

# Tackling single-use plastic together

## Introduction

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.

According to the Institute for European Environmental Policy: "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.

This document proposes some shared strategic objectives for minimising and working towards zero avoidable SUP across all 12 partner authorities in line with government's ambition. This document has been created by a multi-authority task group of officers and is supported by a high-level action plan (see Appendix 1) explaining how the objectives could be delivered.

## Recommendation

It is recommended that Members:

- agree the strategic objectives within this document
- endorse the strategic objectives to their individual authorities for approval

## Next steps

Once the strategic objectives have been agreed, the task group will create a detailed strategy/delivery plan.

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## Commitment to reducing single-use plastics

We, the undersigned partner authorities, are committed to reducing the use of, and impact caused by, single-use plastics. To do this, we will:

### Get our own house in order

1. End the sale and provision of SUP products in order to phase out their use across our estates and operations wherever possible.

### Work with our suppliers and contractors

2. Ensure that our procurement policy and procedures require all of our suppliers to minimise and work towards zero avoidable SUP use (wherever possible) in their service provision including at any events that are run.

- Support greater awareness and action from our suppliers and contractors in finding sustainable SUP replacements wherever appropriate and encourage higher recycling rates across our estates.

**Help raising awareness across Surrey**

- Share best practice, raise awareness, and support our own staff, partner authorities, communities, schools, businesses and beyond towards making their own estate and areas SUP free zones.

**Enable Surrey to take action**

- With the support of our partner authorities, innovate and encourage people in Surrey to reduce their SUP use, with a particular focus on busy public locations, and other areas where local authorities have control or influence.

**These strategic objectives are agreed by the following:**

<b>Partner</b>	<b>Signed</b>
Elmbridge Borough Council	.....
Epsom & Ewell Borough Council	.....
Guildford Borough Council	.....
Mole Valley District Council	.....
Reigate & Banstead Borough Council	.....
Runnymede Borough Council	.....
Spelthorne Borough Council	.....
Surrey Heath Borough Council	.....
Surrey County Council	.....
Tandridge District Council	.....
Waverley Borough Council	.....
Woking Borough Council	.....

# Appendix 1

## Single-Use Plastic Action Plan

Working draft version 1.0, October 2018

Theme	Objective	Key Work Area Commitments
Get our own house in order	1. End the sale and provision of SUP products in order to phase their use across our estates and operations wherever possible.	1.1 Eliminate the SUP products that are avoidable and have viable alternatives straight away. For example: the plastic drinks bottles/cups, plastic food takeaway boxes, plastic cutlery, disposable coffee cups, straws, stirrers and plastic lids.
		1.2 Improve knowledge of recycling facilities, where they are provided in-house, across our own estate and enable our employees to recycle better.
Work with our supplier and contractors	2. Ensure that our procurement policy and procedures require all of our suppliers to minimise and work towards zero avoidable SUP use (wherever possible) in their service provision including at any events that are run.	2.1 Revise existing procurement policy and procedures to enable us to request all our suppliers to minimise and work towards zero avoidable SUP use in their service provision and find sustainable alternatives (where appropriate).
		2.2 Where the use of plastics is unavoidable, encourage the use of recycled plastics, where practicable, and encourage manufacturers that make products from UK sourced waste plastics.
		2.3 Ensure where contractually possible that no SUP cups, bottles, straws, plates, cutlery etc. are used by contractors at events we run.
	3. Support greater awareness and action from our suppliers and contractors in finding sustainable SUP replacements wherever appropriate and encourage higher recycling rates across our estates.	3.1 Embed our SUP objectives into other key organisational policies and plans.
3.2 Improve knowledge of recycling facilities, where they are provided by a contractor, across our own estate and enable our employees to recycle better.		
3.3 Make it easy for residents and partners to use our recycling facilities, for example consistently providing joint bins (general waste & mixed recycle) across Surrey public locations.		
H	4. Share best practice,	4.1 Raise awareness amongst staff and encourage positive behaviour change to reduce

<b>raising awareness across Surrey</b>		raise awareness, and support our own staff, partner authorities, communities, schools, businesses and beyond towards making their own buildings SUP free zones.	the use of SUP.
			4.2 Through various channels including our social media, communicate the importance of protecting our urban environments, rural environments and waterways in Surrey, and support and promote plastic free initiatives, awareness raising campaigns and actions for reducing plastic waste at a wider level.
			4.3 Share and demonstrate our best practice to businesses, staff and beyond.
<b>Enable Surrey to take action</b>	5. With the support of our partner authorities, innovate and encourage people in Surrey to reduce their SUP use, with a particular focus on busy public locations, and other areas where local authorities have control or influence.		5.1 Demonstrate commitment and continue to work closely with partner authorities to develop a joint approach towards tackling SUP waste.
			5.2 Work with partners in joint ventures and innovative projects for reducing single-use plastic waste e.g.: water fountains, Refill Scheme, Deposit Return Scheme.
			5.3 Support our schools, businesses and communities in their efforts to become SUP free.
			5.4 Use government legislation that regulates against the use of single-use plastics to support our efforts where we can.
			5.5 Support communities and litter-pick initiatives to ensure our parks, riversides and open spaces are free from plastic litter.