

**Corporate Overview and Scrutiny
Management Board**

14 February 2018/19 March 2018



Single Use Plastics (SUP)

Report of Lorraine O'Donnell, Director of Transformation and Partnerships

Purpose of Report

- 1 To present to COSMB Members a report following a motion passed at the County Council meeting held on Wednesday 24 January 2018, examining the issue of Single Use Plastics (SUPs).

Background

- 2 A motion was passed at County Council on Wednesday 24 January 2018, as follows:

That this Council resolves to:

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 SUP 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 SUP; 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.

Current position

- 3 Durham County Council's Altogether Greener priority theme identifies three high level objectives one of which highlights the need to deliver a clean, attractive and sustainable environment.
- 4 The County Council is starting to look at a number of sustainability projects that link to SUP. However, these projects are spread across several service groupings within the Durham County Council for example Resources, REAL and Children and Young People's Services with some initial projects relating the Heritage Coast, Waste, Schools and Catering within DCC.

Next steps

- 5 Initial discussions have taken place with colleagues within the REAL service grouping to consider how the Council could potentially address paragraph 'a' of the motion. It is proposed that a DCC task group be established to conduct a high level audit to identify areas with significant usage of SUP and consider options for how DCC, in the future can decrease their use of SUP.
- 6 It is proposed that in relation to paragraphs 'b' and 'c' that the County Durham Environment Partnership be utilised to undertake a project looking at how to encourage the Council and key partners, County Durham businesses and residents to reduce their usage of SUPs. The conclusions of DCC's high level audit will feed into the work carried out by the Environment Partnership.
- 7 Following the completion of the Environment Partnership project a report on its findings and proposals will be presented to Environment and Sustainable Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

Recommendations

- 8 It is recommended that Members of COSMB:
 - i. Note the content of the report and agree to the proposal for the establishment of a DCC SUP Task Group to address paragraph 'a' of the motion.
 - ii. That the County Durham Environment Partnership be requested to undertake a project to address paragraphs 'b' and 'c' of the motion.
 - iii. That the County Durham Environment Partnership present their findings and conclusions to the Environment and Sustainable Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

Background papers

Agenda and minutes of the County Council meeting held on 24 January 2018

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Appendix 1: Implications

Finance – N/A

Staffing – N/A

Risk – N/A

Equality and Diversity/Public Sector Equality Duty – N/A

Accommodation – N/A

Crime and Disorder – N/A

Human Rights – N/A

Consultation – N/A

Procurement – N/A

Disability Issues – N/A

Legal Implications – N/A