

# **The London Borough of Haringey**

## **Single-Use Plastics (SUP) Policy**

### **What are single-use-plastics (SUP)?**

- The Institute for European Environmental Policy defines a SUP as: ‘any disposable plastic item which is designed to be used only once.’

Examples include - containers, wet-wipes, straws, bottles and carrier bags. Often many products have SUP lining too – such as disposable coffee cups and many takeaway food containers.

### **Plastic waste is one of the greatest environmental challenges facing the world today.**

The UK government estimates that there are currently more than 150 million tonnes of plastic in the world’s oceans and 100,000 sea mammals and one million birds die each year from eating or becoming entangled in plastic waste. In the UK we consume an estimated 38.5 million single use plastic bottles every single day – with only 60% of these being recycled. Over 700,000 end up being littered every day, with many that will end up in the ocean and harming wildlife, our natural environment and the planet.

Haringey Council is well placed given its Leadership role within the community to work with organisations and individuals within Haringey to make changes across the borough.

This policy supports the ambition set out in the Borough Plan, specifically Place Priority Objective 10 – a cleaner, accessible, and attractive place. These objectives target waste minimisation, which this policy will help achieve through reducing the consumption of SUPs.

### **Our Vision:**

To reduce the consumption of single use plastics by residents, event organisers and businesses in Haringey. By using education, awareness, and behaviour change principles as well as using the Council’s experience of tackling SUPs as guidance.

### **Our objectives:**

- 1) Partner with event organisers to eliminate avoidable SUPs at events held on Council land and share best practice more widely
- 2) Collaborate with the GLA and other partners to improve access to free drinking water across the borough
- 3) Work alongside businesses, voluntary organisations and other partners in the borough to support and incentivise moves away from SUPs

This Action Plan accompanies the SUP Borough Policy Objectives. It lays out all of the actions already completed, and planned. Each action is matched to a specific objective from the policy.

### **Objective 1: Partner with event organisers to eliminate avoidable SUPs at events held on Council land and share best practice more widely**

- a) Action:** All past event organisers have been sent a survey to determine what SUPs they use. Incorporate this feedback and best practise to reduce the use of SUP in events.
- **Time frame:** Survey - February 2020, policies in place for 2021.
  - **Funding:** No costs.
  - **Lead officer(s):** Events Team – Sarah Jones
  - **Update Oct 20:** This was completed and feedback fed into the new 'Go Green' – guide to making outdoor events more sustainable. This will be launched in Spring 2021 (subject to Covid restrictions).
- b) Action:** Deliver refill station(s) and at small and medium events (2,000 or fewer attendees) to reduce bottled water consumption.
- **Time frame:** 2022.
  - **Funding:** Parks.
  - **Lead officer(s):** Events Team – Sarah Jones
  - **Update Oct 20:** Budgets impacted by Covid. Will be in place for 2022 events season (subject to the lifting of Covid restrictions).
- c) Action:** To revise Events Management Plans to create more stringent criteria for event organisers on Haringey lands. This will cover sustainability and SUPs.
- **Time frame:** 2021.
  - **Funding:** Events management.
  - **Lead officer(s):** Events Team – Sarah Jones
  - **Update Oct 20:** We will continue to work with event organisers going into 2021 and beyond to identify and advise where they could improve their sustainability (subject to the lifting of Covid restrictions).
- d) Action:** For small and medium events (less than 2,000 attendees) new advice will be given to organisers giving them guidance on how to reduce waste and SUPs. This advice will also be uploaded to the website.
- **Time frame:** End of 2021.
  - **Funding:** No costs.
  - **Lead officer(s):** Events Team – Sarah Jones
  - **Update Oct 20:** As above in section a – The new 'Go Green' - guide to making outdoor events more sustainable will be launched in 2021 (subject to the lifting of Covid restrictions).
- e) Action:** Council staff and volunteers at large events will be provided with reusable water bottles and a refill station that can be used by the volunteers and the police.
- **Time frame:** June 2021.
  - **Funding:** Parks and Events
  - **Lead officer(s):** Events Team – Sarah Jones
  - **Update Oct 20:** This will be implemented for 2021 events (subject to Covid restrictions being lifted). We will provide staff and volunteers with reusable water bottles and a identify a refill station.

- f) **Action:** Reduce the use of laminated signage in Parks.
- **Time frame:** 2022.
  - **Funding:** No cost.
  - **Lead officer(s):** Parks and Events service – Simon Farrow
  - **Update Oct 20:** Where lead-in times and budgets allow, we will look at sourcing signage using more sustainable products, reusing signage etc. Although while there is currently no alternative to laminating short-term, emergency signage this will still be used but kept to a minimum.
- g) **Action:** Reduce the use of SUPs for staff on event days. Using insulated milk jugs, wooden stirrers, etc.
- **Time frame:** 2021.
  - **Funding:** Events.
  - **Lead officer(s):** Events Team – Sarah Jones
  - **Update Oct 20:** This will be implemented for 2021 events (subject to Covid restrictions being lifted). We will provide staff and volunteers with reusable water bottles, and procure sustainable products such as recyclable cups, stirrers etc.

## **Objective 2: Collaborate with the GLA and other partners to improve access to free water across the borough**

- a) **Action:** Haringey have applied with the GLA for the installation of up to 5 water fountains across the borough.
- **Time frame:** Applications sent February 2020. Delayed due to COVID.
  - **Funding:** The GLA / Thames Water
  - **Lead officer(s):** Carbon Management and Highways – Joe Baker & Peter Boddy
  - **Update Oct 20:** Project paused to COVID.
- b) **Action:** To work with café operators in Council managed parks to offer free water refills or for the parks to have water fountains.
- **Time frame:** TBC.
  - **Funding:** Parks / Thames Water / Café.
  - **Lead officer(s):** Parks Service – Simon Farrow
  - **Update Oct 20:** This is being addressed as part of the Parks and Green Spaces Strategy, and any actions related to this are likely to be implemented in late 2021.
- c) **Action:** Public Health have set up a 'Refill' scheme in the borough, to get businesses to offer free water refills. Currently there are 78 refill stations in the borough.
- **Time frame:** 150 refill stations by 2021.
  - **Funding:** No costs.

- **Lead officer(s):** Public Health – Marlene D'Aguilar.
- **Update Oct 20:** Limited progress due to Covid restrictions.

**d) Action:** Support and increase the number of businesses signed up to refill.org.

- **Time frame:** Ongoing.
- **Funding:** Ongoing.
- **Lead officer(s):** Public Health and Carbon Management – Joe Baker
- **Update Oct 20:** Project paused to COVID and reduced ability to undertake site visits.

### **Objective 3: Work alongside residents, businesses and partner organisations in the borough to support and incentivise moves away from SUPs**

**a) Action:** Advertise how to reduce SUPs in the food industry to takeaways and restaurants.

- **Time frame:** April 2020.
- **Funding:** No cost.
- **Lead officer:** Environmental Protection – Gavin Douglas
- **Update Oct 20:** All take-away businesses who have provided us with an email address were sent an information leaflet with advice on how to reduce SUPs (Sept 20). Officers will also give advice when visiting take-away businesses during food inspections if appropriate e.g. if serious food safety infringements have not been found.

**b) Action:** A web page has been added to the Council website to advertise how residents can get involved and organise litter picking or other conservation efforts.

- **Time frame:** Completed.
- **Funding:** No costs.
- **Lead officer(s):** Waste Services – Nathan Vear
- **Update Oct 20:** This has been completed.

**c) Action:** Work to work with the business communities across the borough, such as “Plastic Free Crouch End,” and help them become accredited as a ‘low plastic zone’ by the North London Waste Authority (NLWA).

- **Time frame:** End of 2020.
- **Funding:** No costs.
- **Lead officer(s):** NLWA / Business Community – Nathan Vear
- **Update Oct 20:** Underway. Discussions with NLWA have begun to understand the accreditation process.

**d) Action:** Create a section for the Council website with advice for residents, businesses and partner organisations on how to reduce their waste, eliminate SUPs and save money by doing it, as well as signposting information related to Covid-19 on Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and fabric face coverings / masks.

- **Time frame:** 2020-2021.
- **Funding:** No costs, officer time
- **Lead officer(s):** NLWA / Waste Services – Nathan Vear
- **Update Oct 20:** Initial planning underway, with resourcing to be tasked.