

SINGLE-USE PLASTIC USAGE

AGENDA ITEM No. 19

MEETING: POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE

DATE: 23rd OCTOBER 2019

REPORT BY: TOWN CLERK

1.0 Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 The purpose of the report is to advise members of single-use plastic usage within the Council, by department, and to advise of items that have been replaced, together with remaining usage.

2.0 Background Information

- 2.1 The use of single-use plastics has been the subject of a review, following a motion to the Council meeting held on the 12th June 2019, which was approved.

‘That Great Aycliffe Town Council officers implement a review of its use of single-use plastics across its operation, and to report back to this committee with recommendations.’

3.0 Current Situation

- 3.1 Department managers have reviewed the various single-use plastics across their areas of operation. The results are attached as Appendix 1 to the report. Officers have, where possible, changed from single-use plastic to alternative materials. Suppliers have been contacted and asked to look at supplying goods in alternative methods to plastic packaging and wrapping. This has proved to be limited in success. However, many suppliers have indicated that they are looking to do so in the future.
- 3.2 Some materials are only available in plastic containers and therefore continue to be used for the present time. Other areas of concern are the use of plastic bags for litter generally, and those placed in litter bins around the Council’s bus shelters and facilities. Additionally, 200,000 dog poop scoop bags are bought annually and distributed for use by the public. Clearly, there are benefits to using plastic bags in litter bins and also the benefits of removing dog dirt from our parks and open spaces.
- 3.3 The Council also provides for the purchase of soft drinks and water in screw cap bottles in the Oakleaf Sports and Golf Complexes. The type of container used is customer focused and led. The use of non-resealable containers, such as cans or flip-top bottles is not appropriate to the practice – an example being the golf player who is taking the container around the course over a period of hours. If the container is unable to be re-sealed, it will result in spillage while travelling and contamination of golf equipment.

The Council may consider not selling the items, which will result in patrons bringing their own purchases to the course/Sports Complex and the Council still dealing with the resultant empty container. An alternative for water would be to provide a bottle filling station/water fountain in both facilities. However, this will result in capital/revenue costs and no resultant income to the Council.

The current sales at the golf shop are circa 5,500 drinks in plastic bottles, generating sales of £7,266 and a profit of £3,633. Ceasing the sale of bottled drinks will result in an increased operating loss for the facility.

As an alternative to ceasing sales, which will not stop plastic bottles being used at the facility, would be to increase recycling efforts by setting up dedicated bins around and at the end of the course for customers to recycle.

4.0 Impact on Great Aycliffe Town Council

4.1 While the Town Council wishes to support the movement away from single-use plastics, it can be seen from the information supplied that it is not possible at this time to entirely purchase or provide alternatives in all occasions.

4.2 Council staff will continue to move to alternatives where this is possible. However, the use of legislation by the government will be required to speed up the transition from single-use plastics to alternatives.

4.3 As indicated in 3.3 above, the Council also needs to consider its stance on the supply of drinks using plastic bottles. In effect, is the Council prepared to continue with plastic bottles pending a change to the packaging and implementation of a better recycling routine. Alternatively, provide water filling stations and only continue with energy/fizzy drinks until a more suitable container is available. Or cease the sale of all plastic bottle based water/soft drinks with the resultant loss of income, customer resistance and the inevitable continued use and discarding of customers' bottles purchased elsewhere.

4.4 The Council should also consider the use of plastic rubbish bags and the supply of dog bags and the effect of curtailing the use will have on the environment of Great Aycliffe.

5.0 Policy Implications

5.1 This complies with the Council's Aims and Targets No. 5: 'To contribute to the environmental improvement of Aycliffe by managing and developing parks, play areas and green spaces'.

6.0 Staffing Implications

6.1 The ceasing of the use of rubbish bags may have an effect on the workload of staff who undertake the clearance of litter and dog dirt.

7.0 Financial Implications

7.1 Should the Council decide to provide drink fountains/bottle refill stations, there will be a capital cost, plus an ongoing maintenance cost.

7.2 A decision to cease the sale of bottles of water/fizzy/energy drinks will have an impact on the income stream to the Golf and Sports Complexes.

8.0 Crime and Disorder Implications

- 8.1 Should the Council consider not supplying plastic dog bags there may be an increase in dog fouling and offences.

9.0 Equal Opportunity Implications

- 9.1 None

10.0 Environment Implications

- 10.1 As indicated in the report, the withdrawal of bin bags/dog bags would have a detrimental effect on the environment of Great Aycliffe.
- 10.2 The use of single-use plastics in their various forms is having a major impact world-wide and it is essential that alternatives are found where possible.

11.0 Risk Assessment

- 11.1 It is not considered that the matter contained in this report poses a risk to health and safety of staff or to the financial or public standing of the Council to a degree that a risk assessment should be appended to this report.

12.0 General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR)

- 12.1 Is any personal or sensitive data required for this proposal which may have any implications for GDPR? **NO**

13.0 Recommendations

- 13.1 It is recommended that Members
- i) Consider the information provided in the report.
 - ii) Consider the options in regard to the sale of drinks in plastic bottles.
 - iii) Note the changes made to reduce the Council's use of single-use plastic items.

Town Clerk

Single-Use Plastic

Oakleaf Sports Complex

Item	Changed to	Comment
Plastic straw	Cardboard straw	
Plastic water dispenser cups	Card cones	Staff encouraged to provide own re-usable bottle.
Plastic stirrers	Wood/bamboo	
Polystyrene takeaway containers	Cardboard containers	
Plastic knives/forks	Bamboo	
Disposable drinks glasses for events	Re-usable plastic	Change to re-usable plastic to ensure more use per glass.
Customer plastic bottles		Signed up to App which advises people where they can fill water bottles. Water available from bar 11.30am to 11pm.
Soft drinks/water bottles		No alternative to screw top plastic bottles at present. If not provided, customers will continue to bring in their own products – see comment in report.
Food packaging		No alternative for supplies at the present time. Plastic trays are re-used where possible. Health and hygiene standards must still be met. Until government provides compulsory legislation, suppliers will continue to provide via plastic packaging. Suppliers asked where possible to use alternatives.
Chemical product bottles and containers		No alternatives available at present.
Disposable coffee cup lids		Supplier (Rijo) currently looking at alternative.

Events

Item	Changed to	Comment
Santa Tour sweets	No alternative at present	Sweets are individually wrapped to comply with food hygiene.
Remembrance wreath poppies	No alternative at present	Nylon petals, plastic insets and fittings, plastic backing.
Fireworks	No alternative at present	Plastic fittings and outer wrapping. Industry-led products.
External contractors' food trays		Catering units/gift stalls will be advised of Council's stance on reduction of single-use plastic to be enforced, where possible, for 2020/21 events.

Golf Complex

Item	Changed to	Comment
Sales items packaging	No practicable alternative at present	Awaiting industry change to packaging.
Hot vending	Cups changed to cardboard, wooden stirrers	Product delivered in protective plastic packaging.
Snacks/bars protective packaging	No alternative available at present	
Water/soft drinks bottles	No practicable alternative at present to screw top bottles for using and transporting on the golf course.	Cans are not suitable due to the need to transport on the course and associated spillage, not re-sealable. Water may be supplied by fountain and re-usable bottles supplies by customers. See further comment in report.

Pre-School

Item	Changed to	Comment
Plastic aprons/gloves for changing children	No practicable alternative available	One apron is worn for all nappy changes. Gloves are changed for each child. Consideration may be given to not providing aprons but may result in additional uniform washing being needed.
Bin liners	No practicable alternative available	
Nappy sacks		Used for changing.
Children's packed lunch provided by parents		Discussions with parents to use re-useable drinking bottles and food containers.
Delivery packaging		Supplier moving to recyclable packaging.
Empty tubs and containers		Re-used for junk modelling.
Stationery		Move to recycled products where possible.
Cleaning materials plastic containers	No practicable alternative at present	

Council Offices

Item	Changed to	Comment
Water dispenser plastic cups	Replaced with glasses	Current supply of plastic cups to be used up.
Coffee/tea sachets	No practicable alternative at present	Could be replaced with kettle and loose supplies.
Milk UHT pots	No practicable alternative at present	Fresh milk could be purchased but would be supplied in plastic containers.
Copier paper wrapping	No practicable alternative at present	
Plastic pens	No practicable alternative	
Black waste bags	No practicable alternative at present	Biodegradable bags purchased.

Item	Changed to	Comment
Poop scoop bags	No practicable alternative at present	OXO biodegradable bags (no harmful residues) used.
Cling film for food wrapping	No practicable alternative at present.	

Works

Item	Changed to	Comment
Bin/poop scoop bags	No viable alternative	Dog bags are biodegradable, bin bags made from re-cycled material.
Hand cleaner plastic containers Traffic film remover/pressure washer cleaner – plastic containers Plastic packaging, banding, bubble wrap, cling film, aerosol caps Dust/paint sheets Paint containers Anti-freeze containers Oil containers – engine, hydraulic, chainsaw Cleaning supplies Sports pitch marking paint Pesticide/herbicide Rat poison Lake treatment Fertiliser/soil conditioner Grass/flower seed Wetting agent pellets Barrier tape Dumpy bags Disposable gloves	All products supplied by manufacturers in plastic containers and packaging. No practicable alternative at present.	Contact major suppliers for consideration of alternative packaging and/or removal of empty containers.