

## Cabinet

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**Date of Meeting:** 09 October 2018

**Report Title:** Notice of Motion - Single Use Plastics

**Portfolio Holder:** Cllr Rachel Bailey – Leader of the Council

**Senior Officer:** Executive Director - Place

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### 1 Report Summary

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to consider and respond to the following motion which had been moved by Councillor Rachel Bailey and seconded by Councillor H Davenport at the Council meeting on 26<sup>th</sup> July 2018 and referred to Cabinet for consideration:

*“We know how harmful single use plastics are to the environment, indeed in 2017 the National Federation of Women’s Institutes (NFWI) called on the Government and industry to research and develop innovative solutions to stop the accumulation of micro plastic fibres in our oceans.”*

*“We urge full Council endorsement of this campaign and in so doing seek to eliminate all single use plastic within CEC managed buildings and facilities by 2020 and seek to encourage the elimination of single use plastic within its supply chain by 2025.”*

- 1.2 Since the notice of motion, the Council has carried out a number of actions to begin the process. It has prepared a ‘Life with less Plastic’ community toolkit that will be used by waste reduction volunteers across the Borough. This toolkit is available to residents for them to engage in reducing single use plastic consumption.

- 1.3 The authority was fully involved in the Waste and Resources Action Programme (WRAP) Recycle Week campaign – September 24<sup>th</sup> - 30<sup>th</sup> 2018 that raised the profile of recycling and particularly plastics recycling. Sustainability is firmly on the national agenda and the public is looking to organisations such as the Council, to provide leadership on the issue of single use plastics.
- 1.4 Further actions have included the removal of all single use plastic cups in Council buildings and the commitment to address single use plastics within the Council's wider supply chain.
- 1.5 Objective 4 of the Corporate Plan states that Cheshire East is a green and sustainable place where its rural and urban character is protected and enhanced through sensitive environmental management and waste disposal policies. The notice of motion aligns with this.

## **2 Recommendations**

That Cabinet

- 2.1 Endorse the National Federation of Women's Institutes campaign to reduce micro plastic fibres in our oceans – 'End plastic soup'.
- 2.2 Agree that the Council should aim to eliminate all single use plastic within CEC managed buildings by 2020 and to eliminate single use plastic within its supply chain by 2025.

## **3 Reasons for Recommendations**

- 3.1 Across the world the damaging effects of single use plastics on the environment, particularly the marine environment has become evident. In order to play our part addressing this issue we are seeking to eliminate the use of all single use plastics in our buildings and supply chain.
- 3.2 This proposal will help us to lead by example and show that simple measures can be taken to bring about wider change.

## **4 Other Options Considered**

- 4.1 We are aware that single use plastics are causing an environmental issue and therefore doing nothing is not an option for an authority that takes pride in its environment.

## **5 Background**

- 5.1 In 2018 the BBC programme – Blue Planet II motivated the nation to care about plastics in a way they never had before. The increased awareness that individual use of everyday plastic items was impacting on the environment has galvanised people into action.
- 5.2 This raised interest was apparent in the public responses to the article that was included in the summer edition of the residents' newsletter – The Voice. The article on 'Life with less plastic' encouraged residents to get involved and led to a wide range of suggestions.
- 5.3 We as an authority have worked hard to deliver a simple to use recycling scheme that enables plastics to be collected and then transformed into other products. Through our silver bin scheme we have been able to remain in the top 10% nationally for local authorities but we are not content to rest on our laurels. We are aware of our leadership role in the community and are seeking to lead by example by addressing issues that are within our control – single use plastics within our buildings and the supply chain.
- 5.4 In the majority of our offices we supply water coolers and have for a number of years supplied single use plastic cups too, this practice has now stopped. By 2020 we aim to have removed all single use plastics from our buildings and facilities. We appreciate that there is single use plastic within our supply chain and we will work with our partners to ensure that by 2025 this too will be eliminated.

## **6 Implications of the Recommendations**

### **6.1 Legal Implications**

- 6.1.1 There are no direct legal implications from this report. Legal service advice may be required to support this proposal.

### **6.2 Finance Implications**

- 6.2.1 A small saving would be expected within the facilities management budget since single use plastic cups will no longer be purchased.

### **6.3 Policy Implications**

- 6.3.1 This supports Objective 4 in the Corporate Plan.

### **6.4 Equality Implications**

- 6.4.1 There will be no equality implications with the removal of single use plastic cups and the aim of removing single use plastics from our offices and supply chain.

## **6.5 Human Resources Implications**

6.5.1 None

## **6.6 Risk Management Implications**

6.6.1 None

## **6.7 Rural Communities Implications**

6.7.1 None

## **6.8 Implications for Children & Young People**

6.8.1 None

## **6.9 Public Health Implications**

6.9.1 We will be working towards an environment in which single use plastic is eliminated

## **7 Ward Members Affected**

7.1 Affects all Council buildings and facilities. The community toolkit 'Life with less plastic' will be available to all residents.

## **8 Consultation & Engagement**

8.1 None required

## **9 Access to Information**

9.1 The community toolkit 'Life with less plastic' is in appendix 1

9.2 <http://www.wrap.org.uk/content/recycle-week-2018>

## **10 Contact Information**

10.1 Any questions relating to this report should be directed to the following officer:

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