

CABINET
19 APRIL 2018**PLASTICS AND NON-RECYCLABLE CUPS – NOTICES OF MOTION FROM COUNCIL 15 FEBRUARY 2018**

Relevant Cabinet Member

Mr A P Miller

Relevant Officer

Director of Economy and Infrastructure

Recommendation

- 1. The Cabinet Member with Responsibility for Environment recommends that Cabinet:**
 - (a) notes the content of the Notices of Motion referred to it by Council in February 2018 and progress to date; and**
 - (b) agrees that a full and detailed report be made to the 14 June 2018 Cabinet meeting.**

Background

2. The following Notices of Motion were moved and seconded at Council on 15 February 2018:

Notice of Motion 1 – Discarded plastics and non-recyclable cups

Notice of Motion standing in the names of Mrs E B Tucker, Prof J W Raine, Mr M E Jenkins and Mrs F M Oborski:

"This Council recognises that discarded plastics and non-recyclable cups are a major environmental pollutant.

Council therefore resolved to:

1. Cease the use of single plastic water cups and replace them with washable, reusable alternatives
2. Request our caterers to replace all non-recyclable hot drink containers with suitable environmentally friendly alternatives."

The motion stood referred to the Cabinet for decision. Mrs Tucker and Prof Raine (as mover and seconder) and Mr Jenkins (the third signatory of the Notice of Motion) have been invited to the meeting.

Notice of Motion 2 – Single-use plastics

Notice of Motion standing in the names of Mr P M McDonald, Mr R M Udall, Mr R C Lunn, Mr P Denham, Mr C J Bloore and Mr L C R Mallett (subsequently amended and the following wording was agreed by Council):

"That this Council asks Cabinet to join others in the battle against single-use plastic by encouraging the use of alternative materials for cups, bottles, cutlery and straws at all its buildings, cafes and public events."

The motion was agreed by Council and Cabinet therefore is to consider the request. Mr McDonald and Ms Stalker (as mover and seconder) and Mr Udall and Mr Lunn (as second and third signatories of the Notice of Motion) have been invited to the meeting.

The Leader requested that both Notices of Motion were referred to the April Cabinet.

For Information

3. The following actions relevant to the above Notices of Motion are currently being taken by Council officers:

(a) Council officers have arranged a meeting with Servest (who provide the catering for County Hall and Wildwood offices) to discuss what can be done within the terms of the current contract. (It is understood the contract with Servest is due to end in 2 years' time). This meeting took place on 14 March 2018.

Servest currently offer discounted drinks for those using reusable 'Keepcups', which have been available to buy in County Hall café;

(b) Plastic recycling has been available for staff and visitors to the café at County Hall for several years, as part of current recycling arrangements.

The Council with Place Partnership are reviewing these arrangements, including the possibility of disposable cup recycling and introduction of comingled recycling for other materials, including plastic, in order to make it easier for staff and visitors to recycle;

(c) The Hive café currently offers free refills for those using reusable cups and is considering changing to the use of recyclable disposable cups. The Hive and Bellrock (facilities management at the Hive) are keen to support the reduction of single use plastic;

(d) Worcestershire Countryside Services' catering leases contain a term that relates to reducing packaging and waste, specifying that disposable items are not to be used, but that if they are, they are to be biodegradable where possible.

Countryside Services would like to strengthen this part of the lease agreement with Orchard Café at Worcester Woods Countryside Centre when the lease agreement is reviewed this year, and at Waseley Hills Country Park next year.

NB Countryside Services have been looking in particular at the specification of 'biodegradable', as some plastics labelled as such do not degrade under normal conditions and some others break down into micro-plastics.

4. A full report addressing the use of single use plastics and non-recyclable cups by the Council will be presented to Cabinet on 14 June 2018.

Contact Points

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Specific Contact Points for this report
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Background Papers

In the opinion of the proper officer (in this case the Director of Economy and Infrastructure) the following are the background papers relating to the subject matter of this report:

Agenda papers for the meeting of the County Council held on 15 February 2018