

Environment and Community Safety Scrutiny Panel

Scrutiny Review on Plastic Waste– Draft Scope and Terms of Reference (2018/19)

Rationale	<p>During the Scrutiny Café event on 13th September 2018 and the online survey that was undertaken in parallel, a number of concerns were raised in relation to plastic waste and recycling. As part of these concerns, it was suggested that the Council could, and should, be doing more to reduce the use of plastics and to increase the provision of recycling facilities. It was suggested that one of the major sources of litter in around the high foot-fall areas was takeaway food containers and plastic bottles.</p> <p>The UN Environment produced a report, entitled Single-use Plastics: A roadmap for Sustainability, in June 2018 which set out a comprehensive assessment on the state of plastics. The report highlights that: “Around the world, one million plastic drinking bottles are purchased every minute, while up to 5 trillion single-use plastic bags are used worldwide every year. In total, half of all plastic produced is designed to be used only once — and then thrown away”.</p> <p>The report highlights the importance of recycling and identifies that “only nine per cent of the nine billion tonnes of plastic the world has ever produced has been recycled. Most ends up in landfills, dumps or in the environment. If current consumption patterns and waste management practices continue, then by 2050 there will be around 12 billion tonnes of plastic litter in landfills and the environment. By this time, if the growth in plastic production continues at its current rate, then the plastics industry may account for 20 per cent of the world’s total oil consumption”.</p> <p>https://wedocs.unep.org/bitstream/handle/20.500.11822/25496/singleUsePlastic_sustainability.pdf?sequence=1&isAllowed=y</p> <p>In January 2018, the Government launched its 25-year plan to improve the natural environment including a pledge to eradicate all avoidable plastic waste by 2042. As part of this, a mandatory 5 pence charge was levied on all plastic bags and the government has brought in a ban on plastic microbeads in cosmetics.</p>
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	<p>HM Treasury launched a consultation earlier in the year entitled: 'Tackling the plastic problem - Using the tax system or charges to address single-use plastic waste'. This received 162,000 responses which will formulate part of Defra's upcoming Resources and Waste strategy. It is expected that the strategy will be published later this year.</p> <p>As part of the Government's 25 Year Environment Plan and Resources and Waste Strategy the government will be looking at extended producer responsibility, including requiring packaging producers to fund the end of life costs of their packaging products, including the collection and disposal costs of packaging waste. Defra are due to launch a consultation on packing rules by the end of the year.</p> <p>https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2018/11/09/waste-reforms-could-give-councils-1bn-recycling-boost-forcing/</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 8,000,000 tons of plastic enters the oceans every year • 91% of plastic is never recycled • 450 years is the time it takes for a plastic bottle to decompose • 2050 is the date projected for when the amount of plastics in the ocean will equal the amount of fish • 6,400 microplastics are inadvertently swallowed by the average European shellfish consumer each year
Scrutiny Membership	<p>The Members of the Environment and Community Scrutiny Panel that will carry out this review are:</p> <p>Councillors: Adam Jogee (Chair), Eldridge Culverwell, Scott Emery, Julie Ogiehor, Reg Rice, Matt White & Barbara Blake</p> <p>Ian Sygrave, Chair of Haringey Association of Neighbourhood Watches</p>
Terms of reference	<p>The aims of this project are:</p>

	<p>1) To examine the Council's current position in relation to plastic waste and what other boroughs are doing around this issue.</p> <p>2) To examine how the Council could reduce plastic waste and increase its recycling performance.</p> <p>3) To examine how the Council could elicit behaviour change, particularly in relation to schools and young people. What could be done to assist schools to reduce the amount of plastic waste? Is there scope for the Council to develop a plastic free pledge for schools to sign up to?</p> <p>4) To examine the feasibility of developing a plastic-free policy and what other measures the Council could undertake to lead by example.</p>
Links to the Corporate Plan	<p>Priority 3: A Clean and Safe Borough where people are proud to live.</p> <p>In the draft Borough Plan 2019-2023 this links to Priority 3: A place with strong, resilient & connected communities where people can lead active and healthy lives in an environment that is safe, clean and green.</p>
Evidence Sources	<p>A broad selection of interested parties will be invited to take part in the review and to submit evidence. These will include residents and/or representatives from the local community, traders, academic experts, officers of the Council, Keep Britain Tidy and representatives of other relevant voluntary and community organisations.</p>
Witnesses	TBC
Methodology/Approach	<p>A variety of methods will be used to gather evidence, including: site visits; desk top research; and evidence gathering sessions with witnesses.</p>
Equalities Implications	<p>The Council has a Public Sector Equality Duty under the Equality Act (2010) to have due regard to the need to: (1) Eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation and any other conduct prohibited under the Act; (2) Advance equality of opportunity between people who share those protected characteristics and people who do not; (3) Foster good relations between people who share those characteristics and people who do not.</p>

	<p>The three parts of the duty applies to the following protected characteristics: age; disability; gender reassignment; pregnancy/maternity; race; religion/faith; sex and sexual orientation. In addition, marriage and civil partnership status applies to the first part of the duty.</p> <p>The Panel should ensure that it addresses these duties by considering them during final scoping, evidence gathering and final reporting. This should include considering and clearly stating: How policy issues impact on different groups within the community, particularly those that share the nine protected characteristics; Whether the impact on particular groups is fair and proportionate; Whether there is equality of access to service and fair representation of all groups within Haringey; Whether any positive opportunities to advance equality of opportunity and/or good relations between people, are being realised.</p> <p>The Panel should ensure that equalities comments are based on evidence, when possible. Wherever possible this should include demographic and service level data and evidence of residents/service-users views gathered through consultation.</p>
Timescale	<p>Draft scoping document submitted to Overview & Scrutiny Committee – 14th January 2019</p> <p>Evidence gathering sessions and site visits – January 2018 to March 2019.</p> <p>Analyse findings / develop recommendations – March 2019</p> <p>Report published – Spring 2019</p>
Reporting arrangements	The Director of Environment and Neighbourhoods will coordinate a response to Cabinet to the recommendations of the panel's final report.
Publicity	TBC
Constraints/Barriers/Risks	We aim to complete the draft report before the end of spring 2019. However, the panel may receive a large amount of evidence so this may prove to be a challenging timescale. If the panel determines that

	<p>this timescale is not sufficient to the gather and analyse the evidence required, then it may be necessary to extend the schedule. If the work isn't completed by April, there is a risk that the membership of the panel could change following the Annual Council meeting in May 2019.</p>
Officer Support	<p>Lead officer: Philip Slawther, Principal Committee Coordinator, 020 8489 2957, philip.slawther2@haringey.gov.uk</p>

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