

## Report of the Executive Manager - Neighbourhoods

### 1. Summary

1.1 This report outlines the issues in connection with 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 The Council has now developed a draft action plan to explore how it can meet these objectives in the short, medium and long term.

### 2 Recommendation

It is RECOMMENDED that the Community Development Group consider and make comment upon the draft single use plastic action plan.

### 3 Reasons for Recommendation

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

### 4 Supporting Evidence

4.1 A corporate working group has been formed to discuss the above objectives and to develop a plan of actions to be taken to deliver the commitments made. An 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 Following feedback from the Community Development Group and depending on the nature of the 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**

No implication at this stage as suggested actions and measures contained in the plan can be 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 draft 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>	Nottinghamshire County Council policy on use of lanterns on County Council land or property.  <a href="http://www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/media/127740/sky-lanterns-policy.pdf">http://www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/media/127740/sky-lanterns-policy.pdf</a>
<b>List of appendices (if any):</b>	<b>Appendix A</b> – Action Plan of the Single Use Plastics working group

## Single use plastics task and finish group action plan

Task	What needs doing	Who by	Progress and when by?	Task completed
Assessment of single use plastic use by RBC Undertake an audit of the single use plastic that we currently use across RBC as part of our own activities	1. Staff matters article on single use plastics to highlight issue and encourage departments to look at ways to reduce use of single use plastics	Ed Palmer	Café vita photo with Leader w/c 22 <sup>nd</sup> Jan Staff matters article w/c 22 <sup>nd</sup> Jan	Yes
	2. Drinks machines in members area – replace the non-reusable plastic cups with reusable china cups	Fabian Ribeiro	Trial use of china cups in members room by end of January – article in Members matters Corridor (downstairs) machine can only dispense plastic cups currently – explore how this can be changed Order more china cups Issue with use of cups for persons hiring meeting rooms	Yes
	3. Explore ways to replace plastic wrapping eg garden magazine	Dave Thomas	Currently looking at the garden magazine and alternatives to the wrapping – update next meeting	
	4. Source branded reusable cups and bottles for staff usage	Tyrel Yglesias-Brown	Scope? Budget? Would they be used? Discussed at EMT 16.1.2018 – decided that this	Yes

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	<p>5. Stationary – single use plastics</p> <p>6. Recycle bins in office and kitchen</p> <p>7. Waste bins in town centre areas adapted to enable separation of waste</p>	<p>Sarah Cairns</p> <p>Dave Thomas</p> <p>Dave Thomas</p>	<p>would not be viable and encourage staff and members to bring their own in</p> <p>Talk to Shirley Woltman – assess what alternatives can be ordered and staff awareness- update next meeting</p> <p>Identify what goes in what bin – communications and staff awareness – in staff matters by end March</p> <p>Discussed at EMT 16.1.2018 – explore ways to provide bins to enable residents and visitors to separate waste Dave Thomas has carried out initial scoping work in all town centres to explore where bins are currently provided and types of bins required. Update after discussion between Dave Thomas and Darryl Burch</p>	
<p>Assessment of single use plastic use by partners and contractors Seek the support of our key partners and</p>	<p>1. Meet with partners and contractors to discuss the issue, identify areas where changes can be made and encourage</p>	<p>Helen Penniston to contact all contracts – item on meeting agenda held monthly</p>	<p>Parkwood: Leisure centres Working with supplier to offer extra option on hot drink vending machine to enable discount for using own reusable cup. In process of producing branded</p>	

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<p>contractors and get them to commit to support similar actions</p>	<p>commitment to these changes</p>		<p>thermal cups for sale Press release w/c 22<sup>nd</sup> Jan</p> <p>Catering manager working with catering providers to reduce packaging on deliveries across the company</p> <p>Working with swim accessory supplier, Zoggs, to reduce packaging on deliveries and the products displayed</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> <p>Carillion – East Leake LC Will take this up with new supplier in due course</p> <p>Streetwise – Sarah Cairns to talk to John Scott Lee about their involvement in this initiative</p>	
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	2. Build this issue into future contract proposals		Look at this when contracts are renewed or when new contracts drawn up	
Communications campaigns run to highlight these issues to influence behaviour of businesses and residents	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Rushcliffe reports article</li> <li>2. Press release</li> <li>3. Social media campaigns</li> <li>4. Business newsletter</li> <li>5. RCCC display</li> <li>6. Look at communications on what is recyclable plastics and what is not</li> <li>7. Communication to coffee shops and food businesses on encouragement of reduction of plastic</li> </ol>	<p>Ed Palmer/Sarah Cairns</p> <p>Tyrel Yglesias-Brown</p> <p>Tyrel Yglesias-Brown</p> <p>Ed Palmer/Dave Thomas</p> <p>Sarah Cairns</p>	<p>Roll out of communications w/c 22<sup>nd</sup> Jan</p> <p>Newsletter send on 13<sup>th</sup> March</p> <p>PDF's can be placed on the 2 rolling screens. Potential for a pop-up banner</p> <p>Staff Matters and on screen savers</p> <p>Via business newsletters and food safety Facebook page</p>	Yes

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	<p>cups or that they are recycled. Encourage customers to bring their own reusable cups</p>			
<p>Look at plastics use at Council events and venues/facilities</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Ban on use of Chinese lanterns and balloons</li> <li>2. Assess plastic use</li> </ol>	<p>Events Team/Fabian Ribeiro.</p>	<p>Chinese Lanterns are no-longer used in events.</p> <p>1 person at Lark in the Park sells plastic balloons – to be reviewed</p> <p>Paper cups used in future for events</p> <p>On facilities booking website and at booking discourage use of balloons and other plastic at children's parties but not outright ban.</p> <p>Specify how waste needs to be disposed of after events</p>	