

## DECISION ITEM

REPORT OF	MEETING	DATE	ITEM NO
DEPUTY CHIEF EXECUTIVE	ENVIRONMENT, HEALTH AND HOUSING COMMITTEE	14 JUNE 2022	7

### COMMITMENT TO PLASTIC FREE - CARBON NEUTRAL WORKING GROUP

#### PUBLIC ITEM

This item is for consideration in the public part of the meeting.

#### SUMMARY

A draft commitment to plastic reduction to fulfil the corporate plan priority to address carbon reduction issues. The commitment received support from the cross-party Carbon Neutral Working Group at the April meeting, with a recommendation to refer the policy to a subsequent meeting of the Environment, Health and Housing Committee.

#### RECOMMENDATIONS

To consider, approve and adopt the draft commitment to plastic reduction document and action plan, as recommended by the cross-party Carbon Neutral Working Group.

#### SUMMARY OF PREVIOUS DECISIONS

[Operational Management - 9 November 2021](#)

It was RESOLVED to approve and adopt the draft Domestic Recycling Policy as recommended by the cross-party Carbon Neutral Working Group.

#### CORPORATE PRIORITIES

Economy – To create a vibrant and healthy economy	✓
Environment – To deliver services customers expect	✓
Efficiency – By spending money in the most efficient way	
Tourism – To create a great place to live and visit	✓

#### REPORT

- The Fylde Corporate Plan 2020-24 includes a number of environmental priorities, including:
  - Implement carbon reduction policies including - plastics reduction, tree planting, energy efficiency and recycling;
  - Design education and awareness programmes to support carbon reduction policies and actions;
  - Work with partners to deliver the carbon reduction policy actions i.e., reduce, re-use, recycle, tree planting.

2. A cross-party Carbon Neutral Working Group was established to consider these priorities and provide recommendations to fulfil the actions within the Fylde Corporate Plan 2020-24.
3. At the first meeting of the Carbon Neutral Working Group, it was agreed that the first phase of the work of the Working Group would focus on how policy can be shaped to support carbon reduction for council-led activities and initiatives - with plastic reduction being deemed a high priority.
4. Plastic is a very durable material, which can last for hundreds of years. If it's not disposed of correctly, it can have a serious impact on the environment, entering the oceans and potentially harming marine wildlife. This is compounded by the fact that 50% of plastic produced is used once and can remain in the environment for up to 400 years.
5. Whilst many items can be collected for recycling, such as plastic bottles, pots, tubs and trays, numerous plastic products were designed to be used once, such as plastic coffee cups, cutlery, and bags. The only way to reduce them is to avoid using them at all and considering plastic alternatives.
6. Fylde Council has stated its intention to reduce reliance on single use plastics (SUPs) through the corporate plan, taking responsibility for its own impact on the environment and therefore, setting an example to local businesses, partners, and communities.
7. A draft commitment to plastic free document was presented to the Carbon Neutral Working Group for consideration at the April meeting. The document and corresponding actions received support from Members, with a recommendation to refer the policy to a subsequent meeting of the Environment, Health and Housing Committee.
8. The draft Commitment to Plastic Free document is attached as an appendix to the report, along with an Action Plan, for members of the Environment, Health and Housing Committee to consider, approve and adopt.

IMPLICATIONS	
Finance	There are no implications arising from this report.
Legal	There are no implications arising from this report.
Community Safety	There are no implications arising from this report.
Human Rights and Equalities	There are no implications arising from this report.
Sustainability and Environmental Impact	There are no implications arising from this report.
Health & Safety and Risk Management	There are no implications arising from this report.

LEAD AUTHOR	CONTACT DETAILS	DATE
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BACKGROUND PAPERS		
Name of document	Date	Where available for inspection
None		

Attached documents

Appendix 1 - Draft Commitment to Plastic Free Policy

Appendix 2 - Commitment to Plastic Free Action Plan

