

Plastics can be very useful in every day life, but there is increasing evidence that plastics are seriously harming our environment both on land and in particular the marine life in our seas. Plastics can take up to 500 years or more to degrade which means that every item of plastic ever made still exists today.

Warwick District Council is concerned about plastics and we have developed this policy to set out how we will reduce our own impact on the environment and encourage others to do the same. Our commitments are set out below and will be incorporated into our 'Sustainability Approach' which is our strategic direction on the sustainability agenda.

**Reducing Our Impact****Procurement**

- We will wherever possible avoid the procurement of single-use plastics in relation to eating and drinking, such as straws, water bottles, disposable cutlery and plastic cups and source practical alternatives. Where we cannot avoid single-use plastics, we will aim to ensure these contain recycled plastic and can be easily recycled.
- We will minimise plastic from the goods that are procured where available and challenge suppliers in this area.
- We will avoid plastic bottle use in relation to the election count.
- We will include plastic avoidance requirements in procurement guidance.
- We will procure items made from recycled plastic where plastic cannot be avoided.

**Tender Contracts**

- We will include plastic avoidance requirements in tender contracts if applicable.

**Staff Awareness**

- We will explore further opportunities to recycle more types of plastic from our own buildings and provide clear guidance to staff on the types of plastic that can be recycled.
- We will ensure Staff are aware of the environmental impacts of plastic use and provide guidance on how to reduce their impact at home and at work.

**Monitoring our Performance**

- We will monitor the number of single-use plastic items avoided.
- We will monitor the number of new plastic recycling streams introduced.

**Community Leadership****Raising Awareness**

- We will work with Birmingham Commonwealth Games Organising Committee in relation to the Commonwealth Games in Leamington Spa to avoid the use of single-use plastics.

**Litter & Recycling**

- We will continue to support Clean Up Britain on the 'Now or Never' scheme to reduce litter.
- We will support the implementation of the National 'Re-fill' scheme across the District.
- We will continue to collect recycling from bring sites located in various public places across the District.

**Events**

- We will develop plastic reduction event guidance in relation events that we organise and share this where events are taking place on our land.

16 October 2018