

# Place-Making and Innovation EAB

## 1 June 2020

# **Plastic Free Guildford**

To consider initiatives to implement a plastic free Guildford

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## **Plastic Free Guildford (slide 2)**

### **Purpose of report**

To consider the actions taken to date to reduce the impact of Single Use Plastics (SUPs) and recommend the formulation of a new Guildford SUP Action Plan for the Executive to approve

### **What we will cover:**

- i) National framework and local commitment
- ii) What we have achieved so far
- iii) Surrey Environment Partnership (SEP)
- iv) Other Councils' approaches
- v) Recommended way forward

## **Plastic Free Guildford (slide 3)**

### **National framework**

#### UK's 25 Year Environment Plan

- Published by UK government in January 2018
- Target to achieve zero avoidable plastic waste by end of 2042

#### Waste and Resources Strategy 2018-19

- Published by DEFRA
- Sets out ambitious plans for greener future with financial incentives

## Plastic Free Guildford (slide 4)

### Council's commitment

Council's commitment to work to reduce the impact of non-recyclable, single-use plastics (SUPs)

Announced on 23 July 2019 to:

- Play our part in delivering the Surrey Environment Partnership's SUP Strategy (2018) and 5-year action plan
- Reduce the impact through our use of SUPs
- Support, promote and encourage plastic free initiatives and events within the borough

## **Plastic Free Guildford (slide 5)**

The Council asked that this EAB make recommendations, as appropriate, to the Executive on how to achieve each of the seven points (a) to (g) below:

- a. Avoid use of SUPs ourselves
- b. Encourage local businesses to do the same
- c. Engage with and support Plastic Free Guildford
- d. Work with suppliers to discourage use of avoidable SUPs
- e. Support our communities to reduce the use of SUPs
- f. Support the national water refill campaign
- g. Work with our partners to investigate effective and sustainable incentives for return of SUPs for recycling

## **Plastic Free Guildford (slide 6)**

### **What has our Council achieved so far?**

Report section 3.8: examples listed alongside our commitments:

- Where we have stopped using plastic (a)
- How we have communicated with residents and businesses (b)
- Caterer's packaging now recyclable materials (d)
- Community engagement (e)
- Newly installed water bottle refilling stations (f)
- How we have supported staff to recycle more (g)

## **Plastic Free Guildford (slide 7)**

### **SUPs Strategy for Surrey – Appendix 1**

#### **Primary objective to avoid plastic waste**

12 Surrey Boroughs within Surrey Environment Partnership came together and created...

- A Single-use Plastics Strategy for Surrey (SUP Strategy)
- Five year plan
- Ambition for residents to:

“live in clean, safe and green communities, where people and organisations embrace their environmental responsibilities”

## **Plastic Free Guildford (slide 8)**

### **SUP Strategy's Four Themes**

- 1) Getting our house in order
- 2) Working with our supplier and contractors
- 3) Raising awareness across Surrey
- 4) Supporting Surrey to take action

Each theme has a set of objectives and outputs – Next Slide

Agreed by the SUP Task Group

Mix of good practice and measurable targets and dates to aim for  
GBC officers involved and attend Task Group meetings



## Plastic Free Guildford (slide 9)

### Example of SUP theme objectives and outputs

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

#### Extract from Strategy:

Output	Action	Classification	Target Date
1.1 Group SUP items into level of difficulty to eliminate e.g. easy, moderate, hard.	1.1	EASY- plastic drink bottles, plastic drink cups, plastic food takeaway boxes, plastic cutlery, plastic grocery bags, straws, stirrers, sauce sachets and tea bags with plastic wrappers.	Dec-19
	1.2	MODERATE- hot drink cups and lids, coffee capsules and stationery.	Dec-19
	1.3	HARD- bin bags, food wrappers, yogurt pots, milk bottles, composite food packaging (e.g: chocolate boxes, biscuit trays, crisp bags, soup containers), cleaning supplies (e.g: washing-up fluid, other cleaning fluids and wet wipes), food packaging film, protective packaging for fragile items etc.	Dec-23

## **Plastic Free Guildford (slide 10)**

### **SUP Strategy for Surrey**

Collaborative approach on best way to tackle SUP

Commitment to eliminating SUPs in the county

Governed by Surrey Environment Partnership (SEP) with joint policy objectives

Contains good practice guidance for authorities, and

A Five-Year Action Plan, which each authority can customise for its own approach

## **Plastic Free Guildford (slide 11)**

### **Other Councils' Initiatives**

Appendix 2 snapshot on other authorities approaches to dealing with SUPs:

- Produced their own SUP policy
- Endorsed the SUPs Strategy for Surrey
- Produced their own pledges and/or action plans
- Provided public information or guidance on their websites

## Plastic Free Guildford (slide 12)

### Recommendation

- Officers propose a **new Guildford SUP Action Plan**
- Use the 4 SUP Strategy for Surrey themes, for example:
  - Theme 1 Getting our house in order – work towards zero unsustainable plastics at all Council sites
  - Theme 2 Working with suppliers and contractors – add requirements to our procurement policy
- Coordinate a small number of Council officers to assist
- Take new Guildford SUP Action Plan to Executive to approve

## **Plastic Free Guildford (slide 13)**

### **In Summary**

There is awareness at county level as well as borough

We are working towards getting our house in order

We have publicly endorsed the SUP Strategy and its ambition

We can produce our own customised action plan

A Guildford SUP Action Plan will enable this EAB to make structured and planned recommendations to the Executive on how to further achieve the seven commitments

## **Plastic Free Guildford (slide 14)**

### **Where to go from here?**

#### **INVITE BOARD TO DISCUSS and CONSIDER:**

1. actions taken to date to reduce the impact of SUPs, and
2. recommendation to formulate a new Guildford SUP Action Plan for the Executive to approve