



APSE Catering Advisory Group

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Single Use Plastics: From Pledge to Practice

Victoria Burrell,
Waste Strategy Team
Manager,
Durham County Council.

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This presentation will cover the following:

- Reducing single use plastics across County Durham – the approach to date;
- Reviewing the action plan in light of the current legislation;
- COVID-19 impacts;
- Where do we go from here?



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Is It Our Problem?





"Right now, eight million tonnes of plastics ends up in the oceans every year. But you, ... have shown that, if we start doing those small steps..., we can before long really have an effect. The actions of just one of us may seem to be trivial and to have no effect. But the knowledge that there are ..., hundreds of thousands of people who are doing the same thing - that really does have an effect - so please join us." (Sir David Attenborough)

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Background

**24 January 2018 Durham County Council Resolution:
Request that a report be brought to Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Management Board on the options for bringing an end to the use of unnecessary Single Use Plastics (SUP) in County Durham, taking account of the following measures to:**

a) enable Durham County Council to become a full signatory of the 'Plastic Free Pledge', by phasing out the use of unnecessary SUPs in all County Council buildings, and working with commissioning partners to end the purchase and procurement of SUPs through the DCC supply chain;

b) encourage the County's businesses, organisations and residents to go 'plastic free,' working with best practice partners across the County to explore the creation of a 'plastic free network,' that could provide business support, practical guidelines and advice to help local businesses transition from SUPs to sustainable alternatives;

c) to incentivise traders on Council land to sell re-usable or non-plastic biodegradable containers and invite customers to bring their own, with the aim of phasing out SUPs; including investigating the possibility of requiring food and drink vendors to avoid SUPs as a condition of their event permission, strengthening DCC's existing guidance for exhibitors and traders

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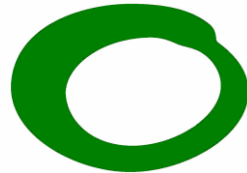
So broken down that meant....

1. What was the Council doing to phase out SUPs. Could it sign a pledge?
2. What Partners in County Durham were doing, including businesses.
3. What could the Council do as a land owner and licencing authority as well as public events.

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Benchmarking of plastic free pledges



Friends of the Earth



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Work to date: Action Plan

Corporate Procurement Services

- Established a task group in February 2018
- Considered a range of 'Plastic Pledges'
- Introduced a bespoke local pledge for County Durham
- Adopted a SUP logo for Partner endorsement
- Undertook internal audits across DCC
- Updated the core list of supplies to remove single use plastics
- Produced and undertook a SUP survey with key suppliers
- Ensured DCC future contracts consider alternatives to SUP where possible
- Engaged with contractors via the North East Procurement Organisation
- Provided advice on SUP reductions to other local authorities



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Adopted a bespoke Single Use Plastic Pledge for County Durham



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To support this aim, we commit to:

- Work in our respective organisations to ensure unnecessary single use plastics are reduced and ultimately eliminated across our offices and service buildings and from activities such as catering and events
- Promote and support the activities of schools, communities and residents in their efforts to reduce unnecessary single use plastics
- Support the establishment of a single use plastics network within the county, to share good practice and ensure the good work and pledge commitments are maintained

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Single Use Plastic Pledge

- Matt Baker is one of the signatories of the SUP Pledge.



272
pledges
across
County
Durham
from
individuals,
schools,
community
groups and
businesses!



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SUP Logo

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- Task group adopted the SUP logo in August 2019,
- To be adopted by Partner organisations and suppliers,
- DCC to recognise the commitment to reduce SUPs via it's procurement processes,
- Working with the North East Procurement Organisation to adopt a regional SUP reduction pledge based on DCC's example.



Work to date: Action Plan

DCC Catering Services

- Removed 90% of SUPs across DCC catering services
- Introduced a DCC reusable cup
- Sourced alternatives to SUPs where possible
- Identified SUP usage across Culture and Sport catering venues
- Designed and planned new takeaway concepts for new civic menu roll out.



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- Moved to recyclable, compostable, biodegradable, Vegware food takeaway packaging and hot food service containers as standard



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- Sachets to served portions (where possible)



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- Moved from plastic to Vegware cutlery and then subsequently wood alternatives

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- From plastic coated to biodegradable



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Introduced purchasable reusable plastic sip cups including a discount on your purchase when they are used in any site

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- From disposable plastic cups to refillable water bottles and reusable bottles/glasses for hospitality

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Work to date: Action Plan

Consumer Protection Services

- Reviewed the DCC Licensing Act Policy in order to incorporate the reduction of or alternatives to SUPs where possible.
- Considered the DCC Street Trading Policy in order for alternatives to SUPs be provided where possible.
- Considered the DCC Market Operator Agreements.



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Work to date: Action Plan

Education

- Engaged with DCC schools catering provider
- Developed and promote circular economy learning resources
- Promoting the example of St.Bede's, Sacriston as a best practice example to other schools



St Bede's RCVA Primary School, Sacriston

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Work to date: Action Plan

Highways

- Trialled the use of pelletised plastic within road construction
- Received an national APSE award (innovation category)
- Submitted a national funding bid to Department of Transport to expand the scheme



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Work to date: Action Plan

Waste Management

- Provided key communications to the public in relation to how SUPs can be prevented.
- Delivered education talks to schools, community groups, AAPs etc
- Introduced on street recycling provision in Durham City;
- Implemented recycling of street litter collected by DCC.
- Engaged with Change Advocates to raise awareness of SUPs
- Reviewed all DCC owned buildings to ensure the internal recycling schemes are being used correctly.
- Introduced Walker's crisp packet collection points in DCC buildings.



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Work to date: Action Plan

Culture and Sport

- Removed SUP confetti at the Gala Theatre and replace with sustainable alternative.
- Phased out the supply of SUP blue overshoes at DCC owned leisure centres.
- Promoted the SUP message to producers and traders.
- Commitment to the reduction of SUPs at the Gala Theatre.
- Rolled out successes at the Gala Theatre to other Culture and Sport run facilities.



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Work to date: Action Plan

External Partner Engagement

- Continue the development of a 'plastic free network' with Durham BiD in relation to providing key messages around sourcing alternatives to SUPs.
- Promote Northumbrian Water's Refill Campaign across County Durham.
- Encourage organisations and partners to join the North East Nature Partnership's Environment Accreditation Scheme.
- Replicated best practice examples of reusable/washable food containers.
- Promoted further beach clean ups with staff and external partner organisations.



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Working with Partners

Northumbrian Water – Refill Campaign



There are 271 Refill locations across County Durham!

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Work to date: Action Plan

Communications

- Promoted the work of the SUP task group via regular updates and features with Durham County News and other platforms.
- Ensured residents are informed of both why and when alternatives to SUPs are being used.
- Ensured that clear information of the different types of plastics, identifying what can and cannot be recycled is provided to residents.
- Provided residents with an opportunity to identify how SUPs usage can be reduced.
- Developed a single use plastic information network across County Durham via a web based hub.

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Where do we go from here?

- Develop further the County Durham SUP network;
- Develop further education and awareness materials e.g. living without SUPs;
- Continue to audit SUP usage;
- Promote further the Environmental accreditation scheme and audit for organisations
- Promote more Refill stations across County Durham
- Work with NEPO to influence the supply chain

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The impact of Covid-19.

- There is no denying that single-use plastic has been a lifesaver in the fight against COVID-19, especially for frontline health workers.
- It has also facilitated adherence to social-distancing rules, by enabling home delivery of basic goods, especially food.
- It may have helped to curb transmission, by replacing reusable coffee cups and shopping bags in many cities over fears that the virus could stick to them.
- But widely circulated images of plastic sacks of medical waste piling up outside hospitals, and used personal protective equipment floating in coastal waters and washing up on the world's beaches, illustrate yet again the dark side of single-use plastics.
- If we are not careful, short-term thinking during the pandemic could lead to an even larger environmental and public-health calamity in the future.



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Legislation

- From the 1st October a restriction on the supply of plastic straws, stirrers and cotton-buds came into force in England.
- Defra published guidance for businesses and suppliers of these items <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/straws-cotton-buds-and-drink-stirrers-ban-rules-for-businesses-in-england>



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Waste & Resources Strategy for England 2018

Environment Bill to be approved:

- Initial hearing was September 2020
- Due to be considered again on 1 December 2020 and looking at banning the exportation of polluting plastic waste to developing countries under new laws.

Strategy Key Objectives:

- All plastic packaging to be recyclable, reusable or compostable by 2025;
- Work towards eliminating food waste to landfill by 2030;
- Eliminate avoidable plastic waste over the lifetime of 25YEP;
- Double resource productivity by 2050
- Eliminate avoidable waste of all kinds by 2050

Recent Consultations:

- Consistent set of recyclable materials including:
- Extended Producer Responsibility for packaging
- Deposit Return Scheme
- Taxing plastic packaging with less than 30% recycled content

Impacts for Local Authorities:

- Financial implications for consistent collections (food/garden waste)
- EPR & DPS (greater clarity on how this money will be passed to LA's)



65% Recycling rate (MSW)
Municipal Solid Waste by 2035

50% Recycling rate H/H
waste by 2050



Task Group Recognition

- Won the national Local Authority Recycling Advisory Committee (LARAC) Awards 2019
- Won the local County Durham Environment Awards 2019
- Shortlisted for 2020 MRW, National Recycling Awards



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Join our network and take action to help
reduce SUPs in County Durham

<http://www.durham.gov.uk/singleuseplastics>

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Could you carry a reusable shopping bag, swap to a reusable coffee cup or stop using plastic straws?

Many County Durham businesses, schools, groups and individuals have already signed our County Durham Single Use Plastics Pledge. Could you?

You can pledge to do as little or as much as you can to help reduce the amount of single use plastics.

Find out more and sign up:
www.durham.gov.uk/singleuseplastics

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County Durham Partnership



Any questions?

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