

## **Tackling single-use plastic**

### **Summary**

To endorse the strategic objectives for tackling the single use of plastics in Surrey

### **Portfolio – Environment & Health**

**Date Portfolio Holder signed off report:** 18 December 2018

### **Wards Affected - All**

### **Recommendation**

The Executive is advised to RESOLVE that the strategic objectives for tackling single use of plastics, as set out in Annex A of this report, be endorsed.

### **1. Resource Implications**

1.1 The project is funded by the Surrey Waste Partnership.

### **2. Key Issues**

2.1 Plastic waste is one of the greatest environmental challenges facing the world today. In particular, the issue of single-use plastics (SUP) has been the subject of increasing public attention since the BBC's Blue Planet II series highlighted the environmental impacts at the end of last year. The Government's 25 year environment plan also focusses on this issue and includes a target of achieving zero avoidable plastic waste by the end of 2042.

2.2 SUP can include any disposable plastic item which is designed to be used only once. Single use items are often used in packaging, consumer products, cosmetics and healthcare. Examples include: light-weight plastic bags, disposable utensils, beverage containers, coffee capsules, stirrers, and wet wipes.

2.3 A multi authority task group has been set up under the Surrey Waste Partnership to deal with this problem in Surrey. The task group has identified some shared strategic objectives for minimising and working towards zero avoidable SUP across all 12 partner authorities in line with government's ambition. The attached document sets out these objectives which are supported by an action plan explaining how the objectives could be delivered.

### **3. Proposals**

- 3.1 It is proposed that the Council endorses the objectives for tackling Single use Plastics in Surrey.

#### **4. Corporate Objectives And Key Priorities**

- 4.1 The Executive approved a new five year strategy in August 2016 which sets out the Council's vision and objectives for the next five years. It also includes a number of longer term key priorities in addition to the Council's ongoing service delivery. The Five Year Strategy is a rolling document and a refreshed version was approved earlier this year. The priorities are presented under the headings of Place, Prosperity, Performance and People.
- 4.2 The objective under place is that we want to make Surrey Heath an even better place. A priority under this objective is that we will manage our waste efficiently cost effectively and sustainably. Tackling the use of single use plastics will help to achieve this.

#### **5. Governance Issues**

- 5.1 The Surrey Waste Partnership (SWP) is made up of elected members representing Surrey County Council as the Waste Disposal Authority and the 11 Borough/District Council's (Waste Collection Authorities). The partnership is advised by a Waste Officers Group representing the same authorities and a number of Project Groups. Where Policy decisions are required such as the endorsement of this strategy the decision is taken by individual authorities.

#### **6. Equalities Impact**

- 6.1 An equalities impact assessment was carried out when the existing contract was awarded. This identified a positive impact on older people due to the method of collection and the assisted collection scheme. The Surrey Heath Waste Action Plan will not change this impact.

#### **7. PR And Marketing**

- 7.1 Raising public awareness and encouraging people to reduce the use of Single Use Plastics is a key measure in the draft action plan.

#### **8. Officer Comments**

- 8.1 The Government published its new Resources and Waste Strategy on 18<sup>th</sup> December 2018. The strategy emphasises the urgent need for new thinking to tackle avoidable waste, particularly plastic. It reinforces the Government's commitment as set out in its 25-year environment plan of achieving zero avoidable plastic waste by the end of 2042. The strategic objectives as set out in Annex A of this report are the first step in achieving this target.

<b>Annexes</b>	A.Tackling single-use plastic together – Surrey Waste Partnership
<b>Background Papers</b>	A Green Future: Our 25 Year Plan to Improve the Environment – HM Government B. Our Waste, Our resources: A Strategy for England – HM Government 2018
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### Consultations, Implications and Issues Addressed

<b>Resources</b>	<b>Required</b>	<b>Consulted</b>
Revenue	✓	✓
Capital		
Human Resources		
Asset Management		
IT		
<b>Other Issues</b>	<b>Required</b>	<b>Consulted</b>
Corporate Objectives & Key Priorities	✓	✓
Policy Framework	✓	✓
Legal		
Governance	✓	✓
Sustainability	✓	✓
Risk Management		
Equalities Impact Assessment	✓	✓
Community Safety		
Human Rights		
Consultation		
P R & Marketing	✓	✓

**Review Date:**

**Version:**