



## The Environment and Sustainable Communities Overview & Scrutiny Committee

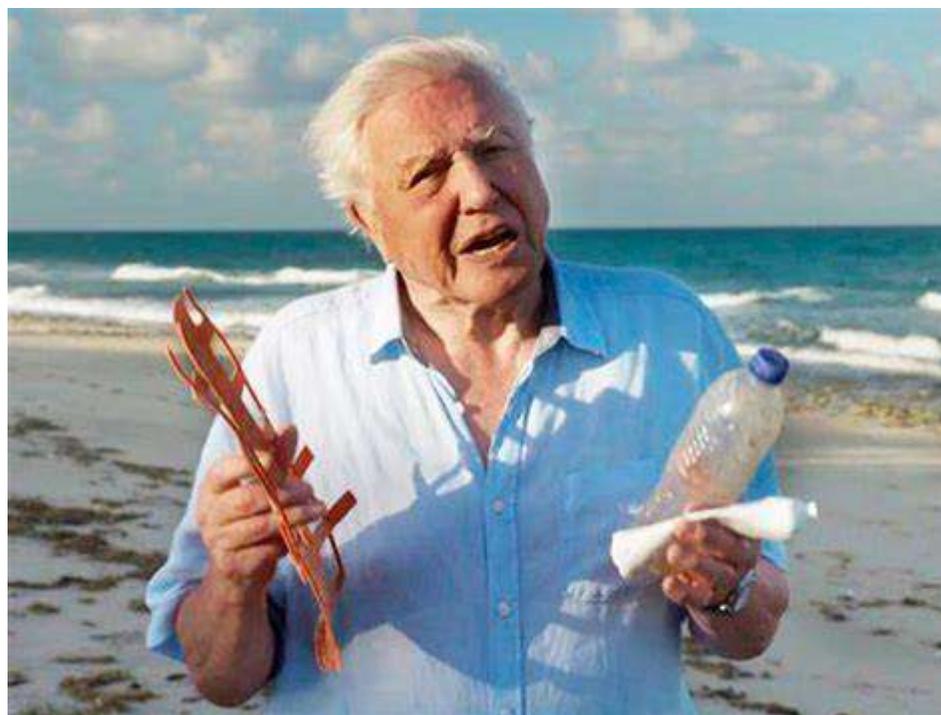
4<sup>th</sup> October, 2019

Single Use Plastics: From Pledge to Practice

Oliver Sherratt,  
Head of Environment,  
Durham County Council.

*Altogether better*





*"Right now, eight million tonnes of plastics ends up in the oceans every year. But you, ... have shown that, if we start doing those small steps..., we can before long really have an effect. The actions of just one of us may seem to be trivial and to have no effect. But the knowledge that there are ..., hundreds of thousands of people who are doing the same thing - that really does have an effect - so please join us." (Sir David Attenborough)*

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# Background

## **24 January 2018 Durham County Council Resolution**

**Request that a report be brought to Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Management Board on the options for bringing an end to the use of unnecessary Single Use Plastics (SUP) in County Durham, taking account of the following measures to:**

- a) enable Durham County Council to become a full signatory of the 'Plastic Free Pledge', by phasing out the use of unnecessary SUPs in all County Council buildings, and working with commissioning partners to end the purchase and procurement of SUPs through the DCC supply chain;
- b) encourage the County's businesses, organisations and residents to go 'plastic free,' working with best practice partners across the County to explore the creation of a 'plastic free network,' that could provide business support, practical guidelines and advice to help local businesses transition from SUPs to sustainable alternatives;
- c) to incentivise traders on Council land to sell re-usable or non-plastic biodegradable containers and invite customers to bring their own, with the aim of phasing out SUPs; including investigating the possibility of requiring food and drink vendors to avoid SUPs as a condition of their event permission, strengthening DCC's existing guidance for exhibitors and traders

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# So broken down that meant....

1. What was the Council doing to phase out SUPs. Could it sign a pledge?
2. What Partners in County Durham were doing, including businesses.
3. What could the Council do as a land owner and licencing authority as well as public events.

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# Work to date: Action Plan

## Corporate Procurement Services

- Considered a range of 'Plastic Pledges'
- Introduced a bespoke local pledge for County Durham
- Adopted a SUP logo for Partner endorsement
- Undertook internal audits across DCC
- Updated the core list of supplies to remove single use plastics
- Produced and undertook a SUP survey with key suppliers
- Ensured DCC future contracts consider alternatives to SUP where possible
- Engaged with contractors via the North East Procurement Organisation
- Provided advice on SUP reductions to other local authorities



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# Adopted a bespoke Single Use Plastic Pledge for County Durham



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# Single Use Plastic Pledge

- Matt Baker is one of the signatories of the SUP Pledge.



136  
pledges  
across  
County  
Durham  
from  
individuals,  
schools,  
community  
groups and  
businesses!



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# SUP Logo

COUNTY DURHAM  
SINGLE USE  
PLASTICS  
PLEDGE

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- Task group adopted the SUP logo in August 2019,
- To be adopted by Partner organisations and suppliers,
- DCC to recognise the commitment to reduce SUPs via it's procurement processes,
- Working with the North East Procurement Organisation to adopt a regional SUP reduction pledge based on DCC's example.



# Work to date: Action Plan

## DCC Catering Services

- Removed 90% of SUPs across DCC catering services
- Introduced a DCC reusable cup
- Sourced alternatives to SUPs where possible
- Identified SUP usage across Culture and Sport catering venues, and de
- Designed and planned new takeaway concepts for new civic menu roll out.



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# Work to date: Action Plan

## Consumer Protection Services

- Reviewed the DCC Licensing Act Policy in order to incorporate the reduction of or alternatives to SUPs where possible.
- Considered the DCC Street Trading Policy in order for alternatives to SUPs be provided where possible.
- Considered the DCC Market Operator Agreements.

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# Work to date: Action Plan

## Education

- Engaged with DCC schools catering provider
- Developed and promote circular economy learning resources
- Promoting the example of St.Bede's, Sacriston as a best practice example to other schools



St Bede's RCVA Primary School, Sacriston

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# Work to date: Action Plan

## Highways

- Trialled the use of pelletised plastic within road construction
- Received an national APSE award (innovation category)
- Submitted a national funding bid to Department of Transport to expand the scheme



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# Work to date: Action Plan

## Waste Management

- Provided key communications to the public in relation to how SUPs can be prevented.
- Delivered education talks to schools, community groups, AAPs etc
- Introduced on street recycling provision in Durham City;
- Implemented recycling of street litter collected by DCC.
- Engaged with Change Advocates to raise awareness of SUPs
- Reviewed all DCC owned buildings to ensure the internal recycling schemes are being used correctly.
- Introduced Walker's crisp packet collection points in DCC buildings.



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# Work to date: Action Plan

## Culture and Sport

- Removed SUP confetti at the Gala Theatre and replace with sustainable alternative.
- Phased out the supply of SUP blue overshoes at DCC owned leisure centres.
- Promoted the SUP message to producers and traders.
- Commitment to the reduction of SUPs at the Gala Theatre.
- Rolled out successes at the Gala Theatre to other Culture and Sport run facilities.



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# Work to date: Action Plan

## External Partner Engagement

- Continue the development of a 'plastic free network' with Durham BiD in relation to providing key messages around sourcing alternatives to SUPs.
- Promote Northumbrian Water's Refill Campaign across County Durham.
- Encourage organisations and partners to join the North East Nature Partnership's Environment Accreditation Scheme.
- Replicated best practice examples of reusable/washable food containers.
- Promoted further beach clean ups with staff and external partner organisations.



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# Working with Partners

## Northumbrian Water – Refill Campaign



There are  
87 Refill  
locations  
across  
County  
Durham!

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# Work to date: Action Plan

## Communications

- Promoted the work of the SUP task group via regular updates and features with Durham County News and other platforms.
- Ensured residents are informed of both why and when alternatives to SUPs are being used.
- Ensured that clear information of the different types of plastics, identifying what can and cannot be recycled is provided to residents.
- Provided residents with an opportunity to identify how SUPs usage can be reduced.
- Developed a single use plastic information network across County Durham via a web based hub.

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# Action Plan Summary

Area	Total Number of Actions	Completed	Outstanding	Completed %
Corporate Procurement Services	8	6	2	75%
DCC Catering Services	5	4	1	80%
Consumer Protection Services	3	1	2	33%
DCC Children and Young Peoples Services	3	1	2	33%
DCC Highways	1	1	0	100%
Waste Management	8	6	1	75%
Culture and Sport	5	3	2	60%
External Partner Engagement	6	5	1	83%
Communications	6	4	2	67%

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# Next Steps

- Develop further the County Durham SUP network;
- Develop further education and awareness materials e.g. living without SUPs;
- Continue to audit SUP usage;
- Promote further the Environmental accreditation scheme and audit for organisations
- Promote more Refill stations across County Durham
- Work with NEPO to influence the supply chain

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# Summary:

- Established a Partnership Task Group in February 2018
- Audited DCC practices
- Engaged with suppliers and carried out site visits
- Identified and implemented 'early wins'
- Developed SUP report and action plans.
- Reported to Scrutiny in November 2018
- Reported to Cabinet in February 2019
- Implementing the SUP Action Plan
- Adopted a bespoke County Durham SUP pledge in March 2019
- Adopted a SUP logo for partner / supplier endorsement
- Promoting a County Durham SUP network
- Assisted other Councils locally & nationally in relation to the SUP reduction agenda and procurement processes.

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# Task Group Recognition

- Short listed in the national Local Authority Recycling Advisory Committee (LARAC) Awards
- Short listed in the local County Durham Environment Awards



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# Recommendations

- Note the considerable work of the SUP task group to date in reducing SUPs by the Council and Partners ahead of statutory legislation being set via the Government's Resources & Waste Strategy;
- Help encourage the County Durham SUP network in order to influence behavioural change.

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Join our network and take action to help  
reduce SUPs in County Durham

<http://www.durham.gov.uk/singleuseplastics>

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**COUNTY DURHAM  
SINGLE USE  
PLASTICS  
PLEDGE**

Could you carry a reusable shopping bag, swap to a reusable coffee cup or stop using plastic straws?

Many County Durham businesses, schools, groups and individuals have already signed our County Durham Single Use Plastics Pledge. Could you?

You can pledge to do as little or as much as you can to help reduce the amount of single use plastics.

Find out more and sign up:  
[www.durham.gov.uk/singleuseplastics](http://www.durham.gov.uk/singleuseplastics)

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Durham**  
County Durham Partnership



# Any questions?

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