

GWYNEDD COUNCIL CABINET



Report to a meeting of Gwynedd Council Cabinet

Date of meeting: 23 July 2019
Cabinet Member: Councillor Nia Jeffreys
Contact Officer: Geraint Owen
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Title of Item: Sustainable Procurement Policy and the Campaign to Ban the Use of Single-Use Plastic

1. THE DECISION SOUGHT

- 1.1. Cabinet approval to incorporate the Well-being of Future Generations Act to our Sustainable Procurement Policy.
- 1.2. To approve a campaign to seek to ban the purchase and use of single-use plastic.

2. THE REASON FOR THE NEED FOR A DECISION

Sustainable Procurement Policy and Guidance

- 2.1. We have incorporated the seven well-being goals into the sustainable procurement policy and guidance and have highlighted their relevance to the purchasing decisions that need to be considered. The use of plastic is one of these considerations. Our check-lists encourage our buyers to consider the social, economic and environmental impact when procuring.
- 2.2. The Well-being Act is already in force. Incorporating these expectations with the Sustainable Procurement Policy will assist the Council's buyers to adhere to the legislation and will enable them to report on our progress as an organisation.
- 2.3. The supply chain is important in enabling us to meet the challenge, it is important that our vision is clear and that this forms a part of the contracting arrangements.

Ban on single-use plastic

- 2.4. Following a notice of motion at a Full Council meeting on 8 March 2018, an investigation was held into the Council's use of single-use plastic.

- 2.5. One of the findings of the investigation was that plastic was integral to some goods and that it was difficult not to use plastic in some cases. Nevertheless, there were opportunities to reduce the use of plastic and ban the use of single-use plastic.
- 2.6. For example, when reviewing our food contract, there was a clear opportunity to reduce the use of single-use plastic. Some of the solutions included reusing delivery boxes, not packaging fruit and some vegetables in plastic bags and changing the arrangements for sharing out milk to children in schools. The Schools have trialled decanting milk into cups rather than buying small individual bottles.
- 2.7. Further changes as a result of the decision could have an impact on Council services, on the work environment of our workforce, our supply chain and on Gwynedd communities and residents in different ways, e.g. reduction in the choice of produce we provide/sell. Therefore, services will need to consider the impact of this change on the way they provide services.

3. PRESENTATION AND RELEVANT CONSIDERATIONS

A decision is requested to:

- 3.1. adopt the amendments to the Sustainable Procurement Policy and Guidelines in order to encourage our services to consider environmental, social and economic matters when purchasing goods and services in accordance with the expectations of the Well-being Act.
- 3.2. support the establishment of a cross-departmental Task Group to identify, coordinate and implement further resolutions to reduce the use made of single-use plastic. This will include identifying ways of measuring the impact of the Council's efforts in the field and to report back to the Cabinet on the outcomes of the work.
- 3.3. authorise a review of our corporate contracts and frameworks in order to include conditions or a requirement for a reduction in plastic use for our suppliers and for the broader supply chain.

4. NEXT STEPS AND TIMETABLE

- 4.1 On the basis that the Sustainable Procurement Policy will be adopted, additional requirements will be disseminated and implemented across all Council services immediately.
- 4.2 The Task Group to commence its work in September 2019, with a requirement to submit a list of recommendations before the end of the current financial year.

- 4.3 Procurement Manager to lead the officers of the category teams on the review of the standard content of our contracts in the future, with this work to commence at once.

5. ANY CONSULTATIONS UNDERTAKEN PRIOR TO RECOMMENDING THE DECISION

5.1. Views of the Statutory Officers:

i. Monitoring Officer:

I support the amendments to the Policy in particular because they address legislation which has a direct relevance to its objectives.

ii. Head of Finance Department:

Whilst there could be marginal financial implications from implementing the Sustainable Procurement Policy and by prohibiting the use of single use plastic across all the Council's Services, I believe that the Council's Departments can manage the expectations within their existing resources.

Appendices

1. Sustainable Procurement Policy and Guidance