

**WEST OXFORDSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL**

**ENVIRONMENT OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE:**

**THURSDAY 6 DECEMBER 2018**

**MOTION: SINGLE USE PLASTICS**

**REPORT OF THE GROUP MANAGER, COUNCIL ADVISORY SERVICES**

**(Contact: Claire Locke Tel: (01993) 861344)**

**1. PURPOSE**

To consider the motion proposed at the meeting of the Council held on 24 October and make a recommendation back to Council.

**2. RECOMMENDATION**

That Council be recommended to agree to consider options for delivering the reduction in Single Use Plastics as set out in the Motion, once DEFRA's Waste and Resources Strategy is published.

**3. BACKGROUND**

3.1. At the meeting of the Council held 24 October 2018, the following motion was proposed by Councillor Alaa Al-Yousuf and seconded by Councillor Alex Postan:

*“This Council resolves to work towards elimination of all avoidable plastic waste and calls upon the Cabinet Member for Environment to bring forward proposals by Spring 2019 to:*

- *Phase out the use of avoidable Single Use Plastics (SUPs) in all District Council premises*
- *Work with UBICO, PUBLICA and contracted partners to end purchase and procurement of avoidable SUPs through the Council's supply chain*
- *Incentivise traders on District Council sites to avoid SUPs as a condition of their event permission”*

3.2. The motion was referred to this Committee for consideration, and the Committee's views/recommendations will be submitted to a future meeting of the Council.

**4. SINGLE USE PLASTICS**

4.1. 400 million tonnes of plastic are produced globally every year and the largest sector is plastic packaging.

4.2. The Institute for European Environmental Policy<sup>1</sup> defines single use plastic as any disposable item which is designed to be used only once. Single Use Plastic items are often used in packaging, consumer products, cosmetics and healthcare e.g. light-weight plastic bags, disposable utensils, beverage containers, coffee capsules, wet wipes and razor blades etc.

4.3. The Department of the Environment, Fisheries and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) is due to publish its Resources and Waste Strategy shortly (expected during December 2018) which will

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<sup>1</sup> Institute for European Environmental Policy. 2016. *Single Use Plastics*. [Online]. [Accessed August 2018]. Available from [https://ieep.eu/archive\\_uploads/2128/IEEP\\_ACES\\_Product\\_Fiche\\_Single\\_Use\\_Plastics\\_Final\\_October\\_2016.pdf](https://ieep.eu/archive_uploads/2128/IEEP_ACES_Product_Fiche_Single_Use_Plastics_Final_October_2016.pdf)

have five key principles based on the Government's 25 Year Environment Plan published in February.

- 4.4. These are how to achieve zero avoidable waste by 2050, phasing out avoidable plastic waste by 2042, new targets for waste and recycling, how to stop food waste going to landfill by 2030 and reforming the PRN system. It is anticipated packaging reforms will include a tax on producers, so that Supermarkets, food producers and drinks firms incur the costs of recycling plastics.
- 4.5. Once the Strategy is published the Council can consider what appropriate actions it should put in place to contribute to the Strategy's objectives and to deliver the requested reduction in Single Use Plastics as set out in the Motion. A full report will then be brought back to Environment Overview and Scrutiny, in advance of submission to the Council.

## **5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

This report has no financial implications.

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Date: 21 November 2018

Background Papers:  
None