

Chichester District Council

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

18 September 2018

Reducing Single Use Plastics

1. Contacts

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2. Recommendation

- 2.1 That the Committee considers and provides any comments on the proposed Single Use Plastics Action Plan in the Appendix to this report and, subject to any changes that the Committee may advise, recommends it to Cabinet for approval.**

3. Background

- 3.1 Single-Use Plastics (SUPs) are an area of growing public concern due to their persistence in the environment, particularly when littering or other mis-disposal leads to them entering our seas. Alternatives that are reusable, not made of plastics or are compostable are increasingly available. At its meeting in May 2018, the Council resolved to:
- Continue its work to remove SUPs from Council premises and encourage “plastics-free” initiatives across Chichester District.
 - Continue its ongoing support for locally led community anti-pollution groups working towards making Chichester District and its coastline a SUP-free area; and where appropriate to appoint a Member to represent the Council at meetings of such groups.
 - Pursue with Officers the implementation of a sustained campaign to encourage residents and local businesses to discontinue the use of SUPs.
 - Task Officers with preparing a report on the issues in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Environment for a subsequent meeting of Cabinet, following scrutiny of the report by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee.
- 3.2 Following meetings of an officer working group the attached action plan (Appendix) is presented for Members’ consideration.
- #### 4. Outcomes to be Achieved
- 4.1 The outcomes that the plan aims to achieve are:

- a) Phasing out of SUPs from Council premises (admin buildings),
- b) Reducing their use by local residents and businesses through a sustained campaign of awareness raising and promotion of alternatives,
- c) Continued support for locally led community anti-pollution groups working towards making Chichester District and its coastline an SUP free area.

4.2 Once approved, the actions will be incorporated into the Council's existing service planning and performance monitoring systems.

5. Proposal

5.1 The proposal is that an Action Plan is adopted by the Council (appendix) with three main focusses; action on our own premises, supporting community led actions and thirdly encouragement of action by residents and businesses. This broad focus has led to officers across the authority being involved in drawing up the action plan.

5.2 The plan adopts four themes, as actions aimed at local businesses have been separated out from more general communications planning. The themes are:

- Improving the Council's performance as an organisation
- Working with local businesses
- Communicating the message
- Working with our community

5.3 The views of the Committee are sought on the scope of the plan, the individual actions proposed and their likely efficacy, timescales and any areas of omission or under-emphasis.

6. Alternatives Considered

6.1 Some individual service areas have been progressing aspects of these proposals independently and/or at a smaller scale. Mapping and maintaining this approach was considered but this would not have resulted in the comprehensive set of actions required by the Council resolution.

6.2 A new standalone campaign was also considered. However as this would take more resource and time to gain recognition, it was considered to be more beneficial to work with and develop the existing communications campaigns for litter and recycling as both these issues are central to reducing the impacts of SUPs on the district and the wider environment.

7. Resource and Legal Implications

7.1 The action plan itself draws out resource implications in the final column. Some of the actions involve joint work with WSCC, in particular the Waste Education team and the West Sussex Waste Partnership. The plan has been designed to minimise the need for additional budgetary resources, although in some cases re-allocation of priorities for officer time in the coming year will be needed. Any remaining budgetary implications are expected to be found from existing budgets.

7.2 As an encouragement and education based action plan there are not expected to be any additional legal or enforcement implications.

8. Consultation

8.1 The plan was drafted by an internal officer group, drawing in contributions from nominated members of relevant service teams as appropriate.

9. Community Impact and Corporate Risks

9.1 The key community impact will be to reduce the use of SUPs locally, increase recycling rates of those that are still in use and through both these outcomes, reduce SUPs ending up in our environment where they are a visual blight and a risk to wildlife and often to hygiene.

9.2 The main risks are considered to be: not being able to fulfil a public demand for reduction at a faster rate than local government action on its own can achieve and secondly a risk that messages in the existing 'Against Litter' campaigns are diluted and diffused by covering additional issues.

10. Other Implications

	Yes	No
Crime and Disorder		X
Climate Change and Biodiversity Beneficial impact on wildlife, both terrestrial and marine from reducing SUPS	X	
Human Rights and Equality Impact		X
Safeguarding and Early Help		X
General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR) Planned actions do require the gathering of personal or sensitive data.		X
Health and Wellbeing		X
Other (please specify) N/a		X

11. Appendix

11.1 Single Use Plastics Reduction Action Plan - September 2018.

12. Background Papers

None