

The background of the slide features a large, faint, light blue watermark of the City of Vancouver coat of arms. The crest includes a crown at the top with four maple leaves, a shield divided into four quadrants (top-left: a ship, top-right: a stag, bottom-left: a ship, bottom-right: a grizzly bear), and a banner at the bottom with the motto "A NE FOR A".

## **Agenda Item 10**

### **Single Use Plastics**

**Falkirk Council**

**Title:** Single Use Plastics  
**Meeting:** Executive  
**Date:** 25 September 2018  
**Submitted By:** Director of Corporate & Housing Services

**1. Purpose of Report**

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to update Members on the actions taken following the decision of Executive on 12 June 2018 in relation to Single Use Plastics.

**2. Recommendations**

**2.1 The Executive is asked to:-**

- 1. Agree with immediate effect the actions set out in Section 4 to reduce single plastic use, including:**
  - a. Stopping purchases of specified items**
  - b. Removal of stocks of specified items**
  - c. Sourcing alternative products, where available**
  - d. Reusing products wherever possible**
- 2. Agree the delivery of a Council awareness campaign to employees**
- 3. Agree to issue a letter as detailed in Appendix 1, to engage the support of suppliers and providers**

**3. Background**

- 3.1 Single use plastics can include any disposable plastic items which are designed to be used only once. Examples include: light-weight plastic bags, disposable utensils and beverage containers. They are acknowledged to be a major source of marine litter, causing significant environmental damage and harm to wildlife.
- 3.2 In recognition of the harmful impacts arising from Single Plastics, Executive instructed officers to undertake a review of single plastic use within the Council and seek where possible to eliminate or minimise use. The review has been undertaken in line with the waste hierarchy of Reduce/Re-Use/Recycle. This report outlines the findings and proposed actions arising from the review.
- 3.3 The report also outlines other proposed actions taken to support awareness raising across the Council and also externally with suppliers and providers. The objective being to support broader personal and organisational change in relation to reducing single plastic use.

#### 4. Single Plastic Use

- 4.1 A review of Council purchasing has been undertaken in order to identify those areas of significant single plastic use. Those items of most significant use are outlined in the table below. Additionally, details of proposed actions are also noted. These actions have been developed in conjunction with the primary buying services.

<b>SINGLE PLASTIC USE</b>	<b>ACTION</b>
Drinking straws	Stop already in place on all purchases and stocks withdrawn. Paper straws to be provided only in exceptional circumstances.
Stirrers	Stop to be placed on all purchases of plastic stirrers, with wooden alternatives purchased as required. Stocks to be withdrawn.
<b>Non-School Establishments</b>  Drinking cups – water dispensers & hot drinks	Stop to be placed on all purchases. Product stocks to be withdrawn from locations. Staff advised to use their own reusable containers.  Use of paper drinking cups, only where necessary
<b>Schools</b>  Drinking cups – water dispensers & hot drinks	Cups provided as part of lunch service within schools. Alternative products to be sourced in conjunction with Scotland Excel.
Cleaning liquid containers	Products changed from smaller 1litre containers to larger volume 5 litre containers, with liquid decanted into smaller reusable containers
Refuse sacks	Work ongoing with supplier to ensure specification is changed to biodegradable
Plates and cutlery	Currently used in High Schools, canteen take away food and in Primary Schools in exceptional circumstances i.e.: dishwasher failure. Alternative products being sourced in conjunction with Scotland Excel and cost appraisal of alternatives will thereafter be

	undertaken.
Polypockets	Stop to be placed on all purchases and product stocks to be run down. Reuse of existing stock and promote digital storage
Milk Portion Jiggers 12ml	Dairy stick, with 50% less packaging to be sourced from supplier and cost appraisal undertaken. Larger functions to use milk decanted to jugs
Sandwich Hinges/Fruit Pots/ Salad Pots/ Pasta Pots	Alternative products to be sourced in conjunction with Scotland Excel.

- 4.2 In addition to the above actions, a review of current contracts is underway, with the intention to include as many alternative compostable/biodegradable products as possible and reduce plastic packaging around goods or equipment purchased. This work will be undertaken in conjunction with Scotland Excel via user intelligence groups.
- 4.3 An officer group has also been established to support the elimination of single use plastic within the workplace. The group is titled SUPER “Single Use Plastic Environmental Reduction” and will look to ensure the above actions are positively adopted across all Council services. The group will also seek to support broader employee behavioural change outwith work e.g.: in the home. The work of the group will also be communicated to staff via Yammer, to raise awareness across the Council’s workforce. The group will also help support change within the workplace, including the immediate removal of specified items and actions to identify and remove other identified plastic items.
- 4.4 It is proposed that a letter is issued to all Council suppliers and providers advising them of the actions being taken by the Council and seeking their support to undertake similar actions within their own workplace to reduce single plastic use. This message will also be reinforced through the Council’s contract management processes. A copy of the letter is attached for Members consideration and approval.

## **5. Consultation**

- 5.1 Communication will be issued to staff advising the decision of Executive and the actions to be taken. This message will also be reinforced via the officer group outlined in para 4.3.

## **6. Implications**

### **Financial**

- 6.1 The above actions will be delivered within existing approved budgets. It is anticipated that through stopping the purchase of specific products, small savings will be realised. These savings will however be utilised to fund more expensive alternative products where usage can't easily be stopped.

### **Resources**

- 6.2 The actions set out above will be implemented within the current staffing establishment.

### **Legal**

- 6.3 The actions outlined will be undertaken in line with contract conditions and therefore no legal implications are anticipated from the actions outlined.

### **Risk**

- 6.4 None.

### **Equalities**

- 6.5 Consultation will be undertaken with disability organisations and advisors to ensure that all those who require the use of straws or other single use disposable plastic items, due to their disability, have access to suitable alternatives where possible or continue to be able to use plastic items where no suitable alternative is available.

### **Sustainability/Environmental Impact**

- 6.6 The actions outlined will eliminate the main uses of single plastics within the Council, reducing the environmental harm caused. Wider awareness raising and behavioural change will also positively impact on reducing single plastic use more generally.

## **7. Conclusions**

- 7.1 Following the decision of Executive in June, a review of single plastic use across the Council has been undertaken. Based on the outcomes of the review various actions have been implemented to either eliminate or reduce substantially use of single plastics. These measures are anticipated to have significant positive environmental benefits.
- 7.2 The actions taken by the Council will also be used to promote and encourage changes with our staff, suppliers and providers.

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Director of Corporate & Housing Services

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## **Appendices**

None

## **List of Background Papers:**

The following papers were relied on in the preparation of this report in terms of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973:

None