

CABINET

DATE OF MEETING: 7 FEBRUARY 2019

TITLE OF REPORT: HART AND SKY OCEAN RESCUE

Report of: Head of Environment and Technical Services

Cabinet member: Councillor Alan Oliver, Technical Services

1 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To agree implementation of a joint initiative to work with Sky Ocean Rescue to eliminate single use plastic in Hart.

2 OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 That Hart enters into a pilot initiative with Sky Ocean Rescue to eliminate single use plastic in Hart on the basis of the proposal set out under option 3 of this report.
- 2.2 That the pilot is operated on an initial 12 month trial, with its continued operation being considered as part of the 2020/21 budget process.
- 2.3 That funding of £25k per annum is identified in the council budgets for 2019/20 to fund staff time and advertising for the pilot initiative.

3 BACKGROUND

- 3.1 In recent months there has been significant coverage in the press about the environmental problems caused by the extensive use and inappropriate disposal/non recycling of plastics.
- 3.2 In September 2018 Hart was approached by Sky Ocean Rescue (SOR) to see if the Council would be interested in working with them to pilot an initiative to make the Hart area single use plastic (SUP) free.
- 3.3 Launched on 24 January 2017, SOR aims to shine a spotlight on the issues affecting ocean health, find innovative solutions to the problem of ocean plastics, and inspire people to make small everyday changes that collectively make a huge difference. They have also committed to spreading the word to 50 million people worldwide to help reduce single use plastic usage and ultimately stop plastic getting in to our oceans.
- 3.4 Whilst SOR have done a lot of work highlighting the problems caused by single use plastic, they have not previously worked in partnership with a local authority. It is intended that the work here at Hart could form the basis of an initiative that could then be rolled out to other local authorities.
- 3.5 Following an initial meeting with SOR an officer meeting was convened to identify opportunities and consider the implications of implementing the initiative. A copy of the notes from this meeting are attached at Appendix I.

- 3.6** In December 2018 the government published its Resources and Waste Strategy (RWS). The Strategy contains some significant changes in waste policy across the UK that will have some fundamental impacts on local authority operations. This includes, consulting on the introduction of a deposit return scheme for single use drinks containers, elimination of the most problematic plastic products (e.g. straws, cotton buds, stirrer's) and making those plastics that are used easier to recycle.
- 3.7** This report was considered by Hart's Overview and Scrutiny Committee at its January 2019 meeting. Members were supportive of the proposals but asked how success would be measured and what other options had been considered. This has been considered in section 4 of this report.

4 CONSIDERATIONS

- 4.1** In Hart plastic bottles are collected at kerbside and sent for recycling, all other plastic is collected with the residual waste and incinerated with the energy generated from this being fed into the national grid. No plastic waste collected from residential properties in Hart ends up in land fill.
- 4.2** The Council currently does not have an agreed policy or approach for dealing with single use plastic.
- 4.3** In response to questions raised by Hart's Overview and Scrutiny Committee a review of the work undertaken by other local authorities has revealed that a number of local authorities including Surrey, Brighton and Hove, and Somerset Waste Partnership have adopted single use plastic policies. However, no examples of other joint initiatives between local authorities and private business such as is proposed in this report have been identified. Whilst other business maybe interested in working with Hart on an initiative such as the one proposed in this report, to date the Council has had no other approaches.
- 4.4** With regard to measurement of success it is proposed that performance indicators will be agreed by the Technical and Environment Service Board prior to commencement of the trial. This could include the number of schools visits undertaken and the number of local business which have signed up to the initiative.

5.0 THE PROPOSAL

- 5.1** SOR have produced a three point plan which is attached at appendix 2. This outlines how Sky envisage working with the council to deliver a joint initiative in Hart.
- 5.2** The plan focuses on three priority areas which are:
1. Council operations.
 2. Engaging with local businesses.
 3. Engaging with schools.

5.3 The proposals identified under the heading council operations can be delivered through changes to the way the council currently manages its services, can be contained within existing resources and will potentially deliver savings for the council.

5.4 The proposals for engaging with local business and schools will require the allocation of additional resources.

5.5 There are three options which can be considered:

5.6 Option 1 – Do nothing (maintain current policies and procedures)

Advantages	Disadvantages
Does not require the allocation of additional resources.	Does not address SUP problem.
	Does not show local leadership.
	Does not take advantage of the partnership opportunity offered by Sky Ocean rescue.

5.7 Option 2 – Adopt and apply a policy to eliminate SUPs from existing council operations.

Advantages	Disadvantages
Does not require the allocation of additional resources.	Does not maximise the partnership opportunity offered by Sky Ocean rescue.
Will allow the council to adopt environmentally friendly policy for its own operations.	SOR may not be interested in working with Hart if proposals are restricted to only removing SUPs from council operations.

5.8 Option 3 - Adopt and apply a policy for eliminating SUPs from existing council operations and engage with local business and schools.

Advantages	Disadvantages
Maximises the partnership opportunity offered by Sky Ocean Rescue.	Will require £25k/annum to be allocated to fund staff time and advertising.
Will provide an opportunity to pilot a SOR / local authority initiative.	
Maximises potential environmental benefits.	

5.9 SOR have confirmed that their contribution to the initiative will be to provide promotional materials to assist with the schools engagement, provide professional advice to the council, and provide jointly branded drinks bottles and coffee cups to all hart staff to facilitate the removal of disposable plastic cups from the council offices.

6 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1** Approval of the recommendations of this report will require £25k to be allocated in the budget for 2019/20. This will be offset by savings of £11k/annum which it is estimated will be delivered by removing all vending machines in the civic offices.
- 6.2** The need for funding in future years will be determined after a 6 month review of the pilot, and considered as part of the 2020/21 budget process.

7 ACTION

- 7.1** Subject to approval of this report's recommendations a project plan will be drawn up for implementation of a pilot initiative with Sky Ocean Rescue, and arrangements will be made to recruit a part time member of staff until 31st March 2020.

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APPENDICES

Appendix 1 - A copy of the notes of officer meeting held on 6th November 2018.

Appendix 2 – Hart and Sky Ocean Rescue three point action plan.

BACKGROUND PAPERS: None

Hart and Sky Ocean Rescue
Notes from Officer Meeting 6th November 2018

Present:

John Elson – Head of Environment and Technical Services

Matthew Saunders - Business Support, Facilities & Data Manager

Amy Summers - Communications and Economic Development Manager

Lucy Russell-White - Assistant Senior Ranger

Maria Massarella - Performance and Development Officer

Peter Summersell – Waste and Recycling and Climate Change Officer

Paul Weavers - Sports & Leisure Manager

Ashley Grist - Performance, Procurement and Policy Officer

Following discussion around the topic the following theme areas were identified for consideration

1. OPERATIONS – Day to day service delivery covering all in house council operations and management of Council sites including the Civic Offices and Countryside Workshop.
2. WASTE AND RECYCLING – Waste and recycling collections, bring sites and recycling education/promotion.
3. CONTRACTS AND PROCUREMENT – Including the council supply chain and significant service contracts i.e Capita, Serco, Everyone Active
4. BUSINESS - How the council can work with external business to encourage reduced use of singles use plastics.
5. COMMUNITY - How the council can work with external business to encourage reduced use of singles use plastics.

Operations

- Agreed that at both the Civic offices and Countryside Workshop building managers should undertake a review of all single use plastic (SUP) currently used in building facilities with the aim of removing all plastic used by the council primarily plastic cups and plastic stirrers. Agreed should stop reordering immediately with a view to removing all existing products after member approval has been obtained.
- Coffee machine in front reception to be removed as this provides disposable cups, would need to make alternative arrangements for business centre. Also suggested that the machine on 2nd floor should be removed, and hot water flasks used for meetings instead. If all vending machines (currently 4 in building including food vending machine) were removed, then this would deliver £11k/annum saving.
- Signs to be placed in kitchens encouraging everyone to be responsible for cleaning cups from meetings and kitchen etiquette.

- Water fountain to be installed at front reception, all staff to provide their own drinking glasses.
- Glasses instead of plastic cups to be used in all meeting rooms.
- Don't provide an alternative to plastic cups, leave that to the individual.
- Use of bin bags in offices needs to be considered.
- Review all stationery orders to ensure SUP is not purchased.
- Feel that the initiative should be extended to exclude any single use items and should not be restricted to SUP.

Waste and Recycling

- Further promotion and publicity to be targeted on office staff highlighting what can and can't be recycled.
- Recycling bins (needs to be alternative to blue wheelie bins) to be placed in all meeting rooms and kitchens.
- All shared services to have SUP policy.
- Grounds and Streets service – Further promotion of recycling on the go bins at suitable sites.
- Waste and Recycling communication plan to be reviewed and strengthened where required to promote avoidance of SUP, providing examples of good practice.

Contracts and Supply Chain

- Everyone Active (EA) – Serco - Capita
- All new contracts to include requirement built into spec that contractor has SUP policy to ensure preference given to companies that have.
- Existing contacts to be reviewed to see if they have SUP policy and if not then seek buy in from contractor that they will work to minimise SUP use.
- Post meeting note – Everyone Active and Serco have confirmed that they are very interested in working with HDC and Sky - EA are already planning to introduce a 5p levy or discount when purchasing hot drinks from their cafeteria's, for customers who do not use a recyclable cup/mug, that is available for purchased. Also discussing plastic pool over shoes, and how to reduce use of SUP versions and introduce recyclable ones.

Business

- Promote scheme that businesses can sign up to similar to Fair Trade, suggest that minimum requirement for recognition under the scheme would be for business to exclude use of plastic cutlery, straws and cups.
- Agree five actions that business's would need to comply with to obtain recognition under the scheme.
- If looking to identify SUP free high street, then need to agree whether all retailers would be included or whether this should just target eateries.
- If targeting eateries, then could this be linked with food rating assessments.
- Do we work with pub chains (theses are seen as a potential quick win)
- Would need to agree a branding that could be used for initiative would this be combined Hart/Sky Ocean Rescue branding.

- Need to engage with business groups i.e. Fleet Bid, Odiham.
- Sustainable business network will have links with businesses that are likely to have an interest.
- Promote good practice in business community and get buy in from existing businesses that have approach to SUP, waste minimisation, examples are refillable milk scheme in Odiham, and Zero Waste shop in Fleet.
- Produce simple guidance note for business to clarify how they achieve recognition.
- Contact supermarkets and raise awareness of the scheme.

Community

- Work with schools – Initially focus on and work with those schools who have expressed an interest and are delivering their own initiatives. – Velmead is promoting itself as a plastic free school.
- Sky already have a schools programme and would provide promotional material.
- Raise awareness and promote through waste and recycling communication plan.
- Need to engage with and involve Parish Councils.
- Raise awareness with advertising on local radio and the side of refuse wagons, bus shelters and in social media.
- Look to establish local champions who can act as links with the community and promote good practice.

Budget and Resource Requirements

- Whilst the operational and contractual element of these proposals can be delivered within existing budgets. Delivery of the Business and Community initiatives will require staff time to organise and co-ordinate with outside bodies/ contacts.
- Any business / community initiatives need to be measurable, so we can demonstrate what difference has been made.
- Staff resource assume 2/3 days per week, 12 month contract to be reviewed at end of 1st year.

Estimated 12 month budget to cover staff time and advertising = £25k

- To be deliverable the proposed initiatives will need organisational commitment and the support of senior officers and members.

Hart and Sky Ocean Rescue

3 Point Plan

	WHAT?	WHY?	KPIs
1 Hart to be Single Use Plastic Free in its operations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Commitment to be a single use plastic free district council. Agreement at Scrutiny Committee (Jan '19) Agreement at the Cabinet Board (Feb '19) Sky to speak at Full Council (March '19) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hart District to lead by example Enables Hart to engage businesses and residents in the district on the need and how to reduce single use plastic 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hart commitment to be single use plastic free by ?? (proposed start 2019) Sky to share Business Transformation guide & Plastics Policy Dual branded reusable cups to staff and councillors (133)
2 Engage businesses in Hart District	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reach out to businesses and shops in the Fleet bid and local shops (600 businesses in Fleet) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Visible commitment by businesses and shops to support residents go single use plastic free 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Business and shops in Fleet/Hart inspired to take action and make it easy for their customers to reduce single use plastic SUP free high street / shops
3 Engage local schools	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Focus on engaging schools using Sky Ocean Rescue materials https://skyoceanrescue.com/inspiring-students/ Sky volunteers to speak at school Assemblies Encourage action by running competitions for school to win places at the Sky Studios 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Inspire and engage Hart residents to tackle single use plastic 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 30 state schools reached through Hart and Sky Ocean Rescue ?? Schools taking action themselves to reduce their single use plastic