

 Executive 31 October 2018		Agenda Item No. 5
Title	Adoption of a Plastics Policy	
For further information about this report please contact	Alice Ellis, Sustainability Officer, Health & Community Protection Alice.Ellis@warwickdc.gov.uk Tel: 01926 456102	
Wards of the District directly affected	All	
Is the report private and confidential and not for publication by virtue of a paragraph of schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, following the Local Government (Access to Information) (Variation) Order 2006?	No If yes state why	
Date and meeting when issue was last considered and relevant minute number		
Background Papers	Appendix 1 – Warwick District Council - Our Plastics Policy	

Contrary to the policy framework:	No
Contrary to the budgetary framework:	No
Key Decision?	No
Included within the Forward Plan? (If yes include reference number)	No
Equality Impact Assessment Undertaken	No

Officer/Councillor Approval		
Officer Approval	Date	Name
Chief Executive/Deputy Chief Executive	19/09/2018	Chris Elliott
Head of Service	18/09/2018	Marianne Rolfe
CMT	19/09/2018	Andy Jones and Bill Hunt
Section 151 Officer	10/10/2018	Mike Snow
Monitoring Officer	19/09/2018	Andy Jones
Finance	19/09/2018	Andrew Rollins
Portfolio Holder(s)	08/10/2018	Councillor Andrew Thompson
Consultation & Community Engagement		
There has been on-going consultation with the Sustainability Officers Group. Discussions have also taken place with Clean Up Britain on the content of the policy and links to the Now or Never Campaign.		
Final Decision?		No
Suggested next steps (if not final decision please set out below)		

1. **Summary**

- 1.1 This report seeks approval of a Plastics Policy, which aims to minimise if not eliminate the procurement of plastics by the Council to improve the recycling of plastic items where these cannot be avoided. This is an initial Stage 1 policy position outlining the aims of the Council, taking into account what can currently be accomplished. It is acknowledged that further work could be achieved, particularly around the Council's education role which is to be developed further.

2. **Recommendation**

- 2.1 The committee approve the Plastics Policy as shown in Appendix 1.

3. **Reasons for the Recommendation**

- 3.1 The Plastics Policy recognises that the Council has an impact on the environment from the use and disposal of plastic, and identifies how this impact can be reduced.
- 3.2 Over recent months, national and global awareness of the impact that plastic is having on our environment has been strengthened as a result of two influences.
 - 1. In October 2017, the Sir David Attenborough Blue Planet II television series showed images of plastic in our seas from across the globe including remote and uninhabited areas.
 - 2. In January 2018, the Beijing government enacted a waste import ban which has resulted in the UK no longer being able to export waste to China. Although this was not an issue for the authority, the impact on the wider waste sector has been large and has resulted in more being done to minimise plastic waste, increase plastic recycling and overall has heightened national awareness of plastic use and disposal.
- 3.3 According to the national charity Waste Resources Action Programme (Wrap), plastics are entering the natural environment at an alarming rate and approximately 5,000 items of marine plastic pollution can be found per mile of beach in the UK.
- 3.4 The Government launched a Strategy "A Green Future: Our 25 Year Plan to Improve the Environment", advising that it will eliminate all single use plastics by 2042 although many supermarkets and other organisations are working towards earlier targets, and in particular the elimination of black plastics which are not largely recyclable.
- 3.5 The Plastics Policy has been developed working with departments from across the authority and is shown in *Appendix 1*. The policy identifies the things the authority can do to minimise its own impact in relation to plastic use and also recognises the leadership role we have by supporting local communities in this area.
- 3.6 Already, there has been work in the area of plastics reduction by the Elections team who have found an organisation that will recycle the plastic seals on ballot boxes. The Elections Team have also been exploring the elimination of single

use plastic bottles for the election count. In addition, Cultural Services have taken steps to eliminate plastic straws, some plastic bottles and single use plastic cups from the Town Hall, Royal Pump Rooms and the Royal Spa Centre. There are also local organisations taking positive actions in this area including Clean Up Britain and the Plastic Free Leamington and Warwick group.

- 3.7 The Plastics Policy commitments will be embedded within the Sustainability Approach and the Sustainability Officer Group action plan which is reviewed on a regular basis. The policy statements are realistic at this point in time and as the commitments become embedded, these can be stretched further where we consider further actions are achievable.
- 3.8 There is not a single organisation that can solve the problems associated with plastic and organisations must work together; our policy supports this collaborative approach. Our work can have an influence locally as well nationally by encouraging other local authorities to also take positive action in this area.

4. **Policy Framework**

4.1 **Fit for the Future (FFF)**

The Council's FFF Strategy is designed to deliver the Vision for the District of making it a Great Place to Live, Work and Visit. To that end amongst other things the FFF Strategy contains several Key projects. This report shows the way forward for implementing a significant part of one of the Council's Key projects for 'Green, Clean and Safe'.

The FFF Strategy has 3 strands – People, Services and Money and each has an external and internal element to it. The table below illustrates the impact of this proposal if any in relation to the Council's FFF Strategy.

FFF Strands		
People	Services	Money
External		
Health, Homes, Communities	Green, Clean, Safe	Infrastructure, Enterprise, Employment
<u>Intended outcomes:</u> Improved health for all Housing needs for all met Impressive cultural and sports activities Cohesive and active communities	<u>Intended outcomes:</u> Area has well looked after public spaces All communities have access to decent open space Improved air quality Low levels of crime and ASB	<u>Intended outcomes:</u> Dynamic and diverse local economy Vibrant town centres Improved performance/ productivity of local economy Increased employment and income levels
Impacts of Proposal		
None.	Supports the overarching priority of 'Green, Clean, Safe'	Businesses in the plastics industry could take an innovative approach such as exploring bio-plastics and other product alternatives.

Internal		
Effective Staff	Maintain or Improve Services	Firm Financial Footing over the Longer Term
<u>Intended outcomes:</u> All staff are properly trained All staff have the appropriate tools All staff are engaged, empowered and supported The right people are in the right job with the right skills and right behaviours	<u>Intended outcomes:</u> Focusing on our customers' needs Continuously improve our processes Increase the digital provision of services	<u>Intended outcomes:</u> Better return/use of our assets Full Cost accounting Continued cost management Maximise income earning opportunities Seek best value for money
Impacts of Proposal		
Staff will feel empowered to take action on reducing plastics at work and at home.	Potential to reduce plastics leading to less litter and cleaner streets.	None.

4.2 Supporting Strategies

Supporting Strategies: Each strand of the FFF Strategy has several supporting strategies and the relevant ones for this proposal are the 'Clean, Green, Safe'. This report demonstrates the actions and progress being undertaken across the council to deliver the councils approach in the area of sustainability.

4.3 Changes to Existing Policies

There are no proposed changes to existing policies proposed by this report. However, this is a new area of work which will be embedded within the Sustainability Approach and the reporting requirements already in place.

4.4 Impact Assessments

Not applicable

5. Budgetary Framework

- 5.1 Sourcing alternatives to plastic items could result in additional costs and these should be considered in line with 'best value'. Where there are extra costs, these will need to be considered to be factored into the Budget and Medium Term Financial Strategy in accordance with the Council's Code of Financial Practice.
- 5.2 In terms of procurement, future Invitations to Tender will state that the Council is committed to reducing single use plastics and will endeavour to promote this within its contracts. Other procurement documentation will need to be similarly updated, including the Sustainability in Procurement Policy.

6. Risks

- 6.1 There is not a risk to the authority in itself in relation to adopting the Plastics Policy. However, the wider community is likely to welcome action that minimises plastic use, improves the way in which plastic items are recycled and reduces the amount of plastic being landfilled. It is recognised that some people with disabilities rely solely on plastic straws and therefore alternative options will need to be investigated further.

7. Alternative Option(s) considered

- 7.1 In terms of alternative policy options, Waste Resources Action Programme (Wrap) has launched a 'Plastic Pact' scheme with a number of plastic targets associated with it, aimed at large organisations such as M&S, Asda and Coca-Cola. The targets are aimed at reusing plastic packaging, eliminating single use plastic packaging, using recycled plastics and recycling plastic packaging by 2015. Wrap advise that local authorities may have a supportive role in this but it is not suitable for them to sign-up to the Pact. Some local authorities have signed-up to motions, but there is nothing non-politically specific that the authority could sign-up to.
- 7.2 The Council could alternatively choose not to adopt a Plastics Policy.