

	Executive 10th July 2019	Agenda Item No. 9
Title	Plastic Free Resolution for Leamington & Warwick and Plastics Policy Update	
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Is the report private and confidential and not for publication by virtue of a paragraph of schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, following the Local Government (Access to Information) (Variation) Order 2006?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	Executive Report – Adoption of a Plastics Policy, 31 st October 2018 Appendix 1 – Warwick District Council - Our Plastics Policy Appendix 2 - Plastics Policy Commitments - Progress Update	

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)	Yes
Equality Impact Assessment Undertaken	No

Officer/Councillor Approval		
Officer Approval	Date	Name
Chief Executive/Deputy Chief Executive	18/06/2019	Chris Elliott
Head of Service	18/06/2019	Marianne Rolfe
CMT	18/06/2019	Andrew Jones and Bill Hunt
Section 151 Officer	18/06/2019	Mike Snow
Monitoring Officer	18/06/2019	Andrew Jones
Finance	19/06/2019	Andrew Rollins
Portfolio Holder(s)	19/06/2019	Councillors Judith Falp & Alan Rhead

Consultation & Community Engagement	
<p>There has been on-going work on this agenda with the Plastic Free Leamington & Warwick group. There is support and on-going dialogue with the Clean Up Britain Now or Never Campaign. There are regular meetings with the internal Sustainability Officer Group (SOG) and this agenda is included in the Action Plan for the group.</p>	
Final Decision?	No
Suggested next steps (if not final decision please set out below)	

1. **Summary**

- 1.1 The Plastics Policy was adopted in November 2018 and was coupled with a Stage 1 report, outlining the aims of this work area, taking into account what could be accomplished at the time. This is an interim report aiming to provide an update on the progress of the policy commitments and identifies that further work could be achieved.
- 1.2 The report also seeks to pass a 'resolution' to achieve plastic free status for Leamington and Warwick and more widely for the District as a whole, to enable all communities within the District to also achieve plastic free status should this be desired.

2. **Recommendations**

- 2.1 The Executive notes the recent progress on the commitments of the Plastics Policy as set out in Appendix 2 to the report.
- 2.2 That the Executive agrees to support Warwick District, as an area, in achieving plastic free status, with further reports brought forward as necessary.
- 2.3 That Executive agree that where events take place on Warwick District Council land, these should be single-use plastic free where reasonability practicable and delegates authority to the Head of Development Services, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Environment & Business to introduce guidance for events on this.

3. **Reasons for the Recommendations**

3.1 **Progress against the Plastic Policy**

- 3.2 Since the Plastics Policy was adopted, there has been good progress on the commitments of the policy, as outlined in Appendix 2. Some of the highlights of this work include reducing a number of single-use plastic items from The Spa Centre, Pump Rooms Café and Town Hall. A Plastics Register has been developed listing the single-use plastics that have been avoided, re-used and recycled. Procurement requirements are included in large tender documents, a plastics animation has been developed for local residents to raise awareness of our plastics policy commitments and work with local organisations on the agenda.

- 3.3 The Plastics Policy commitments are to be embedded within the Sustainability Approach when it is next updated and are already included in the Sustainability Officer Group action plan which is reviewed on a regular basis.
- 3.4 The policy commitments remain realistic at this point in time and as they become embedded, these can be stretched further where we consider further Stage 2 actions.

3.5 Resolution for Plastic Free Status

- 3.6 The Council has been providing on-going support to the Plastic Free Leamington & Warwick group which is a local action group of volunteers working to reduce single-use plastics from local businesses and schools and also to encourage individuals to reduce single-use plastics. It should be noted that Warwick Town Council has also heavily supported the group.
- 3.7 The Plastic Free group awards 'plastic free champion' status to organisations and businesses, when at least three pieces of single use plastic have been eliminated. Currently, there are over 25 businesses that have achieved plastic free champion status including Warwick District Council and Warwickshire County Council. In addition, 8 schools have become plastic free champions and a number of residents are being supported to reduce single-use plastic from their homes. Work is still in progress to achieve more plastic free champions which would result in obtaining the plastic free status for Leamington and Warwick.
- 3.8 The Plastic Free group has encouraged a significant number of businesses to offer the National Re-fill scheme from their premises. Businesses offering Re-fill will provide free tap water to anyone providing their own water bottle or container. There are now 46 businesses offering Re-fill in Leamington alone, with 16 in Warwick and others in the District. The Spa Centre and Pump Rooms Café are operating the re-fill scheme.
- 3.9 The Plastic Free group has been working for over a year towards achieving plastic free status for Leamington and Warwick. The group hopes that Leamington and Warwick could become one of the first 100 towns nationally to achieve this, and there are currently around 530 plastic free 'communities' in the UK working on achieving the status.
- 3.10 For an area to achieve plastic free status there are five key objectives that are to be achieved and this involves working closely with the local Council. There are 5 main objectives of the status which must be achieved as follows.

Objective 1 - Local Governance. The local council passes a resolution supporting the journey to Plastic Free Community status. There are three requirements on the Council, in this case i) Warwick District Council to put a member on their strategic group, which is both Councillor Grainger and also the Sustainability Officer. ii) The Council agrees to support all Plastic Free Communities initiatives in the area, which we are doing; and iii) the Council pledges to act by example and remove single use items from its premises, which is on-going as part of the commitments of the Plastics Policy.

The other objectives 2-5 below are for the Plastic Free Leamington & Warwick group to lead, as follows.

Objective 2 - Resistance Hubs (Local Businesses). Work with businesses in the community to help them reduce single-use plastics and become plastic free champions. The Plastic Free Leamington and Warwick group have set a target of 24 Leamington and 12 organisations in Warwick based on 30% of businesses being plastic free, which has almost been achieved. The other aims are to sign-up as many businesses as possible to Re-fill and aim to have one outlet offering Refill on every street.

Objective 3 - Plastic Free Allies. Inspire the wider community to spread the plastic-free message. This relates to work with businesses, schools and individuals as outlined above in Paragraphs 1.6 to 1.8 above.

Objective 4 - Plastic Free Rallies - Mobilise the community and hold a clean-up, mass unwrap or other events to raise awareness. A mass unwrap event is planned in early summer which would need the permission of the local retailer. However, it should be noted, that it would not be appropriate or within the remit of the authority to support mass unwrap events, but we have supported other joint event work. The Plastic Free Group directly supports the work of the Now or Never campaign and clean-up events that are organised.

Objective 5 - Set Up A Steering Group. Form a group of local stakeholders and meet at least twice a year to take your community campaign forward. This is ongoing. The Sustainability Officer sits on group as part of council and is also supported by Councillor Grainger.

- 3.11 The Mayor of Kenilworth has expressed an interest in being part of the Plastic Free Leamington and Warwick group and there is the likelihood that other towns and communities will follow suit.

3.12 Updating the Plastic Policy regarding events

- 3.13 We are developing single-use plastic guidance in relation to events to ensure that events on our land are single-use plastic free.

- 3.14 This report recommends strengthening this requirement to put more of a requirement on the stall holders at events to avoid single-use plastic and therefore it is recommended for future events to be single-use plastic free where practicable.

- 3.15 Where it is not reasonably practicable for events to be single-use plastic free, the Events Team will work with the individual event organisers to work towards making year on year improvements.

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.	In accordance with our sustainability approach this report will have the impact of reducing plastics leading to less litter and cleaner streets. Also ensuring that our impact on the environment is minimised.	
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.	In accordance with our sustainability approach this report will have the impact of reducing plastics leading to less litter and cleaner streets.	None.

	Also ensuring that our impact on the environment is minimised.	
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4.2 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 Sustainability Approach and the work of the Sustainability Officer Group.

4.3 Changes to Existing Policies

Once the recommendations are agreed there would be changes to our existing plastic policy and changes to the event polices in order to deliver the recommendations of this report.

4.4 Impact Assessments

There is a possibility that strict prohibition of single use plastics would make events less viable. However, the recommendation is for a plastic free status as far as is reasonably practicable. Guidance is being developed in order to support event organisers in reducing their plastic use and therefore mitigating any negative impacts upon the events.

5. Budgetary Framework

- 5.1 Sourcing alternatives to plastic items could result in additional costs and these should be considered with 'best value'. Where there are extra costs, these will need to be considered and factored into the Budget and Medium Term Financial Strategy in accordance with the Council's Code of Financial Practice.

6. Risks

- 6.1 The wider community is likely to welcome the towns of Leamington and Warwick towns achieving plastic free status as it supports avoiding single-use plastic use, improves the way in which plastic items are recycled and reduces the amount of plastic being landfilled.
- 6.2 By not passing the resolution, there would be negative public perception of the Council and the wider progress that is being made on the sustainability agenda. By passing the resolution, Warwick District Council will be required to demonstrate continued support in this area both in relation to reducing its own plastic use and supporting the Plastic Free Leamington & Warwick group.
- 6.3 Leamington and Warwick becoming plastic free towns will not result in all businesses being single-use plastic free and there may be some confusion and negative comment surrounding this. This can be countered by informing residents that a requirement of the plastic free status is for at least 30% of businesses to eliminate at least three pieces of plastic.

7. Alternative Option(s) considered

- 7.1 The Council may choose not to pass the resolution, but the negative impacts associated with this are outlined above.

8. Background

- 8.1 The Plastic free toolkit assists a community to achieve Plastic Free status has been developed by the 'Surfers Against Sewage' (SAS). Further information on the toolkit is available on the Surfers Against Sewage website at www.sas.org.uk