

Develop options to reduce plastics usage within Denbighshire County Council

Well-being Impact Assessment Report

This report summarises the likely impact of the proposal on the social, economic, environmental and cultural well-being of Denbighshire, Wales and the world.

Assessment Number:	658
Brief description:	Progression of the decision taken by the Council on 3rd July 2018 regarding a potential reduction in the Council's use of plastic.
Date Completed:	16/05/2019 16:53:01 Version: 1
Completed by:	Elaine Smith
Responsible Service:	Business Improvement & Modernisation
Localities affected by the proposal:	Whole County,
Who will be affected by the proposal?	Staff, elected members and customers of Denbighshire County Council
Was this impact assessment completed as a group?	Yes

IMPACT ASSESSMENT SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION

Before we look in detail at the contribution and impact of the proposal, it is important to consider how the proposal is applying the sustainable development principle. This means that we must act "in a manner which seeks to ensure that the needs of the present are met without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs."

Score for the sustainability of the approach

★ ★ ★ ★ (3 out of 4 stars) Actual score : 22 / 30.

Implications of the score

As the Action Plan is developed, we will consult with whoever is most appropriate and relevant. As we are only now starting to develop the Action Plan, we had not yet addressed longer term consequences in any depth. This will be addressed as the Action Plan develops, in order to secure the legacy of the proposal.

Summary of impact

Well-being Goals

A prosperous Denbighshire

A resilient Denbighshire

A healthier Denbighshire

A more equal Denbighshire

A Denbighshire of cohesive communities

A Denbighshire of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh language

A globally responsible Denbighshire

Neutral

Positive

Neutral

Negative

Neutral

Neutral

Positive



Main conclusions

This project demonstrates a sustainable approach to the environment and contributes positively overall to the well-being goals. The long term consequences of the project need to be further understood, in order to secure a lasting legacy from the project.

Should we find that any changes in procurement are likely to have a negative impact on local businesses, this will be fully explored.

We will continue to involve staff and other interested parties in this project and will also explore any impact upon the shelf-life of foodstuffs produced by or for the Council, resulting from a decrease in plastic packaging.

The potential negative impact upon the well-being goal 'a more equal Denbighshire' is acknowledged, however this is unlikely to be significant. Any negative impact will be fully addressed as the project progresses.

Denbighshire wishes to take a lead in reducing the use of plastic within the Council. We intend to share our learning with other Local Authorities and Public Bodies and will also learn from others who have undertaken similar projects.

Evidence to support the Well-being Impact Assessment

- We have consulted published research or guides that inform us about the likely impact of the proposal
- We have involved an expert / consulted a group who represent those who may affected by the proposal
- We have engaged with people who will be affected by the proposal

THE LIKELY IMPACT ON DENBIGHSHIRE, WALES AND THE WORLD

A prosperous Denbighshire

Overall Impact	Neutral
Justification for impact	This project will have a neutral impact overall, but may have a positive impact in certain areas of the economy. It is hoped that this project will have a positive impact on a low carbon future. If Denbighshire leads the way with regards to economic development, a change in Council procurement may lead to the growth of alternative providers. However, should businesses not adapt, there is a risk that they will lose the Council's custom.
Further actions required	The Council would want to discuss any changes in procurement should we identify that it would have a significantly negative impact on a business.

Positive impacts identified:

A low carbon society	The use of plastics within Denbighshire County Council will be reduced. This may have a positive impact for a low carbon society.
Quality communications, infrastructure and transport	This will have a neutral impact for the project.
Economic development	The project may provide opportunities for procurement from alternative suppliers. The Council intends to take a lead in reduction of plastics in the County, this may impact upon procurement.
Quality skills for the long term	There is no anticipated impact
Quality jobs for the long term	There is no anticipated impact
Childcare	There is no anticipated impact

Negative impacts identified:

A low carbon society	At this stage we do not anticipate that there will be any negative impacts for a low carbon society.
Quality communications, infrastructure and transport	At the same time, we do not anticipate that this will have a negative impact.
Economic development	If businesses fail to adapt, then they may lose the Council's custom.
Quality skills for the long term	At the same time, we do not anticipate that this will have a negative impact.
Quality jobs for the long term	At the same time, we do not anticipate that this will have a negative impact.
Childcare	At the same time, we do not anticipate that this will have a negative impact.

A resilient Denbighshire

Overall Impact	Positive
Justification for impact	This project will have a positive impact overall because the project aims to reduce the use of plastics, which has a positive impact upon the environment overall.
Further actions required	To maximise the positives, robust research will inform our recommendations. We are encouraging the involvement of staff, to engage them in the recycling agenda.

Positive impacts identified:

Biodiversity and the natural environment	The Council's contribution to the wider picture is a small one, nevertheless, if recycling behaviours can be improved, this will have a positive impact on the environment.
Biodiversity in the built environment	Not applicable
Reducing waste, reusing and recycling	By its very nature, this project will have a positive impact on reducing waste, reusing and recycling.
Reduced energy/fuel consumption	The use of plastics within Denbighshire County Council will be reduced, this may have a positive impact upon reduced energy/fuel consumption.
People's awareness of the environment and biodiversity	This project increases people's awareness of the environment and biodiversity.
Flood risk management	This will have a neutral impact for the project.

Negative impacts identified:

Biodiversity and the natural environment	At the same time, we do not anticipate that this will have a negative impact.
Biodiversity in the built environment	At the same time, we do not anticipate that this will have a negative impact.
Reducing waste, reusing and recycling	At the same time, we do not anticipate that this will have a negative impact.
Reduced energy/fuel consumption	At the same time, we would want to ensure that this project will not have a negative impact.
People's awareness of the environment and biodiversity	We do not anticipate that the project will have a negative impact on awareness of the environment and biodiversity.
Flood risk management	At the same time, we do not anticipate that this will have a negative impact.

A healthier Denbighshire

Overall Impact	Neutral
Justification for impact	At this stage in the project's development we don't anticipate that there would be any positive or negative impact upon the health of Denbighshire.

Further actions required	We will manage or minimise negatives and maximise positives by exploring further the options for packaging of food, given that plastic packaging extends the shelf life of foodstuffs.
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Positive impacts identified:

A social and physical environment that encourage and support health and well-being	Whilst research indicates that disposal of plastics will ultimately impact upon our health, our contribution to this agenda is acknowledged to be very small.
Access to good quality, healthy food	We acknowledge that plastic prolongs the shelf life of food but anticipate that the impact would be neutral. This will be explored in more detail by the project.
People's emotional and mental well-being	This will have a neutral impact for the project.
Access to healthcare	This will have a neutral impact for the project.
Participation in leisure opportunities	This will have a neutral impact for the project.

Negative impacts identified:

A social and physical environment that encourage and support health and well-being	At the same time, we do not anticipate that this will have a negative impact..
Access to good quality, healthy food	At the same time, we do not anticipate that this will have a negative impact.
People's emotional and mental well-being	At the same time, we do not anticipate that this will have a negative impact.
Access to healthcare	At the same time, we do not anticipate that this will have a negative impact.
Participation in leisure opportunities	At the same time, we do not anticipate that this will have a negative impact.

A more equal Denbighshire

Overall Impact	Negative
Justification for impact	Based on our findings above, there is a potential negative impact; however should this transpire, we would anticipate that this would be minimal. We consider that any negative impact would be outweighed by the long term positives of the project.
Further actions required	The project aims to procure goods at similar prices to those already procured. In which case, there will be a minimal negative output.

Positive impacts identified:

Improving the well-being of people with protected characteristics. The nine protected characteristics are: age; disability; gender reassignment; marriage or civil partnership; pregnancy and maternity; race; religion or belief; sex; and sexual orientation	This will have a neutral impact for the project.
People who suffer discrimination or disadvantage	This will have a neutral impact for the project.
Areas with poor economic, health or educational outcomes	This will have a neutral impact for the project.
People in poverty	This will have a neutral impact for the project.

Negative impacts identified:

Improving the well-being of people with protected characteristics. The nine protected characteristics are: age; disability; gender reassignment; marriage or civil partnership; pregnancy and maternity; race; religion or belief; sex; and sexual orientation	We do have an awareness that some disabled people need to use plastic straws, and account is taken of this in our proposals.
People who suffer discrimination or disadvantage	There could be a potential increase in cost for goods that the Council sells
Areas with poor economic, health or educational outcomes	There could be a potential increase in cost for goods that the Council sells
People in poverty	There could be a potential increase in cost for goods that the Council sells

A Denbighshire of cohesive communities

Overall Impact	Neutral
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Justification for impact	We have considered the above statements and do not consider that our project will have other than a neutral impact
Further actions required	It is hoped that staff and elected members can be encouraged to improve the amount and quality of their personal recycling, and to share their improved knowledge regarding recycling with others.

Positive impacts identified:

Safe communities and individuals	This will have a neutral impact for the project.
Community participation and resilience	This will have a neutral impact for the project.
The attractiveness of the area	If awareness of the importance of recycling is raised, there is a small potential for improvement in the attractiveness of the area resulting from decreased littering.
Connected communities	This will have a neutral impact for the project.
Rural resilience	This will have a neutral impact for the project.

Negative impacts identified:

Safe communities and individuals	At the same time, we do not anticipate that this will have a negative impact.
Community participation and resilience	At the same time, we do not anticipate that this will have a negative impact.
The attractiveness of the area	At the same time, we do not anticipate that this will have a negative impact.
Connected communities	At the same time, we do not anticipate that this will have a negative impact.
Rural resilience	At the same time, we do not anticipate that this will have a negative impact.

A Denbighshire of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh language

Overall Impact	Neutral
Justification for impact	Dependent upon where products are purchased from, there is unlikely to be any impact upon culture and Welsh language. However, we will aim to ensure that any potential impact is positive.
Further actions required	Wherever possible, where actions are taken, opportunities to promote the Welsh language will be considered.

Positive impacts identified:

People using Welsh	This will have a neutral impact for the project.
Promoting the Welsh language	This will have a neutral impact for the project.
Culture and heritage	This will have a neutral impact for the project.

Negative impacts identified:

People using Welsh	At the same time, we do not anticipate that this will have a negative impact.
Promoting the Welsh language	At the same time, we do not anticipate that this will have a negative impact.
Culture and heritage	At the same time, we do not anticipate that this will have a negative impact.

A globally responsible Denbighshire

Overall Impact	Positive
Justification for impact	Denbighshire will make a positive contribution to global wellbeing overall
Further actions required	Denbighshire will make a positive contribution by sharing learning with other authorities, and will learn from initiatives undertaken by other public bodies.

Positive impacts identified:

Local, national, international supply chains	There is potential, if local suppliers are identified, to have a positive impact upon local supply chains
Human rights	This will have a neutral impact for the project.
Broader service provision in the local area or the region	This aligns with discussions being held sub-regionally and regionally at a Public Service Board level. Denbighshire will make a positive contribution to global wellbeing overall

Negative impacts identified:

Local, national, international supply chains	Again, this could be negative if alternative local suppliers cannot be found
Human rights	At the same time, we do not anticipate that this will have a negative impact.
Broader service provision in the local area or the region	At the same time, we do not anticipate that this will have a negative impact.