

## **Report of the Executive Manager - Neighbourhoods**

### **1. Summary**

- 1.1 This report provides an update on the work being under taken by the Council and its partners to tackle the growing global concerns about the use of single use plastics and the increased incidence of local damage and harm to farmer's livestock by Chinese lanterns and helium balloons. Concerns surrounding single use plastics have been highlighted recently by the BBC television programme "The Blue Planet II" which focussed on the impact of human activity on marine life.
- 1.2 Council resolved on 7 December 2017 that the following objectives should be considered and advised upon:
- Assess the current use and feasibility of reducing single use plastic in relation to Council activities.
  - Consider the mechanisms to ban the use of Chinese lanterns and helium balloons on Rushcliffe Borough Council land and open spaces
  - Consider the provision of Council advice and information on single use plastic, Chinese lanterns and helium balloons for local residents and businesses
- 1.3 In order to progress these objectives the Council developed an action plan to explore how it can meet these objectives in the short, medium and long term and this was endorsed by the Community Development Group at its meeting on 20 February 2018 whereupon a further update in six months was requested.

### **2 Recommendation**

It is RECOMMENDED that the Community Development Group consider and make comment upon the progress of the Council's single use plastic action plan.

### **3 Reasons for Recommendation**

To identify, shape and support the operational work which will help to deliver the ongoing commitments made in the Council resolution of 7 December 2017.

## **4 Supporting Evidence**

- 4.1 As reported at the previous meeting on 20 February 2018, a corporate working group has developed a plan of actions to be taken to deliver the commitments made by Council. An updated action plan has been completed (attached at Appendix 1), which identifies the detailed tasks to be considered across four theme areas which are:
- a) Audit of the single use plastic currently used across RBC in normal council activities
  - b) Identifying ways of seeking support from key partners and contractors to encourage them to commit to support similar actions
  - c) Run relevant communications and campaigns to influence and change behaviour of residents and businesses in the borough on these issues
  - d) Identify how we prohibit the use of lanterns and helium balloons in RBC assets and parks following good practice examples from other agencies such as Nottinghamshire County Council.
- 4.2 Since the previous meeting on 20 February good progress has been made with regard to many of the action plan work streams including the following highlights;
- a) Completion of the audit of single use plastic in use across the Council
  - b) Making simple changes to everyday items such as purchasing pens with a high-recycled plastic content, replacing plastic/wax cups with china mugs for us at the Arena Office coffee machines etc.
  - c) Purchasing reusable insulated drinks cups for members to use when they are out on council business to promote the Council motion.
  - d) Prohibiting the release of Chinese lanterns and helium balloons from Council parks and open spaces.
  - e) Amending terms and conditions for the hire of Council facilities and rooms to prohibit helium balloons sale and use
  - f) Working closely with Parkwood and their Café Vita to reduce single use plastic packaging for perishable food and swapping plastic cutlery, straws etc. for sustainable alternatives such as wood.
  - g) Encouraging Parkwood and their swimwear partner Zoggs to stock a range of products made for recycled plastics
  - h) Sign up and launch of the 'Refill Rushcliffe' project which encourages retailers, shops, cafés etc to sign up to allow the public to be able to refill reusable water containers for free
  - i) Piloting the use of 'on street' dual use recycling litter bins in key public locations across the borough

- j) Encouraging proactive action by other businesses, groups, partners and local residents e.g. Radcliffe on Trent Parish Council volunteering to become a pilot for single use plastic reduction.

4.3 Further work will take place as detailed in the action plan (Appendix 1) which will build on the successful work delivered over the last six months. Following feedback from the Community Development Group and depending on the nature of any future actions contained within the plan it may be necessary to prepare a further report for Cabinet's consideration and approval.

## **5 Implications**

### **5.1 Finance**

There are no financial implications at this stage as the actions and measures contained in the plan have been contained within existing budgets, however clearly any further actions could have financial implications and will need to be considered accordingly.

### **5.2 Legal**

Supports the duty of the Council in exercising its normal functions.

Further advice may need to be sought on how to practically and legally build a commitment on the use of single use plastics in future contracts.

### **5.3 Corporate Priorities**

This work stream and action plan supports the Corporate Priority of Maintaining and enhancing our residents' quality of life

### **5.4 Other Implications**

None.

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<b>Background papers available for Inspection:</b>	None
<b>List of appendices (if any):</b>	<b>Appendix A</b> – Action Plan of the Single Use Plastics working group

Task	What needs doing	Who by	<u>Update</u>	What needs to happen next
<b>Assessment of single use plastic use by RBC</b>  <b>Undertake an audit of the single use plastic that we currently use across RBC as part of our own activities</b>	Encourage departments to look at ways to reduce use of single use plastics	Ed Palmer	Café vita photo with Leader and staff matters article on 22 Jan	NFA but keep under review
	Drinks machines in members area – replace the non-reusable plastic cups with reusable china cups	Fabian Ribeiro	Complete	
	Explore ways to replace plastic wrapping eg garden magazine in Autumn	<del>Ed Palmer</del>	Agreed by EMT that the garden magazine becomes an e-zine only	Action by EP
	Source branded reusable cups and bottles for staff usage	Ed Palmer	To source insulated Travel mugs for members to use when on ward visits. 8.5.2018: UPDATE members have now been given the option to receive branded reusable cup.	NFA
	Stationary – single use plastics	Geoff Carpenter	We now only purchase eco friendly range which is both 50% cheaper and whilst still plastic is made from 74% recycled material.	NFA
	Recycle bins in office and kitchen	Dave Thomas	Awareness Day 2nd March New information signs provided. Containers for recycling in the office	NFA
	Waste bins in town centre areas adapted to enable separation of waste	Dave Thomas	Complete	NFA
	Refillable soap dispensers in WCs in Arena	Fabian Ribeiro	Fitting permanent dispensers w/c 10/7/18	NFA

<p><b>Assessment of single use plastic use by partners and contractors</b></p> <p><b>Seek the support of our key partners and contractors and get them to commit to support similar actions</b></p>	<p>Meet with partners and contractors to discuss the issue, identify areas where changes can be made and encourage commitment to these changes</p>	<p>Helen Penniston to contact all contracts – item on meeting agenda held monthly</p>	<p>Parkwood have been very quick to respond to the Council's motion and here are some of the actions that they have taken:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Discount hot drink for reusable cups</li> <li>2) Switching to wooden cutlery instead of plastic (however they are still using up their old stock) and encouraging customers to use re-useable thermal mugs</li> <li>3) Paper cups used in the café are now 100% compostable</li> <li>4) Open to refilling bottles for water</li> <li>5) Have now stopped using the large plastic boxes to display baguettes and switched to thinner cellophane type packaging and they will continue to explore other alternatives. Plus they have also been working with their wet side partner Zoggs who are introducing the new ocean plastic range and a commitment to reduce packaging costs.</li> <li>6) Speaking to suppliers about alternative overshoes which are generally re-used but at end of life will be discarded</li> </ol>	
			<p>Catering manager working with catering providers to reduce packaging on deliveries across the company</p>	
			<p>Obtaining position statements from other suppliers across the company.</p>	
			<p>Glendale – Golf Course Audit of single use plastic has shown very little is used at this site</p>	

			Mitie – East Leake LC Will take this up with new supplier in due course	
			Streetwise –Only use china cups in the office. Nearly all plant suppliers tend to use plastic pots or nylon netting. Pots are re-used or recycled or returned to supplier. Streetwise would like to do more and keen to sign up to and promote a Council wide policy / pledge to minimise single use plastics use.	
	Build this issue into future contract proposals	Helen Peniston		This will be addressed when contracts are renewed or when new contracts are drawn up
<b>Communications campaigns run to highlight these issues to influence behaviour of businesses and residents</b>	Press releases and Social media campaigns	Ed Palmer	Rushcliffe reports article 22 Jan Business newsletter- 13 March Rushcliffe reports June Staff Matters and on screen savers - complete Staff awareness day – 22nd March - complete	Ongoing
	Communication to coffee shops and food businesses on encouragement of reduction of plastic cups or that they are recycled. Encourage customers to bring their own reusable cups	Geoff Carpenter	Refill Rushcliffe officially launched on Sept 4th. A number of businesses have now signed up to the scheme including both Parkwood and Glendale.	Ongoing
	Communication to developers – conditions possible to influence them to reduce plastic use?	Geoff Carpenter	Advice from Andrew Pegram that this would not be a material planning issue so not possible to condition. The issue rests with suppliers rather than the developer.	NFA
<b>Assess plastics use at Council events and venues/facilities</b>	Ban on use of Sky lanterns and balloons	Events Team/Fabian Ribeiro.	Have amended all our conditions of hire for community facilities and open space events to include no sky lanterns and helium balloons. Item in Rushcliffe reports.	NFA

			Ruth Wakelin is actively encouraging stall holders to cease use of single use plastics	NFA
			New event terms and conditions are in place that encourage traders to limit use of plastics in food packaging and service-ware at our events.	
			Paper cups used in future for events	Further work to be done amending the website and public notices in the parks and opens spaces owned by RBC that the release of lanterns and balloons is forbidden. This will include briefing officers and park rangers who work in these locations to challenge such behaviour if it is witnessed along with using social media to promote this stance
	Assess plastic use at Council events		Specify how waste needs to be disposed of after events	NFA
			Farmers Markets – contacted Ruth Wakelin acting on advice from the events team – no plastic bags used and customers encouraged to bring their own shopping bags – to put this in Rushcliffe Reports	
	Street Trading Licences		Investigate the possibility of prohibiting the use of SUP s amongst RBC street traders	