

# **“Plastic Free Preston”**



**Report by the Scrutiny Task and Finish Group**

**July 2018 – November 2018**

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## **Background Documents:**

Devon County Council – Plastics Strategy 2018

## **Minutes of Meetings:**

[1.8.2018](#)

[15.11.18](#)

## **Chair's Foreword and Acknowledgements**

I am very pleased to be able to present this report to Council. Plastic pollution reduction is one of the biggest challenges facing the future of our planet. All of us have our part to play in ensuring we hand over our planet to future generations in the best possible condition.

For that reason, it is very appropriate that this Task and Finish topic was given to us by the future generation. The pupils of Lea St. Mary's Primary School came to full Council to challenge us to do what we could to improve their environment today and in the future. The Task and Finish Group are now pleased to note the school's positive response to the report at Appendix G to the report.

We also wish to thank every organisation that has been involved in our study. Friends of the Earth and Surfers against Sewage who brought with them their knowledge on the subject when they visited us; the supermarkets that responded by sending us details of what they are doing to reduce plastics; South Lakes District Council who had already done work on this subject and our officers in Waste Management, Facilities and Member Services for their hard work and research. Finally I would like to thank Carol Henshaw my Vice Chair and every member of the Task and Finish Group for their commitment and contributions.

## **Councillor John Swindells**

The members who contributed to this study were:

Councillor Swindells (Chair)

Councillor Henshaw (Vice Chair)

Councillor N Cartwright

Councillor Grisdale

Councillor Hawkins

Councillor Hull

Councillor Jolliffe

Councillor McKeever

Councillor Potter

## Recommendations to Council

	<b>Recommendation</b>	<b>Date To Be Implemented</b>	<b>Member / Officer &amp; Organisation responsible</b>
1.	That the Council works with anchor institutions, stakeholders and in the City (such as Community Gateway Association, NHS, UCLAN, Preston BID) towards Preston becoming a “Plastic Free Community” and that the Cabinet Member for the Environment take a lead on the issue (accreditation linked to recommendations below)	Ongoing	Cabinet Member for Environment and lead officer
2.	That the Council takes a lead by: continuing to replace plastic items in our Council buildings with environmentally friendly non-plastic versions where practical; encouraging staff to not to use single use plastics; Phase out use of disposable plastic cups and seek to recycle in short term. Investigate recyclable paper cups. Trial use of washable cups, glasses for meeting room usage etc.	April- June 2019	Nick Balderstone Facilities Officer  Duncan Coward Head of Waste Management.
3.	To adopt a Corporate Policy with regard to limiting the release of balloons on Council owned land	March 2019	Mark Taylor - Head of Parks & Streetscene
4.	To support the campaign via Council supported events and respective contracts (e.g. Rockprest, Preston Pride) to encourage the use of refillable water stations	Ongoing	Events Team
5.	To install refillable bottle water stations at locations such as the Market Hall and Parks Pavilions where practical	June 19	Operational Property/ Parks etc.

6.	To investigate the adoption of a Plastic Free Accreditation Scheme to encourage local businesses, community organisations and schools to support the movement (e.g. that commit to removing 3 single use plastics) using low cost methods e.g. promotional stickers	Summer 19	Duncan Coward Head of Waste Management.
7.	That the Council educate the public about the 'Plastic Free Movement' utilising signposting (e.g. via Community Engagement), publishing information on its website, encouraging people to write to local supermarkets and providing a training and education package	Summer 2019	Waste Management / Community Engagement
8.	Councillors (volunteers) visit local schools to educate young people about the Plastic Free Movement and the Plastic Free Preston Campaign.	May 2019	Councillors from the Task and Finish Group to volunteer. Training/schools package development?
9.	That, to complement the above, the Council seeks to adopt the Friends of the Earth Plastic Free Pledge, subject to the legal, financial and practical feasibility of the proposed actions		Duncan Coward Head of Waste Management.
10.	That officers be requested investigate the feasibility of creating a collection point in Preston for Ecobricks UK ( <a href="http://www.ecobricks.org">www.ecobricks.org</a> )		Duncan Coward Head of Waste Management.

## **1. Background / Aims of the Study**

Concerns about the impacts of plastics, particularly single use plastics have been highlighted by the media, and this has resonated with the public. In April 2018 Cllr Abram, seconded by Cllr Swindells brought forward a Notice of Motion in respect of Single Use Plastics, which was adopted by the Council.

The motion arose from the 'Plastic Free Communities' campaign promoted UK wide by Surfers against Sewage.

The Notice of Motion as adopted set out several resolutions:

- Supporting the Plastics Free campaign.
- Supporting the Plastics Free Communities campaign.
- Writing to the major supermarkets to reduce single use plastics.
- Encouraging residents to write to the major supermarkets.
- Ensuring, where possible, that the Council does not use single use plastics.
- Encouraging Council employees not to use single use plastics.
- Writing to the Environment minister to bring forward legislation in this area.
- Write to the local MPs for their support with the Notice of Motion

The Council should be leading the way in both educating the public, offering information/advice to our own staff and providing an example of what can be achieved in reducing its use of single use plastics, thus helping to safeguard the environment for future generations.

The Notice of Motion in full is attached at Appendix A.

### **1.1 Site Visit – St Mary's School, Lea**

The Chair of the Task and Finish Group decided to approach St Mary's School, Lea to assist with the scoping of this study as it coincided with a campaign to reduce single use plastics by the School Council. Four councillors from the Task and Finish Group met with representatives of the School Council, the Head Teacher and Parish Councillor Christine Abram on 4 July 2018. The notes of the discussion are included in Appendix B.

## **2. Meeting - 1.8.2018**

### **2.1 Scoping the study**

The Task and Finish Group considered a draft scoping document on 1 August 2018. The lead officer, Mr Duncan Coward, Head of Waste Management, suggested that two key areas of influence for this study were policies within Council buildings and educating the public. In addition to this the Task and Finish Group agreed to explore how the Council can encourage the commercial sector e.g. through its contracts/Preston based events. It also agreed to consider a corporate policy on releasing balloons on Council owned land as part of the scope for this study.

It was agreed that interviews be held on a sub group basis with individuals and organisations cited in the scoping document. In addition it was proposed that the environmental charity Friends of the Earth be approached and also major supermarkets in Preston such as Morrisons, Waitrose and Booths.

The scoping document is attached at Appendix C.

### **2.2 Interview with Nick Balderstone, the Energy and Facilities Officer**

Nick Balderstone, the Energy and Facilities Officer at Preston City Council attended the meeting for interview.

The Task and Finish Group discussed a number of ways to reduce single use plastics within Council Buildings, including:

Re-useable cups – washed and cleaned for each meeting  
Biodegradable  
or recyclable cups

Refillable plastic cups (i.e. which can be rinsed out)

Replace single use plastic milk containers with jugs of milk for meetings

Councillors not being supplied with disposable cups and bringing their own cups to meetings

Cleaning products – refillable containers

There were also several logistical / resource issues to consider with the above, e.g. who would wash the cups and the risk of milk wastage.

A member of the Group suggested that the Council should also encourage the commercial sector to take action to reduce single use plastics, e.g. at contractual Preston based events. For example, at the recent 'Rockprest attendees were required to leave their own drinks bottles at the gate and thus forced to buy drinks

inside, when perhaps filtered water could be provided for people to fill up their own receptacles. Reference was also made to restaurants (e.g. McDonald's and Wetherspoons) and supermarkets.

Duncan Coward, Head of Waste Management explained that there were different types of plastic and some were more difficult to recycle (e.g. black plastic food trays). He stressed that the Council's approach should be to emulate the 'Reduce, Reuse, Recycle' message in the same order of priority. Mr Coward also referred to Lancashire County Council possibly reinstating its Education Centre and perhaps approaching them about giving talks in schools.

### **3. Sub Group Interview – 20.8.18 – Plastic Free Communities**

A Task and Finish Sub Group met with Janet Jackson and Kerry Payton from Surfers against Sewage. They were asked to explain what Surfers against Sewage had been doing in and around Preston, what their Plastic Free Communities campaign was about and what Preston City Council had to do to become part of the Plastic Free Communities movement. A key point in the discussion was how Preston could achieve this accreditation via the five objectives, which were as follows:

Objective 1. Local governance (Lead by example)

Objective 2. Resistance hubs – Local businesses (that commit to removing 3 single use plastics)

Objective 3. Plastic free allies through community engagement (engaging with local schools, community groups e.g. Friends of Haslam Park etc.)

Objective 4. Plastic Free Rallies (clean ups, unwraps at a supermarket, publicity events on the park or flag market as an example)

Objective 5. Steering Group (Council to be part of the local steering group of organisations that are working to reduce plastics.) Maybe the Council could offer rooms for the meeting and be a member of the steering group with the Cabinet member for the Environment being the Council's representative on the Steering Group.

The full notes of the discussion can be viewed via weblink (see contents page - Appendix F).



#### 4. **Sub Group Interview – 17.9.18 – Friends of the Earth**

The Task and Finish Sub Group met with Nick Davey and Helen Rimmer from Lancashire Friends of the Earth.

##### **Water Refill Stations**

They discussed a memorandum of understanding that has been signed between local authorities and local businesses setting up and offering water refill stations and coordinating the 'Refill App' that would show locals and visitors the locations of water filling stations in the City.

The Council could take a lead on this by setting up at least 1 (maybe the new market could be a location) and encouraging and publicising to others who have joined the movement. Refilling stations on the bus station & railway station would be an ideal way to start (to discuss with LCC, Virgin trains & network rail).

More details can be found at <https://www.refill.org.uk/>

The Plastic Pledge:

This was very complementary to the scheme discussed with Surfers against Sewage at our last interview.

P: Practical solutions: Reduce plastic waste in our own operations

L: Local environment. Tougher enforcement and Council supported community litter picks especially where plastic gets into water courses.

A: Advice: provide local residents with advice on how to reduce plastic pollution

S: Schools: Work with LCC to avoid plastic pollution by reducing its use and through education to staff and pupils.

T: Target: Track how much plastic waste is created in the city and target our limited resources.

I: Innovate: We will inspire innovation through awards (working with local businesses and groups and publicise success through the council's media presence and local media organisations.

C: Collaborate: We don't know it all. Share best practice and collaborate with businesses and organisations to reduce pollution and improve funding

What Else:

The Council has made a start on reducing plastics and may well encourage organisers of events in the City to reduce plastics. What else can it do? One

area may well be when clothing and uniforms are replaced we move away from synthetic materials that shed micro fibres into the water each time they are washed and buy natural fibre clothing instead.

Following the interview, a full 'Plastic Pledge' was compiled (See Appendix E).

## 5. **Written responses / evidence from retailers**

### Waitrose

Waitrose (part of the John Lewis Partnership) directed us to their website which outlined what the company was doing to tackle the issue of single use plastics.

[http://www.waitrose.com/home/inspiration/about\\_waitrose/the\\_waitrose\\_way/packaging.html](http://www.waitrose.com/home/inspiration/about_waitrose/the_waitrose_way/packaging.html)

### Booths

Booths indicated that it has been taking great steps dramatically reduce the amount of plastic in the business and reducing plastic in our supply chain is a top priority for our buyers, suppliers, and manufacturers across the business.

They submitted some press links to the initiatives as follows:

<https://www.thegrocer.co.uk/stores/ranging-and-merchandising/booths-cuts-plastic-with-market-style-fruit-and-veg-fixtures/570867.article>

<https://news.sky.com/story/booths-supermarket-introduces-cotton-net-bags-for-fruit-and-veg-11481001>

<https://metro.co.uk/2018/08/24/booths-introduces-reusable-bags-for-fruit-and-veg-7878032/>

Unfortunately, they were unable to commit resources to a formal meeting at present but expressed support for the study and the campaign.

## 6. **Evidence from South Lakeland District Council**

### **(From a Press Release 27 February 2018)**

South Lakeland District Council (SLDC) is taking steps to tackle the environmental impact of plastic pollution.

SLDC has backed a campaign to offer free drinking water to encourage people to refill reusable bottles rather than use single-use plastic water bottles.

And in a further move to tackle plastic waste, Councillors have unanimously backed a motion at the (27 February) Full Council meeting that will commit the authority to phasing out the use of all single-use plastic products in its activities by the end of the year.

Anyone will soon be able to fill up their water bottle for free at SLDC's head office as part of a national scheme to cut the use of plastic and encourage people to drink more water.

From the beginning of March a water dispenser will be located in the reception area at South Lakeland House in Kendal that people can use to fill a reusable drink container.

The Council is encouraging other businesses in South Lakeland to follow its example, to help in the campaign to reduce the environmental problems that can be caused by single-use plastic bottles.

SLDC is supporting Refill, the national campaign committed to tackling the pollution of our rivers and seas with plastic.

Refill aims to reduce single-use plastic bottle pollution and promote healthy lifestyles by improving access to free drinking water on the go.

From the beginning of March, passers-by will be welcome to drop in to South Lakeland House during normal opening hours from to fill up their water bottle for free.

The intention is that the 'refill station' at South Lakeland House will be added to a mobile 'app' that maps a national network of places to get free tap water at high street shops, coffee shops, businesses and local authorities.

Whitbread PLC, which includes Costa and Premier Inn, is the first major company to sign-up to the Refill campaign, and has pledged to offer free drinking water for customers and passers-by in each of its 3,000 locations from March. The campaign hopes to have tens of thousands of refill stations across the country by 2021.

The Full Council agreed a motion proposed by Leader Councillor Giles Archibald, that sets a target for the Council to become 'single-use plastic free' by the end of 2018. The motion received cross-party support.

Councillor Archibald's motion read: 'This council will become a single-use plastic free council by phasing out the use of single use plastic products such as bottles, cups, cutlery and drinking straws in Council activities, where it is reasonable to do so, by the end of 2018 and to encourage our facilities' users, local businesses and other local public agencies to do the same by championing alternatives, such as reusable water bottles.'

Councillor David Fletcher, SLDC's portfolio holder for the Environment, commented: "We have key Council Plan commitments to reduce waste and protect our environment, as well as working to improve the health of our residents.

"These actions show that we are serious about our commitment to tackle plastic pollution as part of that environmental agenda.

"By refilling reusable water bottles, we can all help turn the harmful tide of plastic waste that we have all seen so graphically illustrated recently in television programmes like Blue Planet.

"The motion passed at Full Council is a further demonstration that we want to set the right example as a council by phasing out our own use of single-use plastic."

Councillor Philip Dixon, SLDC's portfolio holder for Health and Wellbeing, added: "The Refill campaign is not only good for the health of the planet but it is good for the health of the individual by making it easier for people to drink more water.

"We're putting a refill station in our reception at South Lakeland House and are now looking to install one in Kendal Town Hall and other publically accessible Council buildings.

"I would encourage other businesses and organisations in South Lakeland, however large or small, to follow our lead so we can create our own network of free drinking water in the district."

For more information on the Refill campaign and how to sign-up to the Refill network, visit: [www.refill.org.uk](http://www.refill.org.uk)

- The water bottles used at the refill station should be re-usable – not single-use plastic bottles, which are not designed to be refilled with tap water. The advice is that these reusable bottles should be regularly rinsed out, and periodically thoroughly cleaned.

SLDC has 100 re-usable plastic drinks bottles to give away to help residents to get started on their Refill journey. From the beginning of March they will be available on a first-come-first-served basis at South Lakeland House reception, one bottle per person while stocks last.

## **7. Findings and Conclusions**

1. The Task and Finish Group were very supportive of the “Plastic Free” movement and following interviews with representatives from Plastic Free Communities campaign and Friends of the Earth, concluded that the Council was well placed to lead on the issue and liaise with all the City’s anchor institutions, stakeholders and major employers to work towards Preston becoming a Plastic Free Community.
2. That the Council should take a practical lead by setting an example within its buildings to reduce single use plastics, encouraging its staff, and councillors bringing their own reusable cups to meetings in the town hall.
3. Concern was expressed about the plastic waste generated by the release of balloons and that the Council could do its part to address this by adopting a Corporate Policy with regard to limiting their use on Council owned land.
4. That the Council encourage the use of Refillable Water Stations in the City, via its events and contracts and by exploring their installations at Indoor Markets and Parks.
5. The Task and Finish Group proposed, if possible, the introduction of Accreditation Scheme to encourage local businesses, community organisations and schools to support the campaign which would assist the City in becoming the Plastic Free Community.
6. That the Council take a leading educational role regarding the use of single use plastics by making information available to the public, providing a training package and in addition by Councillors giving educational talks in local schools.
7. The Plastic Free Pledge was drafted at a later stage in the study by Friends of the Earth following their interview. To complement the Plastic Free Communities campaign, the Task and Finish Group requested that this be adopted, subject to the feasibility of the actions.
8. It was noted that Preston lacks a collection point for anyone in the City wishing to support the Eco Bricks campaign. Therefore, if possible, this should be pursued and investigated further.

## 8. **Corporate Management Team (CMT) Commentary**

- 8.1 CMT welcome the Scrutiny Task & Finish report and support the objectives of ensuring that the council continues to enhance its environmental sustainability. There are concerns that it will not be possible to fully implement the recommendations especially numbers 6&7 within the current resource allocation.

## 9. Implications

### 9.1 Legal and Financial Implications

At this point there are no financial implications. However there may be implications from the outcome of the recommendations, which would require further investigations.

#### Legal Implications

The Council will endeavor to reduce the amount of plastic it uses by incorporating its Plastic Free policy into its tender documentation.

### 9.2 Equalities Implications

This a very positive report. However, as regards of Councillors bringing their own cups to meetings, there should be consideration for disabled Councillors, some of who may be able to do this but not all in terms of carrying additional things. Therefore, some ceramic cups should be made available for those instances. By showing we have considered this and made a reasonable adjustment i.e. providing cups for people who would struggle to carry them we show we understand and consider needs of disabled Councillors both in post now and in the future.

At a future stage when the Council comes to consider policies arising from these recommendations there will be a full Equalities and Human Rights Impact Assessment.

**Council 19 April 2018**

**Notice of Motion – Plastic Free Preston**

1. Around the world, more than 8 million tonnes of plastic goes into the oceans every year. Consumers around the world buy 1 million plastic bottles a minute. Plastic production is said to quadruple by 2050. That means more plastic into the oceans.
2. Recent shocking footage shows albatrosses unwittingly feeding their chicks pieces of plastic. Whale calves are dying because they are drinking their mothers' milk that has been contaminated by plastic. These distressing images sum up the global problem. Plastic in the sea harms marine life and is arguably one of the biggest threats to the natural world today. Something must be done about it.
3. The supermarket Iceland is leading the way by becoming the first UK supermarket to go 'plastic-free' in its own brand products - a landmark decision in the fight against the negative impact of plastic on our planet.
4. We can start by urging our local supermarkets to follow in these footsteps, to make a stand and to lead the way in a new environmental pledge to eliminate the use of plastic in their own-brand packaging. This will be a significant (and achievable) first step in what could be a momentous movement in eradicating the use of plastic packaging altogether.
5. We the consumers are not simply going to stop buying plastic packaged goods. Therefore the change needs to come from higher up in the chain.
6. Let us stand together to make a positive change for our oceans and the marine life that is dying as a result of our irresponsible actions as human beings.
7. It has been suggested that if nothing changes, by 2050 there will be more plastic bottles in the ocean than fish. We cannot let that happen.
8. This is not something that can be achieved overnight but I am hoping we can, as a city, set an example. We lead the way with the Living Wage so why not with Plastic Free Preston?

This Council resolves:

- This Council supports the Plastic Free campaign initiated locally by Surfers Against Sewage working with members of other community groups including the Ribble Rivers Trust and Friends of the Earth.
- Preston City Council also supports the Plastic Free Communities campaign alongside other Councils: Aberystwyth, Weston-Super-Mare, Brighton, Devon County Council, Bristol, Aberporth and Penzance.
- That the Director of Environment be requested to write to our local supermarkets such as Asda, Sainsbury's, Tesco, Waitrose, Co-operative, Marks & Spencer, Aldi, Lidl and Morrisons to ask them to cut plastic waste on their own brand products to save the oceans from marine pollution and assist in reducing street litter.
- We can encourage our residents to write to local supermarkets as individuals by advertising this on the Preston City council web site, providing a pro forma example letter to make this easier.
- That the Council will ensure, wherever possible, that single-use plastic items are not used on its premises or at its functions.
- Preston City Council can also encourage employees to limit the use of single use plastic items such as bottles and use the water provided in the kitchens.
- That the Director of Environment should write to the Environment Minister to speed up policy changes to reduce the use of single use plastic, such as the banning of plastic straws and the introduction of a take back scheme for plastic bottles.
- That the Director of Environment be requested to write to Sir Mark Hendrick MP and Ben Wallace MP to ask for their support with this Notice of Motion.
- That in order to achieve the tasks detailed above, Council is asked to refer this Notice of Motion to the Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee, to enable them to establish a Task and Finish Group to fully consider the topic prior to referral back to full Council for consideration.



**ST MARY'S PRIMARY SCHOOL LEA TOWN PRESTON**

**MEETING - SCHOOL COUNCIL WITH PRESTON CITY COUNCIL (Task and Finish Group)**

**WEDNESDAY 4th JULY 2018 AT 2pm in school**

Present: Cllr Neil Cartwright (NC)

Cllr John Potter (JP)

Cllr Martin McKeever (MM)

Duncan Coward PCC Waste Management (DC)

Mrs Kelly McLaughlin St Mary's School (KM)

Christine Abram Parish Councillor/Governor (CA)

Pupils of the school council

Cllr John Swindells (JS) Chair

Welcome from Cllr N Cartwright and a thank you for attending.

The school councillors all introduced themselves and stated their age from 5yrs to 11yrs.

The Councillors introduced themselves and Duncan Coward, Head of Waste Management at Preston City Council.

**Comments and ideas from school council representatives:**

- One pupil explained that the poster asking pupils to only put plastic bottles in the new recycling bin was not large enough. The children needed larger writing so a new poster is to be made to make things clearer.
- Morrisons should use paper bags not plastic bags
- put up posters in shops to encourage less use of plastic
- the school might have a day with NO electricity to see how much they save
- have bin games – place a target over the bin to encourage children to throw their rubbish in.
- a parade in town to encourage less use of plastic

Posters made by the school were distributed.

The Task Group were informed that the school was also trying to save on paper etc by having ticketless and cashless fund raisers.

Cllr McKeever – what can we (Preston City Council) do?

- talk to other schools and community groups
- Can prisoners be used to pick up litter?
- We should use less straws etc
- Can plastic pens be recycled?

DC - some can but not all and now some companies are using wooden pens.

- Re-use drinking bottles

Councillor Swindells said that the school council had made an impact when they asked their question.

CA – informed the meeting that the school was very proud to have received an LEP award for “sustainability” following the council visit.

Cllr Potter – say no when offered a plastic straw or plastic bag

– we should have bins near the water for litter to protect our sea animals because a whale died from eating 80 plastic bags

- Do not use plastic ear buds or dental floss

CA - asked if school could have a new cardboard recycling bin as there was a lot of packing to get rid of in school.

DC – promised us a new bin for cardboard

### **School Council Rep - what are you (PCC) doing?**

Cllr Swindells – following the question at Full Council they stopped using plastic cups  
other suggestions:

Cllr Potter – no plastic spoons – get milk delivered in glass bottles

DC – little changes make a big difference – glass bottles being one

Cllr N Cartwright – put your waste in the correct bin

Cllr Swindells – refill your coffee cup

Cllr McKeever – pick up litter when you are out and about

– how can we make recycling plastic easier?

DC – not so simple in practice

CA – black plastic is difficult to recycle can we stop using it?

DC – the laser on the recycling belt does not relate to black plastic so it is difficult to detect and recycle. Supermarkets use black trays for meat and sandwiches.

Cllr Potter - take your own tub when out shopping for meat etc.

DC - when recycling tins please rinse them out

Mrs McLaughlin thanked PCC for coming into school and said she herself had learnt a lot at this meeting as she had only just taken over the school council.

The children were thanked and told that they had inspired Preston City Council to look more closely at using and encouraging others to use less plastic. After the Task Group has finished their work they will return to school to let the children know what difference has been made.

### SCRUTINY WORK PLAN STUDY TOPICS SCOPING 2018/19

#### TITLE - Plastic Free Preston

##### Key Background information

Concerns about the impacts of plastics, particularly single use plastics have been highlighted by the media, and this has resonated with the public. In April this year Cllr Abram, seconded by Cllr Swindells brought forward a Notice of Motion in respect of Single Use Plastics, which was adopted by the Council.

The Notice of Motion as adopted set out several resolutions

- Supporting the Plastics Free campaign.
- Supporting the Plastics Free Communities campaign.
- Writing to the major supermarkets to reduce single use plastics.
- Encouraging residents to write to the major supermarkets.
- Ensuring, where possible, that the Council does not use single use plastics.
- Encouraging Council employees not to use single use plastics.
- Writing to the Environment minister to bring forward legislation in this area.
- Write to the local MPs for their support with the Notice of Motion

The Council should be leading the way in both educating the public, offering information/advice to our own staff and providing an example of what can be achieved in reducing its use of single use plastics, thus helping to safeguard the environment for future generations.

##### Key people to hear from

A local Authority which has signed up to the Plastic Free Communities Campaign  
An Ambassador from the Plastic Free Pledge Campaign  
Representative from Environmental Charities  
PCC Facilities Officer/Manager

##### External Visit

Lea St Mary's Primary School

##### Lead Officer

Duncan Coward

##### Panel size

9 (5, 3, 1)

##### Time estimate

Short term - 3 months

##### Resources

Officer resources and Member Services

##### Target Audience

Cabinet, Government, residents, business community, retailers, manufacturers

Please see below a link to

[Notes of Interview with Surfers against Sewage / Plastic Free Communities 20.8.18 \(Web link\)](#)

## Appendix E

Please see below a link to

[Notes of Interview with Friends of the Earth 17.9.18 \(Weblink\)](#)

## Appendix F

### Following Interview with Lancashire Friends of the Earth – proposed actions for a Plastic Free Preston

#### The PLASTIC PLEDGE – local authorities helping end the scourge of plastic pollution

Our PLASTIC actions include:

P	Practical actions	<p><b>We will take practical action to prevent plastic pollution from our own operations and the premises and spaces we own.</b> We will lead the way for other businesses and the local community by continuing to replace plastic items in our council buildings with environmentally friendly non-plastic versions where practical. We will require similar high standards from those using our premises such as those in our parks and community halls. As part of this, we will work with the City Market to limit its plastic use so that it can become a place for the community to buy plastic-free items. We will investigate how the council can help bulk buying of compostable packing for traders to use. We will also look at how licensing rules for street traders and take-aways can be used to minimise plastics use. During tendering and contract renewal we will require action to minimise unnecessary plastic use in the services we contract out through. A similar approach will be adopted for Preston based events such as festivals where the council will help to supply reusable cups and water refill stations. Where plastic is essential we will encourage recycled plastic, in order to boost closed-loop recycling.</p>
L	Local environment	<p><b>We will minimise plastic pollution from our local environment.</b> Firstly, we will take tougher action on litter through identifying hot spots and targeted enforcement. The Council will support community litter picks by providing equipment, advertising and by attending events. We will also target litter for instance by limiting balloon releases through policies and by contacting local charities. We will encourage the public to reduce single use plastic water bottles by providing drinking fountains and water bottle refill points. This will partly be achieved by creating our own Refill scheme in partnership with City to Sea. We will aim to improve recycling services and provide advice on industrial composting.</p>
A	Advice	<p><b>We will provide our residents with advice on how to prevent plastic pollution.</b> We will provide support to the organisers of ‘Plastic Free Preston’ to develop their website into a professional information centre on the project. This website will include information tailored to the local area such as advice on what can be recycled and a directory on where alternative environmentally-friendly products can be bought or where reuse is available. We will work with local businesses and civil society in the meantime to find business to add to the directory. We will aim to make all the advice available in one place, including litter pick events; awards/recognition for individuals, schools and businesses; sample letters to supermarkets and the council’s own targets and progress. This will be accompanied by a social media campaign to promote businesses that have made changes and to advertise any events.</p>

S	Schools	<p><b>We will help schools avoid plastic pollution</b> through encouraging schools to sign-up to be Eco-Schools; support school children to audit plastic use in the school and develop their own posters and action plans. We will improve education by providing talks and increasing access to relevant children’s books. We will work with Lancashire County Council to identify if there are opportunities to replace single-use plastic items in school catering contracts.</p>
T	Target	<p><b>We will track how much plastic waste and pollution is created in our City so we can target our limited resources.</b> We will then work with others to track our progress on reducing plastic waste and litter. We will set clear and ambitious targets with specified time-frames for achieving the various goals outlined in the Plastic-free communities guide. We will also decide on what our over-arching long-term goals for this project will be, and who will be the champion for this work from the Council.</p>
I	Innovate	<p><b>We will inspire innovation and action through awards.</b> We will award those that have innovated new approaches and technologies to reduce plastic pollution from our area. To do this we will work with the local media to invite nominations from schools, local businesses, council staff, civil society and individuals. We will particularly celebrate innovative approaches that could boost the economy as well as address plastic pollution. We will also look to award businesses and schools that have made significant progress reducing their plastic use and waste. In addition, we recognise it is important to celebrate individuals and local champions who have contributed to the campaign or have set an example to the community.</p>
C	Collaborate	<p><b>We will collaborate with other organisations and businesses to reduce pollution and improve funding.</b> We will collaborate with the Environment Agency and the River Ribble Trust to ensure protection of our waterways. We will also work with businesses through the Local Economic Partnership to reduce plastic pollution and boost plastic recycling for essential uses. We will make use of existing communication networks with the partners of BID and will seek to give the ‘Preston Model’ an environmental arm. We will partner with other local authorities to share ideas and progress. Finally, we will work with local community groups and environmental groups to co-ordinate events and volunteering.</p>



Statement from St Mary's Primary School, Lea  
(in response to the report – November 2018)

**St Mary's Catholic Primary School Supports Work on "Action on Plastics"**

As a small local school, St Mary's Catholic Primary at Lea Town are very proud to have been a catalyst for "Action on Plastics" in Preston.

Part of our ethos at St Mary's is that we believe we should look after each other and the world around us. We were therefore really pleased that, following all their hard work in school on this topic (including increasing parental awareness at home), our children had the opportunity to talk to the City Council at the Council meeting in April 2018 to express their concerns on plastics and the environment. It is great to see the children's concerns had been recognised and that the City Council is starting to take action by publication of this report.

It demonstrates that our children really understand and are concerned about these important issues. Our children believe that we can all work together to help tackle the issues associated with single use plastics, thereby protecting the future of our environment for everyone and the generations to come.

We thank Preston City Council for listening to our children and their concerns and hope that all parts of the community work together to address this important issue.

Mr. G. Oakes  
Chair of Governors  
St. Mary's RC Primary School, Lea Town