

Cabinet

19 June 2019



Title	Single-use plastics policy and action plan		
Purpose of the report	To make a Key Decision		
Report Author	Mark Rachwal		
Cabinet Member	Councillor Richard Barratt	Confidential	No
Corporate Priority	Clean and Safe Environment		
Recommendations	To adopt the Spelthorne Borough Council Single-use Plastics Policy and Five Year Action Plan, and the associated Single-use Plastics Strategy for Surrey.		
Reason for Recommendation	To show Spelthorne Borough Council understands the urgent need to tackle avoidable plastic waste and is committed to being part of the solution. To embed and enact the common vision for Surrey and set a clear roadmap on how this will be achieved in Spelthorne.		

1. Key issues

- 1.1 The UK Government published its 25 Year Environment Plan in January 2018, which includes a target of “achieving zero avoidable plastic waste by the end of 2042”. DEFRA’s new waste and resources strategy 2018/19 also sets out a number of plastic waste reduction reforms to help the Government achieve its ambitious plans for a greener future.
- 1.2 Plastic waste is one of the greatest environmental challenges facing the world today. The UK estimates that there are currently more than 150 million tonnes of plastic in the world’s oceans, and 100,000 sea mammals and one million birds die from eating or becoming tangled in plastic waste each year.
- 1.3 Spelthorne Council understands the urgent need to tackle avoidable plastic waste and be part of the solution. Spelthorne actively participated in the Surrey Single-use-Plastic Task Group set up in August 2018, which included representatives from all Surrey local authorities. A common vision was established of “supporting Surrey to become a SUP free county” and joint policy objectives agreed in October 2018. A Surrey wide strategy was then developed and subsequently adopted by the Surrey Environment Partnership in January 2019. The strategy provides a roadmap to meet the objectives and

an action plan with good practice activities enabling each authority to customise its approach.

- 1.4 All Surrey local authorities were requested to adopt the Strategy.
- 1.5 To go in line with the Surrey strategy, Spelthorne have developed a single-use plastics policy and an adapted version of the five year Surrey action plan.
- 1.6 To help embed and enact the common vision in Spelthorne it is important the policy and action plan is adopted, along with the Surrey strategy.

2. Options analysis and proposal

- 2.1 Single-use Plastics Strategy for Surrey, SBC Single-use Plastics Policy and SUP Five Years Action Plan are offered for adoption. This will enable the Council to respond to Government single-use plastics targets and meet the needs and expectations of residents in respect to tackling avoidable plastic waste. The strategy and policy will help embed these principles into other areas of the Council and stakeholders' activities.

3. Financial implications

- 3.1 Financial implications will fall under individual projects within the action plan.

4. Other considerations

- 4.1 Not adopting the strategy and policy could result in some negative publicity and may demonstrate a lack of commitment and initiative in an area currently topping many political agendas.
- 4.2 As the action plans do inter-link it is necessary for complete 'buy-in' from all stakeholders and 'responsible people' to ensure progress. Not adopting the strategy could leave the Borough more open to these risks.

5. Timetable for implementation

Report to Cabinet June 2019

Adoption of Strategy and Policy – June 2019

Background papers:

Appendices:

Appendix 1 - Single-use Plastics Strategy for Surrey

Appendix 2 - Spelthorne Borough Council Single-use Plastics Policy

Appendix 3 - Spelthorne Borough Council Single-use Plastics Five Years Action Plan