

Bolton Council

Report to: Executive Cabinet Member
Environmental Services Delivery

Date: 9 December 2019

Report of: Director of the Dept of Place

Report No: ECMESD/700

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Report Title: Single use plastic free Strategy

**Confidential /
Non Confidential:**
(delete as approp)

Non-confidential

Purpose:

The endorsement and support of the Greater Manchester campaign to help to eradicate the use of avoidable single use plastics by the end of 2024.

Recommendation:

The Executive Cabinet Member is requested to:

- a) Authorise the Deputy Director of Place to sign the #PlasticFreeGM pledge on behalf of Bolton Council to help to eradicate the use of avoidable single-use plastics from the public sector in Greater Manchester by 2024.
- b) Authorise the Deputy Director of Place to undertake a Council wide audit, by service area, to gather information and understand what different types of single-use plastics are procured by services and their use.
- c) Authorise the Deputy Director of Place to develop and implement a strategy and action plan to help Bolton eradicate the use of single-use plastic-free by the end of 2024.

Decision:

**Background
Doc(s):**

Signed:

Leader / Executive Member

Monitoring Officer

Date:

EIA Wording here

Summary:

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1. Since the broadcast of the BBC's Blue Planet programme highlighting the effect of plastic pollution in seas, oceans and on beaches this has become a much-debated topic with high levels of public interest. The issue of single-use plastics and how to reduce, reuse and recycle them has been very much a part of the Council's work around waste reduction over many years.
- 1.2. As part of this, Greater Manchester Combined Authority (GMCA) has launched the first city-region wide plan to drive down avoidable single-use plastics.
- 1.3. The PlasticFreeGM campaign is delivered by GMCA in partnership with many organisations and individuals across Greater Manchester. Local authorities, businesses, organisations and individuals are being asked to pledge to take action to reduce avoidable single use plastics across Greater Manchester. PlasticFreeGM works with campaigning partners to provide information and advice to guide more sustainable choices. To date, 521 local authorities and businesses across Greater Manchester have pledged to avoid single use plastic, including:
- Bury Council
 - Oldham Council
 - Tameside Council
 - Trafford Council
 - Rochdale Council
 - Best Western
 - Manchester Art Gallery
- 1.4. The Mayor of Greater Manchester has requested that all Local Authorities across Greater Manchester pledge:
- “As a Local Authority we will help to eradicate the use of avoidable single-use plastics from the public sector in Greater Manchester by 2024. With support, we will review our practices, and make more sustainable choices about the products we use, and the way we deliver our services”
- 1.5. Defra have also recently gone out to consultation on proposals to reduce and eliminate single use plastic.

2. MAIN BODY OF THE REPORT

- 2.1. Across the Bolton borough and within the Council, single-use plastics are used for a variety of reasons and occasions. The types of plastic include bags; bottles; cups; straws; stirrers; plates; bowls; cutlery; milk cartons; sachets of coffee and cling film and there may be others.
- 2.2. In response to the request from the Mayor of Greater Manchester that local authorities help eradicate the use of avoidable single-use plastics from the public sector in Greater Manchester by 2024, it is proposed that a Council wide audit is undertaken across all services to gather information and understand what different types of single-use plastics are procured by the Council. On completion of the audit, the results would be utilised to produce a plastic free strategy with the following key commitments:

- The council will demonstrate leadership by supporting and implementing reductions in avoidable single-use plastics, working towards their elimination across the public estate by 2024.
- Share data, insights and best-practice on avoidable single-use plastics to aid in the development of a roadmap that sets out the journey (with step by step actions) towards a single-use plastic free public estate with key partners including other Greater Manchester authorities and local businesses.
- Review procurement processes across the Council to drive forward the elimination of single-use plastics.
- Embed environmental sustainability criteria in social value procurement mechanisms across the council.
- Support new initiatives to reduce the use of avoidable single-use plastics and increase recycling and re-use.
- Raise awareness of this amongst staff, suppliers and the wider community to influence and change behaviour.

2.3. To move this forward, it is proposed that all council service areas are asked to complete the audit in appendix 1.

2.4. For the purposes of this report, “avoidable” means the plastic could have been re-used, recycled or when a reusable or recyclable alternative could have been used instead, or when it could have been composted or bio-degraded in the open environment.

3. FINANCIAL INFORMATION

3.1. There are no direct financial implications as a result of this report. Any future financial implications that may arise following implementation of the proposed strategy would be reported on separately as and when the need arose.

4. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

4.1. Subject to the results of the proposed audit and the final terms of a plastic free strategy, it may be necessary to incorporate suitable provisions into Council contracts and arrangements to achieve the proposed reductions in the use of single use plastics by the Council. This would be carried out in consultation with the Borough Solicitor.

5. SERVICE IMPACTS

5.1. By implementing a Single-Use Plastics Strategy, the Council would be strengthening its commitments around its environmental responsibilities. The proposed strategy seeks to adopt a cooperative approach to engage and support other organisations, community groups and residents across the borough to contribute to the reduction of single-use plastics.

6. EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT (EIA)

6.1. Under the Equality Act 2010, the Council must have due regard to:

- Eliminating unlawful discrimination, harassment, and victimisation, and any other conduct prohibited by the Act;
- Advancing equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and people who do not share it;
- Fostering good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and people who do not share it.

6.2. It is therefore important to consider how the proposals contained within this report may positively or negatively affect this work. After initial equality screening, it has been determined that the approvals outlined in this report related to an on-going audit and strategy formation. It is not anticipated therefore, that the proposals within this report will have a differential impact on any of Bolton's diversity groups, including staff. A full EIA screening form is therefore not required. However, a full EIA screen will take place once the strategy has been drafted.

7. CONSULTATION

7.1. It is proposed that all service areas within the Council will undertake a review of the current single use plastic currently being used to assist us developing a single use plastic free strategy. See appendix 1.

8. VISION 2030

8.1. Within the Vision 2030 Strategy, there is a cleaner and green borough priority which aims to protect and improve our environment, so that more people enjoy it, care for it and are active in it. The proposals within this report aim to reduce single use plastics within the Council and its supply chains and to sign up to the Greater Manchester environmental pledge. These actions will help the Council to improve our local environment over the next 10 years.

9. RECOMMENDATIONS

9.1. The Executive Cabinet Member is requested to:

- i) Authorise the Deputy Director of Place to sign the #PlasticFreeGM pledge on behalf of Bolton Council to help to eradicate the use of avoidable single-use plastics from the public sector in Greater Manchester by 2024.
- ii) Authorise the Deputy Director of Place to undertake a Council wide audit, by service area, to gather information and understand what different types of single-use plastics are procured by services and their use.
- iii) Authorise the Deputy Director of Place to develop and implement a strategy and action plan to help Bolton eradicate the use of single-use plastic-free by the end of 2024.

Single Use-Plastic (SUP) Audit

The council has committed to undertaking an audit, of single-use plastics (SUP) used by the Authority in order to seek to replace with sustainable or reusable alternatives where practicable.

Single-use plastics (SUP) are plastic materials that are disposable and generally used only once before they are thrown away or recycled.

Please complete the table below for your service.

It is requested that every Head of Service complete this audit form.

Name of Service: _____

Name of Head of Service: _____

Date: _____

Type of SUP	What is the SUP used for?	Frequency of use or quantity bought/used/discarded	Is it possible to reduce or eliminate use of the SUP?	Do practical, sustainable alternatives exist?	RAG Red Amber Green	Progress/Update
E.g. Plastic drinking straws	Automatically issued to customers buying soft drinks at the bar.	Approx. 20,000 pa used. Issued at every function.	Only issue to customers on request. Replace with an alternative product.	Paper, compostable straws are available. In discussions with suppliers about buying as an alternative to plastic.		Quarterly or bi-annual progress reports will be provided.

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Please return the completed audit form to WasteandRecycling@bolton.gov.uk by Day, Date, Month.