



Single Use Plastics Policy – Our 5 Pledges

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Tracking

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Document Approvals

Each revision requires the following approvals:

Sponsor Approval		Name	Date
Chief Legal Officer		A Healy	Feb 2019

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Introduction

Epsom & Ewell Borough Council are committed to protecting the environment.

Part of this requires us to prevent, as far as we are able, pollution arising from our activities. It also requires us to embed best practices for corporate responsibility.

Purpose

As a Council we have long recognized that waste plastics present a threat to the environment. The seriousness of the current situation can no longer be played down when the best estimates of waste plastic in our oceans by 2050 will weigh more than all the fish.¹ Such a horrifying prospect requires organisations to take positive action now.

The Council will be working towards minimising use of single-use plastics across all our operations and services and also by our employees. We will seek to work pro-actively work with partners to find solutions for reducing unnecessary waste plastics across all our services, functions and engage with our communities to encourage them to do so as well.

What are single –use plastics?

Single-use plastics can include any disposable plastic item which is designed to be used only once e.g. plastic bags, disposable utensils, beverage containers, coffee capsules, wet wipes, razor blades, plastic drinks bottles, food wrappers, bottle tops, straws, stirrers and plastic lids.

To support our work as an organisation, we have introduced the “5 Pledges”.

This document is aimed at ensuring action is taken and to encourage others to do likewise. The Council’s Leadership Team is responsible for this Policy and our employees share responsibility for its delivery.

Every step we take is important.

¹ Ellen MacArthur Foundation, “RETHINKING THE FUTURE OF PLASTICS”

5 Pledges

5 Pledges		
What we will do	How we will do it	
1	<p>measure our use of single-use plastics and set targets for reduction</p>	<p>we will conduct an audit of our use of single use plastics both as an organisation and as an employer to produce a priority improvement list</p>
2	<p>work with our employees and suppliers to encourage them to take practical steps to reduce the use of plastic</p>	<p>we will promote behaviours through education and initiatives to reduce reliance on plastics, for example encouraging the use of tap water over bottled water, the reduction of plastic packaging waste, changes to employee induction packs</p>
3	<p>where the use of plastics is unavoidable, we will use recycled and recyclable plastics where practicable</p>	<p>our audit of use of single plastics will identify products and supply chains which we can then influence to bring changes in products</p>
4	<p>we will encourage recycling opportunities for the plastic waste we and our supply chain produce in our buildings and in daily operations</p>	<p>we will start adding requirements in our contracts with whom we do business to follow more environmentally sustainable options, for example will encourage the reduction of polystyrene from our deliveries and the use of recyclable materials</p>
5	<p>support and encourage employee and community initiatives to remove plastic waste and litter from our environment</p>	<p>Work in partnership with our communities university, suppliers and other stakeholders</p>