
Report to Council

Date of Meeting: 24th October 2019

Subject: Single use plastics

Report by: Strategic Director (Place)

1.0 Purpose

- 1.1. To bring Council up to speed on the measures that have been put in place to transition away from single use plastics (SUP's) and what further measures will be required to achieve elimination of SUP's.

2.0 Recommendations

- 2.1. The Council is asked to note:
- The current and proposed actions aimed at reducing and eliminating (where appropriate) single use plastics.
 - That a policy to reduce and eliminate (where appropriate) single use plastics will be included in the forthcoming updated Sustainability and Climate Change Strategy which will be brought to Council for approval early in 2020.

3.0 Considerations

- 3.1. A motion was passed by Council at its meeting of 21st February setting out a commitment to transition away from using SUP's, a copy of which can be seen in Appendix 1.
- 3.2. SUP's are wide and varied and according to the Institute for European Environmental Policy SUP's can include any disposable plastic item which is designed to be used only once. Single use items are often used in packaging, consumer products, cosmetics and healthcare. Examples include: light-weight plastic bags, disposable utensils, stirrers, beverage containers, coffee capsules, and wet wipes.
- 3.3. The European Commission proposes to set out new rules on single use plastics designed to tackle wasteful and damaging plastic litter. This will include a ban on certain plastic products, the setting of consumption reduction targets, obligations for producers, plastic collection targets, new labelling requirements as well as an obligation to raise awareness of the negative impact of littering of single use plastics.

- 3.4. There is also an imperative for the Council to tackle climate change with the recent declarations by the UK and Scottish Governments that climate change is a global emergency. The reduction and elimination of single use plastics will contribute to a reduction of CO₂ emissions as well as other environmental benefits.

Measures to date

- 3.5. Understanding the levels of SUP consumption and who is buying them is not straight forward because the number of items is not purposely recorded, however the table below has been compiled using purchasing information for 2018/19.

Consumption in 2018/19

Number of single use plastic cups purchased by the Council	102000
Number of pieces of single use plastic cutlery purchased by the Council.	41780
Number of drinks purchased in single use plastic bottles.	38490
Number of single use plastic waste bin liners purchased by the Council. (for use in offices and other internal places).	8000

- 3.6. It is notable that plastic straws do not appear in the above table of purchases and that is down to a change of milk supplier in August 2018. The Scotland Excel milk contract ended in 2018 and one of the factors in choosing the new contractor was that they could supply milk cartons of a type that did not require plastic straws. None the less, the Council's policy will require to future procurement to ensure plastic straws continue to be eliminated.
- 3.7. The list of items in the table above is only part of the picture, there are many other single use plastic items that need action to be taken to reduce or eliminated their use e.g.
- Hot drinks cups
 - Plastic containers used for example to hold cleaning chemicals. The use of larger containers to dispense into smaller ones can help reduce waste.
 - Bottled water
 - Milk cartons
 - Sandwich wedges, food pots (for fruit, pastas and salads etc.)
 - Polypockets
- 3.8. Single use plastic cups form the basis of what we consume the most, costing £850 in 2018/19 and initial efforts have been targeted at reducing/eliminating these. They are primarily used at water dispensers, located across Council buildings. A review has therefore taken place of the current provision of water dispensers, identifying there are 89 dispensers across the Council's

buildings, mostly of the type that require plastic cups to be supplied. These will require to be replaced with a type that does not require plastic cups. The opportunity will also be taken to reduce the overall numbers to help reduce costs.

- 3.9. A staff survey was conducted during September 2019, with the aim of identifying the best option for the provision of drinking water whilst eliminating the need for single use of plastic cups. The results of the survey at the time of writing this report were not available, but a verbal update can be given at the Council meeting.
- 3.10. A working group of key officers has been created to take forward actions to reduce and eliminate (where possible) single use plastics.
- 3.11. Our primary and secondary schools in Clackmannanshire are active through their Eco Committees and there are a range of other initiatives across schools such as increasing food waste recycling, introducing reusable metal water bottles and metal straws.
- 3.12. A high proportion of our schools have Green Flag Status and two out of three of our Secondary Schools have been involved in the Climate Ready Classrooms initiative sponsored by Keep Scotland Beautiful. Lornhill Academy was the first school in Scotland to be involved in the Climate Ready Classrooms and featured on the promotional video. Climate Change is being covered in interdisciplinary learning across all schools.
- 3.13. The Clackmannanshire Youth Council is also prioritising the Environment in their work plan. They have a ECommunitiy youth group which is made up of a group of young people supported to develop this action area. They are planning to work with the Academies, communities and the Rangers to clean up local areas.
- 3.14. The Scottish Youth Parliament (on which Clackmannanshire is represented), have agreed on “Environmental Protection” as their next campaign. During the sitting of the Scottish Youth Parliament in Clackmannanshire in the summer, the Clackmannanshire Youth Council promoted an environmental friendly weekend, collecting non recyclable plastics donated to Alloa Academy to make ECO bricks for school projects.

Future Actions

- 3.15. SUP's can be very useful in every day life, but there is increasing evidence that plastics are seriously harming our environment both on land and in particular marine life in our seas. As plastics may take centuries to degrade, these environmental impacts could be very long lasting. The Council must take action in everyway it can to reduce its impact upon the environment as well as encourage others to do the same.
- 3.16. The Council will develop a policy that sets out its commitment to reduce and eliminate SUP's and this will be incorporated into the updated Council's Sustainability & Climate Change Strategy. This policy will set out our approach to procurement, including how tendering can influence suppliers, the promotion of staff awareness, how we monitor our performance and on a wider front how the Council will raise awareness at a Community level.

- 3.17. There is a need to act now, and not wait until the policy is complete, so early actions on reducing and eliminating (where appropriate) SUP's will focus on the items we consume the most giving priority to achieving this here at Kilncraigs.
- 3.18. Schools are a major consumer of plastics, such as plastic cutlery and plastic drinks bottles, food pots, sandwich either supplied by the catering service or from vending machines and other school outlets. The Scottish Government has announced a commitment to introducing a deposit return scheme to assist in the recycling of drinks bottles and this is anticipated to come into effect on 1st April 2021. In the meantime work will be done through ECO schools and the education service to put school pupils at the heart of the solution going ahead.
- 3.19. A programme of raising awareness and encouraging behavioural change will be an issue for the working group to tackle. Part of this is expected to include an on-line training module within Clacks Academy for employees, and beyond this out to the wider community. The Council has signed up to Climate Change week, which runs from 7th to 11th October and will run a series of presentations and talks on Climate change including Single Use plastics.
- 3.20. The Scottish Parliament passed the new Climate change Bill on 25th September, now the Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2019, setting the target for net zero emissions by 2045. Associated with this will be the potential opportunity for funds to assist councils and others to tackle climate change. The Council will take every opportunity to work with partners to secure funding to take forward initiatives to reduce and eliminate SUP's.
- 3.21. The motion previously passed by Council set the priority to tackle SUP's in Kilncraigs and therefore an early action will be to meet with the vending machine supplier to see what can be done to discourage the use of single use plastic dispensed at the vending machines. Suppliers of vending machines in other buildings will also be approached.
- 3.22. Finally by adopting an aspirational policy on the elimination of SUP's then action can be taken to eliminate the use of all other types of single use plastics.

4.0 Sustainability Implications

- 4.1. The whole purpose of reducing and eliminating SUP's will have a positive impact

5.0 Resource Implications

5.1. Financial Details

- 5.2. The full financial implications of the recommendations are set out in the report. This includes a reference to full life cycle costs where appropriate.

Yes ✓

5.3. Finance have been consulted and have agreed the financial implications as set out in the report. Yes ✓

5.4. Staffing Implications

5.5. It is anticipated that there are no staffing implications as a result of this report.

6.0 Exempt Reports

6.1. Is this report exempt? Yes (please detail the reasons for exemption below) No ✓

7.0 Declarations

The recommendations contained within this report support or implement our Corporate Priorities and Council Policies.

(1) **Our Priorities** (Please double click on the check box)

Clackmannanshire will be attractive to businesses & people and ensure fair opportunities for all	✓
Our families; children and young people will have the best possible start in life	✓
Women and girls will be confident and aspirational, and achieve their full potential	<input type="checkbox"/>
Our communities will be resilient and empowered so that they can thrive and flourish	✓

(2) **Council Policies** (Please detail)

8.0 Equalities Impact

8.1 Have you undertaken the required equalities impact assessment to ensure that no groups are adversely affected by the recommendations?

Yes No ✓

9.0 Legality

9.1 It has been confirmed that in adopting the recommendations contained in this report, the Council is acting within its legal powers. Yes ✓

10.0 Appendices

10.1 Please list any appendices attached to this report. If there are no appendices, please state "none".

Appendix 1 - Motion to Clackmannanshire Council of Thursday 21st February, 2019

11.0 Background Papers

11.1 Have you used other documents to compile your report? (All documents must be kept available by the author for public inspection for four years from the date of meeting at which the report is considered)

Yes (please list the documents below) No

Author(s)

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Approved by

NAME	DESIGNATION	SIGNATURE
Pete Leonard	Strategic Director (Place)	

**Motion to Clackmannanshire Council
Meeting of Thursday 21st February, 2019**

That the Council recognises the devastating impact plastic pollution is having on our environment and the Council's own contribution to this, in particular via single use plastics.

The Council acknowledges we must lead by example, step up our own efforts to reduce single use plastic waste and encourage others to follow suit.

Clackmannanshire Council will begin by transitioning away from single-use plastics commencing at Kilncraigs.

