

TO ANSWER ANY QUESTIONS UNDER THE PROVISIONS OF COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE 10.2

Single Use Plastics – Question from Councillor A Owens

Question

To ask the Council Leader to provide a detailed update on progress towards the removal of the procurement and use of single-use plastics across the council as agreed by Cabinet as part of the Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan 2030 on 10 November 2020.

Action	Lead responsibility	Partners	Resources/Conditional Upon	Milestone Progress	Overall Anticipated Outcomes	Funding/Income Generation Opportunities	Timescale
Single-Use Plastics	Environmental Strategy Officer	Procurement and Contracts Manager Council-wide	Officer time	Remove the procurement and use of Single-use plastics across the Council	Achieve single-use plastic free status		December 2020

Response

The Council has made the following progress to eliminating Single Use Plastics (SUPs):

- Clean and Green and Waste and Recycling operational staff were given reusable, insulated water bottles. These can be used throughout the year but are particularly useful during hot weather when the insulation keeps the water colder for longer.
- The Ranger Service have included clauses within agreements requiring vendors serving food or provide materials that can be recyclable at large scale events such as the Green Fayre. This cuts down on waste and increases sustainable use of materials.
- Plastic cutlery has been removed from the Investment Centre conferences in-line with legislation.

- Paper water cups have replaced SUP cups in the Council Chamber and Cabinet and Committee rooms.
- Internally, the Environmental Sustainability Team have presented at Let's Connect and Lunchtime Learning sessions to communicate sustainable procurement, including SUPs and the available alternatives within procurement, general operations and at home.

Further action is planned for later in 2024/25:

- Launch of climate change e-Learning for Council staff and will include how to reduce waste in the workplace.
- Removal of water coolers, reducing transport journeys.

In addition, new recycling facilities and information displays are now available in the corporate buildings to increase the recycling of plastics, including SUP water cups, and other materials including glass and metals.

Other single use waste has been reduced: Waste and Recycling Operatives have the option to use washable gloves and can be used and washed multiple times before being disposed.

While there are still small quantities of SUPs across the council, there has been a decrease. It should be noted, it will not be possible to eliminate all SUPs, i.e. those used for health and safety reasons.