

<b>Report to</b>	<b>County Council</b>
<b>Date of meeting</b>	<b>28 January 2020</b>
<b>Lead Member:</b>	<b>Councillor Brian Jones, Lead Member for Waste, Transport and the Environment</b>
<b>Presenting the report:</b>	<b>Councillor Huw LI Jones, Chair of Performance Scrutiny Committee</b>
<b>Report author</b>	<b>Heidi Barton-Price – Strategic Planning &amp; Performance Officer on behalf of the Members “Use of Plastics” Task &amp; Finish Group (Chair, Councillor Emrys Wynne)</b>
<b>Title</b>	<b>Avoidance &amp; Reduction of Plastics in Denbighshire County Council Offices</b>

## **1. What is the report about**

To consider the recommendations and associated action plan (Appendix 1) on how the Council can reduce its use of plastic as a result of the work of the Members “Use of Plastics” Task & Finish Group. The recommendations and action plan were supported by the Performance Scrutiny Committee at their meeting on 28<sup>th</sup> November 2019.

The report considers how the Council can reduce its use of plastic. It does not consider how residents or communities within the County can reduce their use of plastic.

## **2. What is the reason for making this report?**

At Council in July 2018, as a result of a Notice of Motion, it was resolved to support the principle of the Council reducing its use of plastic and that a Member Task & Finish Group consider the issues, report to Scrutiny Committee before reporting back to Council.

Council is now required to consider the work of the Task & Finish Group as supported by Scrutiny Committee.

### **3. What are the recommendations?**

That Council considers the findings of the Task and Finish Group as supported by the Performance Scrutiny Committee:

- 3.1 approves the recommendations and Action Plan (Appendix 1) in order to demonstrate that the Council is taking a community lead in reducing the use of plastics;
- 3.2 supports the continuation of the Task & Finish Group for a further 12 months with a view to proposing further actions to reduce the Council's use of plastic in the areas of: (i) School Catering and (ii) procurement
- 3.3 endorses the proposal that the avoidance and reduction of plastics within the Council be a work stream linked to the wider Climate Change and Ecological Emergency response.

### **4. Report Details**

The Action Plan (Appendix 1) outlines the actions that the Task & Finish Group considered are a reasonable "first response" to the Council's reduction in its use of plastic. Initially the Group wanted to go further, but realised the volume and complexities of the topic. Detailed work is required in each specific area of plastic reduction to fully understand implications on cost, performance, service delivery etc. i.e. not all plastic is "bad" and the reduction of plastic can have unintended consequences.

Having made the recommendations in Appendix 1, the Task & Finish Group are also recommending that they continue their work to look into detail regarding the reduction of plastic in school catering and more widely through the use of our procurement processes.

The Lead Member and Performance Scrutiny support the approach taken by the Task & Finish Group.

### **5. How does the decision contribute to the Corporate Priorities?**

The decision will contribute towards the Environment priority contained within the Corporate Plan 2017–2022.

## **6. What will it cost and how will it affect other services?**

There are no significant financial implications or implications on Services as a result of the recommendations.

## **7. What are the main conclusions of the Well Being Impact Assessment?**

This project to develop options in avoiding and reducing plastics used by the council in its offices demonstrates a sustainable approach to the environment and contributes positively overall to the well-being goals (Appendix 2).

## **8. What consultations have been carried out with Scrutiny and others?**

In developing their response to the original Notice of Motion, the Task & Finish Group have engaged with their political Groups. The Lead Member and the Performance Scrutiny Committee have been consulted and supported the recommendations.

The proposed recommendations have been open for comment via the Council's 'County Conversation' engagement portal – 15 comments received in total with the main issue being the removal of the water coolers (eg. around retaining machines and reusing bottles). Project Manager attended Staff Council.

## **9. Chief Finance Officer Statement**

There are no financial proposals involved within this report. Whilst it is acknowledged that environmental and financial efficiencies could be realised in supporting these recommendations the report's purpose is to avoid and reduce the use of plastics in Council offices.

## **10. What risks are there and is there anything we can do to reduce them?**

There are no significant risks as a result of the recommendations.

## **11. Power to make the Decision**

Scrutiny's powers in relation to Policy Development and Review are outlined in Section 7.4.1 of the Council's Constitution, whilst Section 7.2.2 of the Constitution stipulates that

Scrutiny “can make reports or recommendations to the Council or the Cabinet in connection with the discharge of any functions.