

Executive

18 March 2019

Report of the Customer and Corporate Services Scrutiny Management Committee

Single Use Plastics Scrutiny Review Final Report – Cover Report

Summary

1. This cover report presents the final report from the Ad-Hoc Sub-Committee established to carry out a scrutiny review into single-use plastics and asks the Executive to approve the recommendations arising from the review.
2. The final report is subject to approval of the Customer and Corporate Services Scrutiny Management Committee (CSMC) at its meeting on 11 March and this paper has been published prior to that meeting in view of the statutory timescales for publication of reports. CSMC's decision and any changes to the report or the review recommendations arising from that meeting will be circulated to Executive.

Recommendation

3. Having considered the Single-Use Plastics Scrutiny Review Final Report at Appendix 1 the Executive is asked to approve the recommendations as shown in paragraph 10, below.

Reason: To conclude this scrutiny review in line with CYC scrutiny procedures and protocols.

Background

4. In December 2017 Full Council considered a Motion around single-use plastics and resolved that:
5. Council notes:

- There are significant environmental problems with disposing of single use plastics, which release toxic chemicals when they break down, are a non-recyclable material and therefore a waste of energy and economic value, and also contribute significantly to waterway litter in York, which can then contribute to long lasting plastic pollution on beaches and in the marine environment.
- The harmful effects this has on marine life and the increased amount of plastic entering the food chain.
- Existing initiatives aimed at reducing the numbers of single use disposable coffee cups being used for take-away drinks, such as the 'Freiburg cup' and the York manufactured 'iamreusable' cup.

6. Council therefore:

- Requests the appropriate Scrutiny Committee to consider the merits of undertaking a scrutiny review in order to investigate the council's use of single use plastics in its buildings etc. and through its procurement arrangements, and how the behaviour of others may be influenced in relation to this particular form of pollution in support of the coalition's broader environmental policies. Options to reduce the use of single-use disposable cups in York should include working with Make it York (possibly via its new service level agreement with the Council) and the York BID to reduce waste and tackle litter and rubbish collection challenges within the city centre."

7. The resolution was originally considered by the Economy and Place Policy Development Committee which agreed to undertake a review, but before membership of a Task Group was finalised it became clear that this item should be considered by CSMC as part of the Motion is around developing the Council's procurement policy on plastic goods.

8. In early November 2018 CSMC agreed to a joint review and that Cllrs Looker and Fenton joint Cllrs Kramm and Richardson from the Economy and Place Policy Development Committee to form the Ad-Hoc Sub-Committee, which met for the first time in late November and agreed the following remit:

Aim:

To investigate to use and disposal of single use plastics in York, what measures can be taken to reduce the use of single use plastics in

Council buildings and how these measures can influence city partners and businesses in helping reduce plastic pollution.

Objectives:

- i. Examine the current Council policy in relation to single use plastics in its buildings;
- ii. Understand the current arrangements for recycling or reusing plastics for York residents;
- iii. Better understand what levers the Council has to reduce the use of single use plastics in food and drink outlets;
- iv. Liaise with York BID to understand what actions can be taken to reduce and better manage coffee cup disposal in York city centre;
- v. Engage with One Planet York to communicate to partners measures to reduce the use of single use plastics;
- vi. Look at best practices in other towns and cities.

Consultation

9. Over a series of meetings the Sub-Committee consulted with CYC Waste Management and Yorwaste, CYC Facilities Management and Procurement, One Planet York and York Business Improvement District. It too into account best practices adopted by other local authorities and considered Government measures to reduce the use of single-use plastics.

Review Recommendations

10. The information gathered as a result of these consultations and considerations led to the following recommendations:
 - i. That CYC Facilities Management:
 - a) continue to work with United Response to explore options to replace disposable plastic food containers (such as those used for sandwiches and salads) with more environmentally friendly alternatives
 - b) undertakes a trial whereby metal cutlery is made available in the West Office hubs and the cafe as an alternative to disposable plastic cutlery

- c) works with Communications colleagues to prepare and distribute publicity materials encouraging CYC staff to reduce their use of single-use plastics
 - d) considers options for expanding the range of recyclable materials collected at West Offices, for example through dedicated bins for biodegradable / compostable coffee cups and crisp packets
- ii. That CYC Procurement, through the implementation of the Council's Social Values Policy, strives to minimise the procurement of single-use plastics
- iii. That the Council:
 - a) Works with partners such as Make It York to explore options for reducing the use of single-use plastic cups and food trays at events held on Council land
 - b) Continues to liaise with York BID to explore opportunities to reduce the use of disposable coffee cups in the city centre and provide better disposal facilities, noting that the BID are currently looking at options on these issues
 - c) Through its role as a participant in the One Planet York initiative:
 - Learns from and shares information and best practice on reduction of single-use plastics with partners in the city such as educational establishments and businesses;
 - Makes use of available communication channels to share information with residents on ways in which they can reduce single-use plastics and make full use of recycling opportunities.
- iv. That CYC Waste Services to continue to work with Yorwaste and St Nicks to explore options for increasing the number and types of single-use plastics that can be collected for which there are practicable recycling opportunities.

Options

11. Having considered the final report at Appendix 1 the Executive can approve and/or amend, or reject the recommendations arising from the review, as detailed in paragraph 10 above.

Council Plan

12. This report is linked to A Prosperous City for All priority in the Council Plan which highlights that environmental stability underpins everything we do, seeks to increase the percentage of waste recycled and works towards plans for One Planet living.

Implications and Risk Management

13. The risks and implications associated with the review recommendations above are included in the review final report at Appendix 1.

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Wards Affected:

All

For further information please contact the author of the report

Annexes

Appendix 1 – Single Use Plastics Scrutiny Review Final Report