
Council Usage of Single Use Plastic – Methods of Procurement Support

1.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1.1 At the 8th of September Climate Change Board a decision was taken to reduce the acquisition and usage of Single Use Plastics (SUP) from across all Council services. This report aims to highlight the procurement steps being taken to enact this position and operational deployment. The main purpose of this report is to provide recommendations on the methods of procurement support that can be put in place to support Service-led decisions on reducing the use of SUP products where appropriate across the Council.

The recommendations of this report are that Policy & Resources Committee:

- Note and consider that the various Services that currently purchase SUP products consider whether these products are essential or if there is a potential alternative that would meet the Service requirements, prior to orders being placed via PECOS or contacting the Procurement, Commercial and Contract Management Team (PCCMT) for a procurement process to be carried out.
- Note and consider that the Sustainable Procurement Policy will be updated to reflect the Climate Change Board desire to limit SUP where possible – proposed wording has been included in the current draft version for 2022/23, and will be updated as follows in the final version: “To provide procurement support to any strategic decisions taken by the Council in relation to the usage of Single Use Plastic products and their recyclability.”
- Note and consider that the Commodity Sourcing Strategy templates used for Regulated Procurements be updated to include a question regarding SUP.

Council Usage of Single Use Plastic – Methods of Procurement Support

2.0 INTRODUCTION

2.1 The main purpose of this report is to provide recommendations on the methods of procurement support that can be put in place to support Service-led decisions on reducing the use of Single Use Plastic (SUP) products and ensure services consider the recyclability of these products where appropriate across the Council.

3.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

The recommendations of this report are that Policy & Resources Committee:

- Note and consider that the various Services that currently purchase SUP products consider whether these products are essential or if there is a potential alternative that would meet the Service requirements, prior to orders being placed via PECOS or contacting the Procurement, Commercial and Contract Management Team (PCCMT) for a procurement process to be carried out.
- Note and consider that the Sustainable Procurement Policy will be updated to reflect the Climate Change Board desire to limit SUP where possible – proposed wording has been included in the current draft version for 2022/23, and will be updated as follows in the final version: “To provide procurement support to any strategic decisions taken by the Council in relation to the usage of Single Use Plastic products and their recyclability.
- Note and consider that the Commodity Sourcing Strategy templates used for Regulated Procurements be updated to include a question regarding SUP.

4.0 DETAIL

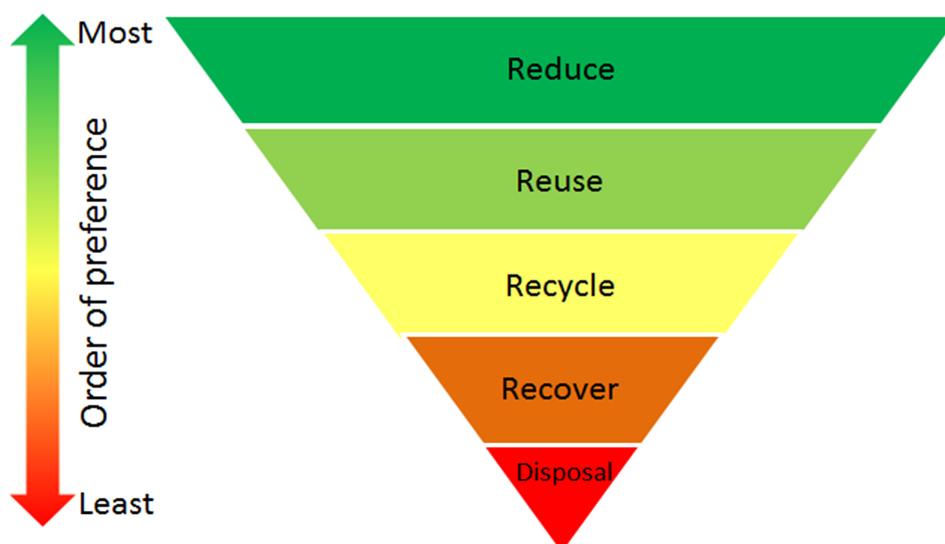
4.1 Single-use plastic products (SUPs) are used once, or for a short period of time, before being disposed of. The most common examples include packaging, cutlery, cups. The impacts of this plastic waste on the environment and our health are global and can be drastic. Single-use plastic products are more likely to end up in our seas than reusable options. The 10 most commonly found single-use plastic items on European beaches, alongside fishing gear, represent 70% of all marine litter in the EU.

- 4.2 SUP products can be manufactured using either traditional plastic compounds such as PET (Polyethylene terephthalate) and HDPE (High-density polyethylene) or they can be made up of combination of Plastic and organic material known as Oxo-degradable plastics. SUP products that are made up of Oxo-degradable plastics require specialist recycling facilities to ensure that these materials are captured and recycled. At present Argyll and Bute Council does not have access to the specialist facilities needed to recycle the majority of Oxo-Plastic SUP products.
- 4.3 Due to the high international profile of the issue of SUP both the Scottish and UK governments have since 2012 gradually increased regulation on the SUP market. Following public consultation in April 2021 draft Environmental Protection (Single-use Plastic Products and Oxo-degradable Plastic Products) (Scotland) Regulations 2021 have laid before the Scottish Parliament on the tenth of November. The regulations come into force in June 2022 banning the supply, in the course of business, and the manufacture of:
- Single-use plastic expanded polystyrene beverage cups
 - Single-use plastic expanded polystyrene beverage containers
 - Single-use plastic expanded polystyrene food container
 - Single-use plastic cutlery
 - Single-use plastic plates (including trays and platters)
 - Single-use plastic beverage stirrers
 - All Oxo-degradable plastic products.
- 4.4 Although the PCCMT can provide support to Services in the procurement of alternatives to SUP products, the decisions on whether these SUP products are essential to service provision or can be replaced by alternative non-SUP products will need to be taken by the Service with the requirement. Consideration should be given to this prior to contact being made with PCCMT to start a procurement process, or prior to orders being placed directly via PECOS.
- 4.5 To reflect PCCMT's support of the Climate Change Board's desire to limit the use of SUP products within the Council where possible, it is proposed that the Council's Sustainable Procurement Policy includes the following statement: "To provide procurement support to any strategic decisions taken by the Council in relation to the usage of Single Use Plastics". This statement reflects PCCMT's supporting role in the implementation of any strategic decision taken at a Council-wide level.
- 4.6 In addition, at an operational level it is proposed to update the Council's current Commodity Sourcing Strategy templates which are completed for all regulated procurement processes (for supplies contracts this is spend over £50,000) to

include a new question relating to SUP. It should be noted that this will only raise this issue for consideration for higher levels of spend, and it is likely that SUP products are purchased as part of lower value orders from i.e. external framework suppliers available on PECOS – therefore there will be limited involvement from PCCMT in these purchases. This supports the recommendation that individual Services will have the responsibility for decisions on the requirement to purchase SUP products.

- 4.7 Argyll and Bute council and householders must work together to increase recycling rates and reduce Waste going to Landfill and Recovery. To do this the council continues to encourage and support householders to Reduce, Reuse and Recycle (the three R's) their waste. The Waste Strategy supports the transition to a circular economy by basing council waste disposal activities around the principal of the Waste Hierarchy, see Table 1. In line with the council's Waste Strategy services should also take into consideration the recyclability of SUPs in the councils existing Waste Disposal Model. Details of the councils existing Waste Disposal Model can be found in Appendix 1.
- 4.8 The concept of the three R's is summarised in The Waste Hierarchy which ranks waste management options from best environmental outcome to worst. In doing this, the model takes into account the particular lifecycle of a particular material. This is an environmental assessment against all stages of a product's 'life' – raw material extraction, material processing, manufacture, distribution, use, repair and maintenance and, finally, disposal or recycling. The easiest way to interpret the waste hierarchy is to say its top priority is in preventing waste. If and when waste is created, next priority goes to preparing it for a reusable purpose, followed by recycling or other recovery method, with disposal (landfill) being the final, and least desired, option.

Table 1. Waste Hierarchy



5.0 CONCLUSION

5.1 PCCMT can provide support to Services throughout the Council to procure alternatives to Single Use Plastic products, where the decision is taken that this will meet the Service requirements. This support will be reflected in updates to the Sustainable Procurement Policy and in relevant templates used for higher value procurements.

6.0 IMPLICATIONS

6.1 Policy:	Updating the Sustainable Procurement Policy to include guidance on Single Use Plastic products will support services' progress in achieving the goals of the Council's Decarbonisation Plan.
6.2 Financial:	Resources will required to be deployed to deliver actions of the plan.
6.3 Legal:	None at present.
6.4 HR:	None at present.
6.5 Fairer Scotland Duty:	None at present.
6.5.1 Equalities – protected Characteristics:	None at present.
6.5.2 Socio-economic Duty:	None at present.
6.5.3 Islands:	None at present.
6.6 Climate Change:	The adoption and delivery of the content of this report will directly contribute to the Council achieving its ambition to being a net zero organisation by 2045.
6.9 Risk:	None at present.

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Appendix 1

Argyll and Bute Council Model of Waste Disposal:

- 1.1 Argyll and Bute Council like every Local Authority has a statutory duty to collect and dispose of waste and recycle material from householders and businesses appropriately. The basis for duties can be found in the Environmental Protection Act 1990 (EPA). Over time the original provisions of the EPA have been supplemented with further regulations to increase recycling and support and encourage the transition to a more zero waste circular economy. The Waste (Scotland) Regulations 2012 contained several regulations that made Kerbside Recycling collections and the provision of local Recycling facilities mandatory for all Scottish Local Authorities.
- 1.2 Waste disposal is carried out by using three separate models across the council:
 - Island landfill sites which are operated directly operated by the Council. Recyclate is sent to the mainland for processing and recycling.
 - A 25 year PPP contract with Renewi covering the mainland excluding Helensburgh and Lomond, this contract runs until 2026. Recyclate is sent to the Central Belt for processing and recycling.
 - Helensburgh and Lomond is where waste is collected and disposed of/recycled of at third party sites out-with Argyll and Bute.
- 1.3 The council's Waste Disposal Service collects and deals with several different Waste Streams, these include:
 - Residual Waste (Household and Business General Waste)
 - Co-Mingled Recyclate (Paper, Card, Plastic Bottles, Tubs, Pots and Trays, Aluminium and Steel Tins and Cans inc. Aerosols)
 - Food Waste (Helensburgh and Lomond only)
 - Glass Waste (Helensburgh and Lomond only)
- 1.4 Other Waste materials that can be disposed of/Recycled by the public at Household Waste Recycling Centres across Argyll and Bute include:
 - Waste Electrical Goods (WEEE)
 - Batteries
 - Tires
 - Wood
 - Garden Waste
 - Scrap Metal
 - Hazardous Waste (Paints, Oils etc)
- 1.5 Recyclate material that the council collects is currently taken to be sorted at a Mechanical Recycling Facility in Linwood. Once there the material is sorted into

its constituent parts and sent on to UK based offtakers for reprocessing. Non-target materials are extracted during the sorting process and recovered as refuse derived fuel used in Energy from Waste plants.