

RECOMMENDATIONS TO CABINET 26 MARCH 2019 FROM THE ENVIRONMENT AND COMMUNITY PANEL MEETING HELD ON 5 MARCH 2019

EC98: REPORT OF THE SINGLE USE PLASTICS INFORMAL WORKING GROUP

RESOLVED: The Panel supported the recommendations put forward by the Informal Working Group, as set out below:

1. An Officer Focus Group be established, as detailed in the report, to promote internal best practice, make improvements where necessary and to address the issues below. The group to provide updates to the Environment and Community Panel on an annual basis, or more frequently if required.

- a) How to limit the use of single use plastics in buildings under its control and encourage employees and Members to reduce the amount of single use plastics used on council premises.
- b) In liaison with the Waste and Recycling Manager, Communications Manager and relevant Portfolio Holder, draft an internal code of good practice, which can be presented to a future meeting of the Environment and Community Panel for consideration.
- c) Work with procurement to source products which come with less packaging and generate less waste where possible.

2. The relevant officers be instructed to produce guidance as appropriate on the following:

- a) Guidance to Parish Councils on how they can reduce the use of single use plastics within their own areas and events associated with them to reduce single use plastic use across the Borough and to create a common strand of better waste collection at public events.
- b) Information to be included in Tourist Information guides to include messages encouraging a reduction in the use of single use plastics and better recycling which will begin to address the increases in litter and waste collection during the tourist season.
- c) Information to be provided to holiday lets to display information about reducing plastic use and how recycling is done in West Norfolk with the aim to reduce the amount of waste material generated in holiday lets. This will ensure that people from different parts of the country know how the recycling system works in West Norfolk.
- d) A Code of Good Practice be provided, via the Planning Department, to builders and developers to encourage good practice at development sites so that potential litter, including plastic, is kept secure and recycled or safely disposed of with the aim of avoiding waste, particularly plastic wrapping and building materials, from blowing off site and entering the environment.

3. The Waste and Recycling Manager to review how waste generated at holiday parks is managed so that recycling is optimised.

4. The Council to support and promote:

- a) The Refill initiative which allows people to refill water bottles at cafes and other appropriate outlets, as practiced in Hunstanton.
- b) Good practice relating to reducing plastic waste which some small local business are adopting.
- c) Appropriate initiatives and projects being undertaken by partners and other local relevant organisations.

5. That the Council give consideration to marketing campaigns, promoting the following:
 - a) The food waste service, and that residents can line their caddies with newspapers if they did not have any bags.
 - b) The 'Selling to us' page on the borough council's website be amended to encourage recycling and reduction of the amount of single use plastics.
 - c) Christmas Wrapping paper campaigns.
 - d) Support Norfolk Waste Partnership campaigns including OPRL promotion.
6. The Leader be invited to appoint a Member Champion for Single Use Plastics.
7. The Environment and Community Panel work with the Portfolio Holder for Environment to ensure that they consider and respond to any appropriate Government consultations with regards to Single Use Plastics.
8. The Waste and Recycling Manager and the relevant Portfolio Holder investigate ways to increase recycling levels in tourist areas, including trialling different types of recycling bins. Part of this investigation would be to determine why recycling bins were unsuccessful when trialled previously in this area.
9. The relevant Portfolio Holder, and Member Champion (if appropriate) keep a watching brief and work with, as appropriate, the Norfolk County Council Task Group looking at single use plastics, feeding back to the Environment and Community Panel as required.
10. The Borough Council to hold a design competition in schools regarding the importance of recycling and the use of single use plastics and the winning design could be wrapped onto the bin collection vehicles.
11. The Environment and Community Panel to schedule updates in its Work Programme on the work of the Norfolk Waste Partnership via the Waste and Recycling Manager and relevant Portfolio Holder.