

**REPORT FROM: ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES MANAGER**

**TO: POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE**

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## **REDUCING SINGLE USE PLASTICS IN LANCASHIRE**

### **PURPOSE OF REPORT**

To provide the Committee with an overview of the contents of Lancashire County Council's (LCC's) recent report into reducing Single Use Plastics (SUPs) in Lancashire and consider what actions we might take in Pendle to support this initiative.

### **RECOMMENDATIONS**

- (1) That the Council support the moves towards reducing SUP across Lancashire and works towards this end via the Lancashire Waste Partnership.
- (2) That the Management Team be requested to examine what actions the Council as an organisation might realistically take and submit a further report.

### **REASON FOR RECOMMENDATIONS**

To take forward the recommendations of the LCC Overview Scrutiny report.

### **Background**

There has been a lot of public and media concern regarding the amount of plastic that is not disposed of correctly and about the increasing amount of plastic now in our daily lives. The BBC programme "Blue Planet II" has heavily influenced this by showing the problems of plastics in the marine environment, along with reports that the amount of plastic in the oceans will outnumber the amount of fish by 2050.

In December 2018, DEFRA published their long awaited Resources and Waste Strategy, and dealing with plastics featured highly in this. Not only are there plans to introduce a plastic tax to encourage more plastics to have a minimum 30% recycled content, but recently the government has announced the banning of certain SUPs including plastic straws, plastic drinks stirrers and plastic cotton buds in England from April 2020.

LCC have looked at how they can reduce the amount of SUPs in Lancashire and their report is attached at Appendix 1. One of their recommendations is to explore measures to encourage District and Borough Councils and other statutory partners of LCC within Lancashire to adopt a rigorous enforcement policy on disposal of SUP products.

### **Options to consider**

LCC has shared their Overview and Scrutiny report (Appendix 1) and the recommendations proposed by the task group with District and Borough councils to enable a wider debate to be initiated amongst Members.

LCC wants to work with district and borough councils through the Lancashire Waste Partnership (LWP) in order to drive a rigorous enforcement policy across Lancashire to reduce SUPs and enable proper disposal solutions.

It is suggested that the Committee requests the Management Team to undertake a review of SUPs within Pendle Council and its partners. The review will help to understand the use of SUPs and the possibilities of reducing the amount purchased and used.

It is evident from the Overview and Scrutiny report that LCC is looking at how the sorting facility in Leyland can be adapted to enable us to collect a wider variety of plastics in the brown bin, i.e. to be able to include plastic pots, tubs and trays. Currently we are restricted to collecting plastics bottles only due to existing sorting technology at the Leyland site.

Should LCC allow us to collect more plastics, this may have an impact on collection arrangements and these will need to be considered in depth by the Lancashire Waste Partnership, e.g. more brown bins may be needed as and when the volume of recycling increases resulting in more tips being required, more fuel being used and more time taken to complete scheduled routes. Further reports on the implications will be presented should this go ahead.

### **IMPLICATIONS**

**Policy:** None arising directly from the report.

**Financial:** None arising directly from the report – further reports will be presented if collection arrangements are impacted.

**Legal:** None arising directly from the report.

**Risk Management:** None arising directly from the report.

**Health and Safety:** None arising directly from the report.

**Sustainability:** None arising directly from the report.

**Community Safety:** None arising directly from the report.

**Equality and Diversity:** None arising directly from the report.

### **APPENDICES**

Appendix 1 – LCC Overview and Scrutiny Review - Reducing Single Use Plastics in Lancashire, January 2019.

**LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS – Resources and Waste Strategy** [www.gov.uk](http://www.gov.uk)