://www.wrap.org.uk/sites/files/wrap/Plastics_Market_Situation_Report.pdf</a>
Pollution and Litter Problems	<a href="https://www.mcsuk.org/news/global_litter_bla me">https://www.mcsuk.org/news/global_litter_bla me</a>
UK Statistics on Waste- October 2018 Update	<a href="http://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/uk-waste-data">http://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/uk-waste-data</a>
Harm caused by Marine Litter, MSFD GES TG Marine Litter - Thematic Report	<a href="http://publications.jrc.ec.europa.eu/repository/bitstream/JRC104308/lbna28317enn.pdf">http://publications.jrc.ec.europa.eu/repository/bitstream/JRC104308/lbna28317enn.pdf</a>
Devon County Council Plastic Strategy	Link to strategy available at: <a href="https://www.devonnewscentre.info/county-council-unwraps-new-strategy-to-reduce-plastic-waste/">https://www.devonnewscentre.info/county-council-unwraps-new-strategy-to-reduce-plastic-waste/</a>
Minutes of Full Council from 15 <sup>th</sup> May 2018	<a href="#">Minutes of Full Council from 15th May 2018</a>