

READING BOROUGH COUNCIL

STRATEGIC ENVIRONMENT, PLANNING & TRANSPORT COMMITTEE - 18 NOVEMBER 2020

COUNCILLOR QUESTION NO. 1 in accordance with Standing Order No.36

Councillor McGonigle to ask the Chair of Strategic Environment, Planning & Transport Committee:

Use of Single-use plastics within the Council

Further to this council's plan to reduce or eliminate the use of single-use plastics within the council, can we have an update on how that plan is progressing ?

REPLY by the Chair of the Strategic Environment, Planning & Transport Committee:

I invite Councillor Page, the Lead Councillor for Strategic Environment, Planning and Transport to make the response on my behalf.

REPLY by the Lead Councillor for Strategic Environment, Planning and Transport (Councillor Page):

I thank Cllr McGonigle for her question.

The Covid pandemic has resulted in a reduction within council buildings of single use plastic consumption, in addition to which there has been no catering provision in council offices and no associated plastic waste.

The Council has now stopped single use plastic cups, for example, at drinking water fountains.

The vending machines 'bring your own cup option' is working well across the Council's estate where we do have buildings open.

The Council is continuing to work with the corporate stationery supplier to reduce packaging and overall consumption, which is greatly reduced due to increased working from home.

Inevitably, as a result of the pandemic, the Council has had increased reliance on single use plastics for certain PPE items, such as masks, that are of a non-recyclable type and considered clinical waste.

However, where it is safe to do so, PPE items such as plastic face shields or goggles are washed and reused.

ENDS