

Report for: Environment and Community Safety Scrutiny Panel – 3 November

Title: Update on Single Use Plastics

Report authorised by: Stephen McDonnell, Director of Environment & Neighbourhoods

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Ward(s) affected: All

Report for Key/ N/A

Non Key Decision:

1. Describe the issue under consideration

- 1.1 The report provides an update to the Scrutiny Panel on the development of a Single Use Plastics Policy and the accompanying action plan.

2. Cabinet Member Introduction

N/A

3. Recommendations

- 3.1 That the information contained in the report be noted.

4. Background Information

- 4.1 In September 2020, the Cabinet approved the adoption of the council's Single Use Plastic (SUP) policy and action plans – one action plan for the council and one for the wider borough.
- 4.2 Responsibility for monitoring the action plans has now moved across to the Place Priority Board, with responsibility for completing the individual actions remaining with the relevant services.

5. Single Use Plastics Update.

- 5.1 As reported to Scrutiny previously, a good deal of work has already taken place on delivering the action plans. The Action Plans are attached to this report as appendices, with each action including a commentary update position for October 2020.
- 5.2 It is inevitable that some of the actions, particularly those related to our own offices, haven't been able to progress during the Covid pandemic response. Where this is applicable this has been indicated in the action plan updates. These actions will resume once the workforce returns to the council offices.

5.3 Recent activity delivered in the Action Plans include:

- Our Procurement guidelines now include Single Use Plastics requirements as part of the Social Value Toolkit;
- Haringey branded reusable coffee cups have been purchased and will be sold at the podium café in River Park House once a new café operator is set up;
- Milk delivery in glass bottles will be piloted as part of the 'Team Day' offer, once the Covid situation allows for this to take place;
- Parking have implemented bio-degradable bags for parking tickets, reducing plastic packaging;
- The Events Team are preparing a 'Go Green' guide to making outdoor events more sustainable – ready for launch next spring, subject to Covid restrictions;
- Council staff and volunteers at next year's events in Parks will be provided with reusable water bottles and a refill station, subject to Covid restrictions being lifted;
- Take-away businesses have been emailed with an information leaflet on SUPs including advice on how to reduce single use plastics.
- A web page has been set up giving residents information on how to get involved and organise litter picking or other conservation efforts. See <https://www.haringey.gov.uk/environment-and-waste/street-cleansing/get-involved>

5.4 A consequence of the Covid pandemic has been the rise in use of SUPs, particularly for personal protective equipment (PPE) such as disposable face masks and plastic gloves. Single use, disposable PPE items are not recyclable and must be disposed of with general waste. As such, they will be taken to the energy from waste plant at Edmonton. Further information on safe disposal of PPE waste is available on the government website [here](#). There has also been a London campaign on encouraging the use of reusable masks including a guide on how to make face masks at home– see more [here](#).

6. Next Steps and Key Dates

- November 2020: Update to be presented to Place Priority Board.

7. Use of Appendices

Appendix 1: Single Use Plastics - Council Action Plan.

Appendix 2: Single Use Plastics - Borough Action Plan.