

Report of the Interim Strategic Director

SINGLE USE PLASTIC ACTION PLAN1. Purpose of report

To seek approval for the implementation of the Single Use Plastic Action Plan.

2. Detail

There are growing global concerns about the use of single use plastics. The impact of plastic on marine life was highlighted by the programme “The Blue Planet II”. The impact identified appears to have acted as a catalyst and has heightened the national concern surrounding the use of single use plastics in particular.

The Government has recently undertaken an open consultation exercise on ways to reduce the use of single use plastic. Officers of this Council, together with other Nottinghamshire District Councils have submitted a collaborative response to the consultation.

It is important that the Council is committed to supporting this global effort and that reducing the use of single use plastic is given due consideration in all the activities of the Council.

A single use plastic action plan has been created which identifies how the Council intends to address the issue of single use plastic in its functions.

Further information on single use plastics is shown in appendix 1 and the Single Use Plastic Action Plan is shown in the appendix 2.

Further update reports will be brought to Committee following the work undertaken within the action plan.

3. Financial implications

There are no financial implications at this stage. Any financial implications from the measures identified in the action plan will be reported back to Committee at a later stage.

Recommendation

The Committee is asked to RESOLVE that the implementation of the Single Use Plastic Action Plan be approved.

Background papers

Nil

APPENDIX 1

1. What is single use plastic

Generally the term single-use plastic includes all products that are made wholly or partly of plastic and are typically intended to be used just once and/or for a short period of time before being disposed of. Examples of items commonly recognised as single-use plastics include: takeaway boxes, disposable coffee cups, stirrers, plastic wrap, polystyrene packaging and cigarette filters.

2. Open consultation

The Government's current call for evidence is intended to explore how changes to the tax system or charges could be used to reduce the amount of single-use plastics wasted by reducing unnecessary production, increasing reuse, and improving recycling. The Government would also like to explore how they can also drive innovation in this area to achieve the same outcomes.

The Government will consider all options for using the tax system to address single-use plastic waste and to drive innovation, and will use the evidence gathered from this call to inform that process. The Government wants to look broadly across the whole supply chain, from production and retail to consumption and disposal, in order to gain the best possible understanding of the whole landscape before deciding on the best course of action.

The Government wants to understand more about how to define single-use plastic and what items fall into this category, recognising that there may be a spectrum in terms of their effects on the environment and viability of alternatives. Though some of these items (e.g. takeaway boxes, coffee cups) are already covered by the Government's producer responsibility schemes, such as the Packaging Recovery Note system, the Government would still like to receive evidence on them to gain a full understanding of the issues around single-use plastics.

The closing date for the open consultation was 18 May 2018 and Officers have submitted the Council's views as part of the process.

3. Single Use Plastics and Broxtowe

It is proposed that Broxtowe Borough Council tackle the issue of single use plastic in a two-pronged approach. One that addresses the issue across the organisation and the second that addresses what support and communication we can provide to our residents to help reduce single use plastic.

An action plan has been produced which will enable baseline information to the levels of use of single use plastic within the organisation to be established. Once the levels have been ascertained recommendations can be made on how to address the demand for single use plastic. Following the outcome of the Government consultation, together with the results of the internal audit, a commitment will be made by the Council to be free of single-use plastic across its operations where possible.