

DESTINATION
50%
HARINGEY

Single-Use Plastics (SUP) Policy report 2026-2028



Introduction

The versatility and durability of plastic means its use is widespread litter from items used for a few minutes can last for centuries in landfill or as litter in the countryside or ocean. According to Government estimates, around the world, more than one million birds and over 100,000 sea mammals and turtles die every year from eating or getting tangled in plastic waste. (Next steps to tackle plastic waste - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)).

As well as contributing to litter, SUP are made from chemicals derived from fossil fuel production. The more plastic made, the more petrochemicals are required, and so the higher the demand for gas, oil and even coal. By reducing or removing SUP, we will help reduce the demand for fossil fuels, thereby reducing the CO₂ in the atmosphere. This will support Haringey's climate change emergency work.

SUP are defined by the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) defines single use plastics (SUP) as: 'any disposable plastic item which is designed to be used only once.'

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



Background

Haringey Council as a large employer and procurer of goods and services for 264,200 residents and numerous businesses, is well placed to help tackle the issue of SUP. Our priority is to address the unnecessary use of SUPs across our own services, in our buildings and schools and influence their use across the Borough. This will be done by both encouraging our staff to modify their behaviours, by changing our own practices around purchasing and procurement and supporting our residents and businesses to reduce the consumption of these items at home and work.

Haringey's last SUP policy ran from 2020 – 2022 and successfully delivered a wide range of plastic reduction initiatives including the introduction of water fountains for refillable bottles and recyclable drink cups in Council offices. This two year policy update supports Theme 2 of the Corporate Delivery Plan - Responding to the climate emergency, and Objective C4 of the Haringey Climate Change Action plan - To increase awareness and empower staff to take positive carbon reduction decisions.

Post Covid working

The impact of COVID from 2020 affected previous working practices and the consequences continue, with many staff splitting their time between home and the office. This has led to fewer staff at any single time in many Council buildings, and in turn a change in the support and resources they need. There is no longer a café at River Park House and more work is being done electronically so waste produced over all.



Action taken so far (National, regional and local context)

As well as changes in working practices, Government legislation has also impacted on single use plastics.

Carrier bag charges 2021

To reduce the use of single use carrier bags and the litter they cause, a 5p charge was introduced for their use in 2015. From May 2021 this was increased to 10p and extended to all retailers.

According to Defra's data for the reporting year 2022 to 2023, the main retailers sold 133 million single-use carrier bags, a reduction of over 98% on the number of carrier bags since the charge was introduced.

Plastics tax April 2022

A plastics tax was introduced in 2022 which is applied to plastic packaging produced in, or imported into, the UK and that does not contain at least 30% recycled plastic. The tax is designed to encourage the use of more recycled plastic or alternatives to plastics.

Single use plastic ban October 2023

In October 2023, the UK government introduced a Single-Use Plastic Ban in England which prohibited certain single use plastic disposable items. These include:

- Plastic plates and trays, commonly used for serving food in takeaways and events and plastic bowls, frequently used for serving soups and desserts.
- Plastic cutlery, including spoons, forks, and knives and balloon sticks, polystyrene cups, and polystyrene food containers.

While the ban will encompass most single-use plastic items, there are some exceptions such as pre-filled salad bowls or food that needs extra preparation such as adding boiling water or microwaving.



Extended producer Responsibility (EPR) for packaging producers

Under the EPR regulations, all UK organisations that import or supply packaging may be responsible for the costs of dealing with packaging waste. Fees will be applied on a modulated basis depending on the recyclability of products. It will also aim to reduce unnecessary packaging, increase quality and reduce litter. This is being implemented in a phased approach from 2024.

Deposit Return Scheme

A new scheme placing deposits on drinks containers is planned for 2025 and is likely to increase recycling and reduce litter and plastic. A target is in place to collect over 85% of returnable drinks containers once the scheme is up and running.

Simpler Recycling

Simpler Recycling aims to ensure that residents and businesses across England have a consistent level of service, where the same materials are collected, no matter where you live. The core dry recycling materials to be collected are, glass bottles and jars, metal tins and cans, paper, card, plastic bottles, tubs and trays and plastic films. Haringey already collects all these except for plastic films which are required to be collected in 2027.



Our Vision

Working along side the One World Living Single-Use Plastics Pledge, we aim to reduce the consumption of single use plastics across the Council, its services and across the Borough. Becoming a London leader in best practice for SUP reduction. Achieving this by using education, awareness, and behaviour change principles as well as improving our own supply chains, influencing our partners and rethinking our practices.

Our objectives

1) Work to eliminate the avoidable use of SUPs across Council offices. 2) Work in partnership with schools to eliminate avoidable SUPs 3) Improve procurement practices to reflect the commitment to reducing SUPs in Haringey 4) Raise awareness amongst staff and partners about SUP to increase recycling rates across the Council's estate. 5) Support residents and raise awareness about SUP and promote schemes that enable them to reduce SUP. 6) Work with local businesses to reduce their use of SUP. 7) Partner with event organisers to eliminate avoidable SUPs at events held on Council land

Our stakeholders

Internal stakeholders: Waste Services, Procurement, Events, Parks, Human Resources, Facilities Management, Corporate Communications. External stakeholders: GLA, NLWA, ReLondon, London Councils, Real Nappies for London, LPZ, Surfers against sewage, KBT, Ellen McCarthur foundation, Local schools, businesses, community and environmental groups.



Engagement and Communications

To support the Council's objectives and encourage behaviour change, we are utilising all council communication approaches, traditional and digital channels and press releases. Create an online survey and quiz competition to encourage reusable items and to increase participation.

Budget

Costs are predominantly contained within the existing waste services budget/NLWA budget

Governance

An internal board will be responsible for reviewing the SUP action plan on a yearly basis. One of the actions of the Council's action plan is to establish a network of sustainability champions across council buildings. This will assist in Identifying areas for plastic and waste reduction in service areas and council buildings and new ways to tackle SUPs across the organisation.

Haringey's SUP action plan is outlined in Appendix 1 This action plan outlines actions completed from the 2020/22 policy as well ongoing, and future actions planned for the Council. The actions are focused on 4 areas: Council, Schools, Residents, Businesses.

Appendix 1 – SUP actions (see separate spreadsheet).