

NOTICES OF MOTION

Executive Summary

At its meeting on 5 April 2018, the Council referred the following Notice of Motion to the Executive.

Councillor A-M Barker

“Tackling Plastics

Council is concerned that:

300 million tons of new plastic is made worldwide each year.

There is now a ratio of 1:2 plastic to plankton in our oceans.

Only 12% of plastic waste in the UK is reprocessed.

Council notes

There are many practical alternatives to plastics available for straws, cups and takeaway food containers that are either reusable or sustainable.

Freedom Leisure, our leisure facilities operator, has recently committed to reduce plastic and coffee cup waste.

Council commits to

Reduce as far as possible the use of disposable plastics in its offices and other facilities.

Work with local businesses to support them in reducing their use of disposable plastics.

Promote the use of reusable hot drinks cups to employees, contractors, business partners and local businesses.”

Officer Comment

“Woking 2050 – the Council’s Climate Change Strategy – looks at our whole way of living and how it can influence our environment. Two of the Strategy’s key goals for the Borough are that resources are used wisely and that the natural environment is protected and enhanced. The Council can make a positive contribution to the vision for Woking 2050 and we can play a key role in shaping the Borough’s future and in helping the community to do the same.

As part of the recent WWF Earth Hour campaign, the Council pledged to work through Council operations to identify how we can remove as much plastic as possible and, in line with the strategic environmental aims of Woking 2050, positive steps have already been taken. The Council has removed plastic water bottles from meetings in the Council Chamber, a reduction which will equate to a saving of some 720 bottles a year. By the end of May 2018, china cups will replace plastic and paper cups in our meeting rooms. Further to this, by the end of this financial year we will look to phase out plastics from our staff kitchens at the Civic Offices.

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The Council is also taking steps to launch a local Refill campaign across the Borough. The campaign was first launched by UK charity City to Sea in 2015 as a way to make refilling water bottles easier for the public in participating cafes and restaurants. Establishments display window stickers to inform the public that they are welcome to refill their bottle for free. There are now 13 schemes and over 1,600 participating refill stations in the UK. Steps are being taken to enable a launch of the campaign locally this summer. Further to this, the Council is proactively identifying locations for bottle filling stations and drinking water stations across the Town Centre. Together these schemes will help tackle single use plastics.”

Background Papers: None.

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