

Appendix A – draft single use plastic policy

Policy Statement

Cardiff Council will take a leadership role in reducing our own consumption of Single Use Plastics, whilst encouraging others to take similar action through advocating best practice, leading by example and influencing and enabling responsible consumption practices.

Principles

This Policy has been developed in response to the increasingly evident impacts that single use plastics have on the environment and the key aspirations outlined in the Capital Ambition;

- Protecting our cities environment and improving our sustainability.
- The Council recognises that plastic pollution has a negative global and local impact on our environment
- The production of plastics relies on non-renewable resources. Plastic pollution persists in the environment and has detrimental effects on human or animal health.

Implementation

Cardiff Council will implement the policy according to the following mechanisms:

- Understand the Council's use of single use plastics and seek out more sustainable alternatives.
- Reduce the use of single use plastic bottles in council buildings and phase out their use in events promoted or hosted by the Council.
- End the use of other single use plastic products in council buildings starting with (but not limited to) 'disposable' cups, cutlery and drinking straws.
- Establish and promote a drinking fountain and refill network in Council buildings and across the City.
- Work with the events and catering teams and create policy in which single-use 'disposable' plastic cups are replaced at all Council events and catering facilities with reusable or deposit scheme cups. This will ultimately be a condition for obtaining a license for large-scale events.
- Encourage, enable and aid all employees and Councillors to engage with the 'Plastic Free challenge month' once a year and encourage local businesses and community groups.
- Implementing responsible procurement practices and influencing supply chains.
- Promoting alternatives to single use plastic, noting biodegradable products or multi material packaging (e.g plastic lined cardboard) may not be a suitable alternative.
- Promote recycling undertaken by others where the Council is unable to provide a cost effective service; such as, takeaway coffee cup recycling by Costa and Starbucks.
- Educate and influence citizens, communities and businesses so that they can purchase environmentally responsible products to reduce their use and reliance on Single Use Plastics.
- Building capacity within the community for change in social practices, via education and leading by example.

- Continue to work towards a circular economy through reuse and recycling of plastic products
- Communicate this policy to all employees, customers, and other stakeholders.

Scope and application

This policy applies to Council Buildings, Schools, its employees, partners and contractors activities within and impacting within the Cardiff Council boundary.

This policy will be reviewed annually.