

PLASTIC REDUCTION
STRATEGY
AND
ACTION PLAN



1.0 Executive Summary

This strategy sets out a vision for a Glasgow that is free of all unnecessary plastics by the year 2030. It highlights the context in which this has become a pressing issue and sets out an initial action plan for addressing it. National and global policy and practice are considered, as well as the legislative background. Local initiatives to tackle the challenges of plastic waste are described, together with proposals for further work in Glasgow by the Council, other partners, and residents.

Plastics are a problem for everyone. In recent years the planet has become inundated with them. Indeed, recent predictions indicate that, at current rates, by 2050 there will be more plastic in the oceans than fish.¹ Given the negative impacts of plastic waste on the food chain and wildlife, and its polluting effect on the environment, it is vital that action is taken now to address this issue.

The problem of plastic waste was one of the principal issues to emerge from a wide public consultation which informed the Council's work on its climate emergency report. Up until now, the Council has focused on a number of discrete projects, which have been designed and implemented with the aim of addressing particular aspects of the plastics challenge. This strategy acknowledges that such work needs to be driven in a more comprehensive way through the creation of a defined approach and action plan. It looks to bring together the Council and other city stakeholders from the public, private and community sectors.

This plastics strategy presents an integrated approach to the challenge of moving away from a throwaway society and the persistent employment of single-use plastics. It sets out an initial first year action plan, led by a specific focus on phasing out unnecessary single use plastics by the year 2022. These twenty-four actions for the year ahead look to influence individual behaviour change as well as collective efforts by city stakeholders to tackle the problem.

Some of the actions proposed in this strategy constitute small steps towards big changes. Others will require significant shifts in the culture and working practices of the city, its people and the organisations which serve them. All of them will help to make a difference and ensure that Glasgow plays its part in the transition to a healthier and safer planet for all.

¹ Ellen MacArthur Foundation: The New Plastics Economy, Rethinking the Future of Plastics

Contents

1.0	Executive Summary	page 2
2.0	Setting the Scene	page 4
3.0	Glasgow City Council - Plastics Reduction Initiatives	page 6
4.0	Legislative and Policy landscape	page 10
5.0	Plastic Reduction Consultation Work	page 14
6.0	Challenges and Opportunities	page 15
7.0	Plastic Reduction Action Plan	page 16
8.0	Monitoring and Review	page 16
	Appendix 1 - Plastic Reduction Action Plan	page 17
	Appendix 2 - Public Consultation responses	page 24

2.0 Setting the scene

2.1 The Problem

2.1.1 The widespread presence of single-use plastics is becoming a serious issue for the planet, with plastic materials now being found throughout the global environment. Plastic is both residual and toxic. It has been shown to cause a severe and lasting impact upon ecosystems and wildlife and as a result poses a serious threat to the future of life on this planet.

2.1.2 Virtually every single piece of plastic ever created still exists in some form on the planet. The sheer extent of the issue can be seen in the fact that plastic waste has reached the top of Mount Everest and the bottom of the Marianas Trench. A recent UN report has illustrated the severe strain under which the world's ocean systems are being placed by the behaviour of a single dominant species.² The fragility of ecosystems and the vulnerability of non-human species to the vast amounts of plastic waste is now all too evident.

2.1.3 Whilst the majority of plastic currently found in oceans, streams and on beaches represents 'legacy' plastic, there is an opportunity for Glasgow to play its part and work towards a zero input society in relation to further plastic waste.

2.1.4 A wide and varied range of plastics is found in society. This strategy particularly focuses on those plastics which are single-use and routinely thrown away. The use of these plastics needs to be minimised down to as little as possible whilst alternatives to them or re-use of them in a new form are also sought.

2.2 Pervasive Plastics

2.2.1 Globally there are grave concerns about the following plastic challenges. Wherever possible this strategy supports local action to address these issues:

- **Micro plastics and plastic pellets**

The term 'microplastic' refers to pieces of plastic smaller than 5 mm in size. As with other plastic items they are ubiquitous and long-lasting, being found throughout the aquatic (particularly marine) environment. In Scotland, microplastics have been found in the Firths of both the Clyde and Forth. Their potential impact on organisms and interaction with other marine contaminants remains largely unknown. The area of microplastics in the environment is still very much an emerging area of research with many knowledge gaps relating to their sources, abundance, types, effects and impacts.

² https://report.ipcc.ch/srocc/pdf/SROCC_FinalDraft_FullReport.pdf

- **Marine Plastics**

The River Clyde links Glasgow directly to Scotland's west coast. Through the Firth of Clyde, plastic waste from the city is discharged into the waters between Scotland and Ireland, and from there into the oceans. An awareness of the effects of plastics on the marine environment is therefore a key element of the city's approach to this agenda.

On the whole this issue relates back to single-use plastics, which are discarded as litter and end up in the river and its tributaries. Glasgow City Council has been participating with Keep Scotland Beautiful (KSB) on the Upstream Battle campaign in this regard (see Section 3.1.2).

The Council will support those organisations and bodies that seek to enhance and protect the marine environment and will continue to participate in raising awareness and supporting campaigns – such as those led by SEPA and the Marine Conservation Society.

- **Plastic Packaging**

The extensive use of often superfluous and unnecessary plastic packaging is a key issue which has an impact on a nationwide scale. The Council will support those organisations which are seeking to influence the national agenda for a reduction of plastics packaging, including Keep Scotland Beautiful, Zero Waste Scotland, and SEPA.

2.3 Local Action

- 2.3.1** It is the responsibility of everyone to take this concern seriously. Everyone has a part to play in efforts to reduce, reuse and recycle plastics and thereby prevent this material from becoming discarded and permanently remaining in the environment.
- 2.3.2** Local action is needed and small steps with a cumulative impact will be key to the city's contribution to tackling what is now a massive global issue. Raising awareness, educating and most importantly taking action across Glasgow will ensure that the city is doing its part with and for its citizens, enhancing the health of the city itself as well as supporting positive global citizenship and the future of the planet.
- 2.3.3** This strategy presents the action that Glasgow City Council has taken to date and proposes an Action Plan (Appendix 1) to ensure that momentum is sustained and that it grows, with the aim of bringing about extensive plastics reduction in the city.

2.4 Glasgow City Council – A Sustainable and Low Carbon City

2.4.1 As Scotland’s largest local authority, the Council has a responsibility to lead the way and set an example to others in relation to addressing the issues of a throwaway society, particularly in relation to single-use plastics.

2.4.2 Glasgow City Council’s operational activities and the daily working lives of its staff currently involve the use and discarding of a range of plastic items. It is therefore within the reach of the organization itself to make a difference from within its own practices.

2.4.3 The Council Strategic Plan 2017-2022 sets out seven key priority themes for Glasgow, one of which is to achieve a sustainable and low carbon city. This strategy and action plan relates both to this general theme and to the recommendations of the Council’s Climate Emergency Working Group on plastic issues.

2.4.4 To date a number of steps have already been taken to encourage and support those in both the public and private sectors to make more sustainable choices. Some notable examples include:

- The City Council launched the Environmental Business Scheme in 2010, supporting and recognising positive actions undertaken by small to medium sized business. Participating businesses are assessed on positive environmental action and in particular on proactive recycling schemes around the re-use or minimisation of plastics.
- The 2014 Commonwealth Games set an ambition to become the most sustainable games ever by asserting contractual requirements for caterers to use biodegradable food packaging. This packaging was used by authorised caterers throughout all eleven days of the Games. Subsequently, this requirement has led to a greener legacy as many caterers have chosen to continue with this best practice.
- In 2018, a Council committee report was approved which banned the release of balloons and sky lanterns at any events held on Council land within the city. This important decision has already resulted in a shift in how residents approach events and approach them with a more sustainable mindset.
- The Council has been a principal partner in work which has been pioneered by the Glasgow Chamber of Commerce on developing more circular business practices and opportunities for new business models based on circular principles. This approach fundamentally seeks to avoid waste and to up-cycle waste products as new inputs to sustainable product design and manufacture.

3.0 Glasgow City Council - Plastic Reduction Initiatives

3.1 More recently the Council, in direct response to emerging issues around single-use plastics, has implemented three specific interventions related to them.

3.1.1 Glasgow Cup Movement

With an estimated 95 million single-use cups bought in the greater Glasgow area each year, the city was an obvious place to begin a recycling service. According to Keep Scotland Beautiful (KSB), 48% of Glasgow's drinks waste consists of single-use cups - yet only 4% of them are currently recycled.

Glasgow City Council is leading the way in tackling single-use plastics by being the first city institution to sign up to the 'Glasgow Cup Movement'. In conjunction with KSB, this city-wide project gives the Council access to a collection service which can then fully recycle single-use cups into new plastic functional products.

Introduced in October 2019, seven collection units have been installed across the Council complex to enable and support staff to recycle single-use plastic cups.

In addition to this, the project educates staff on the waste hierarchy and encourages staff to seek alternatives to using single-use cups. This includes using a porcelain cup in café areas or bringing (or purchasing) a reusable cup. This initiative has been supplemented by staff discounts and competitions to incentivise behaviour change.



Image 1 – Cup Collection Unit

3.1.2 Upstream Battle

It is estimated that up to 12.7 million tonnes of plastic gets into the sea each year¹, equating to a truck full of litter a minute. Many programmes that tackle marine litter are targeted at cleaning up beaches. However, as 80% of marine litter comes from land this initiative from Keep Scotland Beautiful aims to address the issue at its upstream source where litter is washed into gutters, blown into streams or simply discarded.

The aim is to address the issue of marine litter by raising awareness and educating the public on the impact of plastics in the marine environment. In particular it focuses on plastic litter entering the Clyde and its tributaries, which ultimately leads to the sea.

The Council and partners already undertake a significant deal of work to prevent land blown litter and plastics from reaching water ways. This work ranges from cleansing services and enforcement action, supporting and coordinating community clean ups, and even operating “water witch” river boats, which clear plastic debris from the Clyde.

Upstream Battle has supported the Council to undertake targeted action in conjunction with neighbouring local authorities, thereby ensuring a strong and consistent message across the city-region. This has also included weeks of targeted action which have strengthened links with Anchor Groups, community groups, schools, businesses and members of the public to encourage those already engaged in litter and waste projects and to signpost interested parties to join the initiative.

¹ Keep Scotland Beautiful



Image 2 – Friends of River Kelvin (FORK) members undertaking their Upstream Battle survey.

3.1.3 Refill Initiative

It is estimated that, if just one in ten people in the UK refilled a plastic water bottle just once a week, this would remove 340 million plastic bottles a year from circulation.¹

The Refill initiative helps reduce plastic pollution at source by making it simple and easy to reuse and refill a bottle with free tap water rather than buy a new one.

Glasgow is one of only three areas in Scotland which have signed up to the Refill initiative <https://refill.org.uk/refill-scotland/>. The Refill app is used to find local Refill Stations that welcome passers-by to top up their water bottles.

Glasgow already has nearly 200 locations where citizens can fill their own bottle completely free. Each time this is done, one less plastic bottle is used.

¹ Refill Initiative



Image 3 – Image displayed by those participating in the refill scheme.

3.2 Waste Hierarchy

3.2.1 Behaviour change will be key to addressing issues of single-use plastics. Any action needs to be undertaken in the light of the “waste hierarchy”, which prioritises reducing, reusing and recycling waste in that order.

3.3 Household waste

3.3.1 Glasgow’s residents are provided with the means to segregate their own plastic waste through the blue bin service. This is part of a separate uplift from other waste bins.

3.3.2 More recently, the Glasgow Recycling and Renewable Energy Centre (GRREC) has become operational. It has the potential to divert around 90% of Glasgow’s mixed residual waste from landfill and be used as a source of heat and energy through an innovative gasification process.

3.3.3 The GRREC involves a three step process, involving a Smart Materials Recycling Facility which first extracts any materials that can be recycled, including certain plastics. Any organic waste is separated and sent to an anaerobic digester, and finally the remaining material is converted to heat and energy via a gasification process.

4.0 Legislative and Policy landscape

4.1 Legislative overview

4.1.1 Currently only waste and litter legislation exists to restrict or prevent wasteful activities around plastic.

4.1.2 The Waste (Scotland) Regulations 2012 make the following provisions: *“All businesses, public sector and not-for-profit organisations are required to present metal, plastic, glass, paper and card (including cardboard) for separate collection from 1 January 2014. A ban on any metal, plastic, glass, paper, card and food collected separately for recycling from going to incineration or landfill from 1 January 2014.”*

4.1.3 Whilst the current national legislation on separation and recycling sets a positive context, it does not yet address the “front end” creation and use of single-use plastics.

4.2 Strategic Policy landscape

4.2.1 Development of this strategy has taken account of the existing landscape in an international, national and local context. A significant amount of policy development exists around plastics, with a short summary of some of its outlines given below.

4.3 Global Policy Context

4.3.1 Across the world, countries, states, and cities are setting new standards for addressing the challenge of single-use plastics. A number of these have acted as trail blazers, already taking radical decisions to ban or phase out a number of products. Some examples are:

- **California:** In 2018, the state passed legislation to restrict the use of straws in restaurants and followed this by introducing legislation in February 2019 to phase out single-use plastic food containers by 2030.

- **Seattle:** In 2019 the city rolled out a ban on plastic food service items. There has been little opposition to the move and cutlery, plates and straws in restaurants that were once made from single-use plastics are now biodegradable or compostable. Seattle also banned the sale of plastic bags in 2012.
- **India:** In 2018 the country pledged to ban all single-use plastics by 2022. This is a huge commitment by the world's second most populous nation.

4.4 International Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) Policy Context

4.4.1 A number of International NGOs have provided direction in relation to plastics in order to protect the world's ecosystems. Examples include:

- **The United Nations.** The UN Environment Programme launched a global campaign called "Clean Seas" in 2017, with the aim of eliminating two of the major sources of marine pollution by 2022 - micro plastics and single-use plastics. The Clean Seas campaign calls for national and local measures, aimed at both the public and private sectors as well as consumers.
- **UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).** These have set ambitious targets for reduced pollution, more recycling, less waste and more sustainable production. Measures to combat plastic pollution also support SDG12 on responsible production and consumption and SDG14 on the reduction of marine pollution, including floating plastic debris.
- **The EUROCITIES Network.** This is a network of major European cities which consists of elected local and municipal governments. The EUROCITIES Environment Forum in conjunction with the City of Oslo (which is European Green Capital for 2019) is encouraging cities to sign up to a declaration on curbing plastic waste and littering. This includes a target to significantly reduce plastic pollution in cities and to report on progress by 2021.
- **The Ellen McArthur Foundation.** The New Plastics Economy is a key document creating a vision for a circular economy in which plastics never become waste.
- **The World Wildlife Foundation (WWF).** This organisation has stated that the average person could be ingesting a much as a credit card sized volume of plastics per week³, which provides a further incentive for action to be taken. WWF launched its "Stop the Flood of Plastic" report in June 2019, which has issued a call for action to all Mediterranean countries to set ambitious targets for zero plastic leakage into the natural environment by 2030, and for a ban on unnecessary single-use plastics.

4.5 EU - Policy Context

4.5.1 The 'European Strategy for Plastics in a Circular Economy' was adopted in January 2018. It seeks to clamp down on negative recycling practices such as exporting of waste to poorer countries; improve product design to promote the reuse of plastic products; assess and develop regulatory and/or economic incentives to recycle; to

³ WWF Report "No Plastic in Nature: Assessing Plastic Ingestion from Nature to People" 2019

develop harmonised rules on the use of biodegradable or compostable plastics; to curb micro-plastics, particularly looking at the unintentional release of micro-plastics through paint or tyres; and to take guidance on Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) fees.

- 4.5.2** The **'EU Single Plastics Use Directive'** was proposed in May 2018 and is due to come into force in 2021. This focuses on measures to tackle the ten most commonly found single-use plastic products found in the beaches and seas of Europe.⁴ Within this directive, the spotlight has also been focused on the potential for EPR fees as a key source of funding in both an economic and ethical context.
- 4.5.3** EU policy seeks to offer a holistic approach to plastic waste, incorporating all three themes of reduction, reuse, and recycling and targeting plastic waste right through the supply chain. It is incentivising the marketisation of plastic waste in conjunction with regulatory frameworks, to guide producers and consumers into being more responsible users of plastic.
- 4.5.4** Should the UK leave the EU, policies such as these are likely to be integrated into UK policy post-Brexit.⁵ As a result these policies will continue to influence and support government approaches to policy at both UK and devolved national levels.
- 4.5.5** Furthermore, EU efforts to promote the marketisation of plastic waste will set a context for UK bilateral trade arrangements with the EU and potentially with the rest of the world.

4.6 UK - Policy Context

- 4.6.1** The UK Government has a strategic ambition to work towards all plastic packaging placed on the market being recyclable, reusable or compostable by 2025.⁶ The stated ambition is to have zero avoidable plastic waste by 2050, and a target of eliminating avoidable plastic waste by the end of 2042.
- 4.6.2** Whilst the majority of plastics waste policy in Scotland is being developed and driven by the Scottish Government, there are some key consultations and subsequent proposals from the UK Government that relate directly to Scotland.
- 4.6.3** The **'Consultation on Reforming the UK Packaging Producer Responsibility System'** was published by the UK Government in February 2019. Its aim is to reduce the use of plastic packaging that is both unnecessary and difficult to recycle whilst increasing the amount of plastic that can be and actually is recycled. It also proposes that the full net costs of managing packaging waste is met by those businesses which introduce it to the supply chain and is therefore consistent with both the 'producer pays' principle and EPR.

⁴ This includes food containers; beverage cups; cotton bud sticks; sticks for balloons; packets & wrappers; caps and lids for beverage containers; beverage bottles; cigarette filters; wet wipes; sanitary towels; and cutlery plates, stirrers & straws.

⁵ The UK Government has said of the EU Strategy for Plastics in a Circular Economy that it, "will match or where economically practicable exceed the Directive's ambition."

<https://researchbriefings.parliament.uk/ResearchBriefing/Summary/CBP-8515>

⁶ Ibid.

4.6.4 The ‘**Plastic Packaging Tax**’ is the other key proposal being explored at a UK level. This was put to consultation in February 2019, and considers the possibility of a tax on all plastic packaging, and how such a system would operate. For example, it asked which packaging would fall under the tax scheme, how best to assess recycled content, and which businesses would be liable to be taxed under the scheme.

4.7 Scottish Government - Policy Context

4.7.1 The Scottish Government has pledged to meet the policy proposals laid out by the EU in this area and in particular has stated its aim to match the EU ambition for all plastic packaging to be economically recyclable or reusable by 2030.⁷

4.7.2 Policy on plastic waste in Scotland has often been discussed as part of the drive towards a circular economy, with the Scottish Government releasing “**Making Things Last: A Circular Economy Strategy for Scotland**” in 2016. This strategy promotes the reuse and repair of products or materials and focuses greatly on the ‘reuse’ aspect of the ‘reduce, reuse, recycle’ hierarchy. It also addresses the need to establish a more robust ‘producer pays’ framework.

4.7.3 One of the key emerging policy proposals from the Scottish Government surrounding plastic waste is its **Deposit Return Scheme (DRS)** for single-use plastic bottles. The Scottish Government aims to introduce this by 2021 and it will be the first of its kind in the UK. This aims not only to increase the amount of material being recycled, but to tackle the issue of littering and to spur behavioural change among citizens.

4.8 Glasgow City Council Strategic Plan – Policy Context

4.8.1 Glasgow City Council’s Strategic Plan 2017 -2022 outlines a Low Carbon and Sustainability theme, which this strategy directly supports. In particular:

4.8.2 Priority 67 states that the Council will work towards Glasgow “**Becoming a carbon neutral city by 2030 [previously 2037]**”. This Plastic Reduction strategy will feed into that overarching objective by adopting actions on plastics that support the reduction of carbon emissions in Glasgow.

4.9 Climate Emergency – Policy Context

4.9.1 The Council declared a climate and ecological emergency on 16 May 2019. The report of the Climate Emergency Working Group proposed 61 recommendations, some of which directly address plastic reduction measures.

4.9.2 The following recommendations from the climate emergency report are of particular note and have been incorporated into this plan:

⁷ Scottish Government, *Managing Waste*. <https://www.gov.scot/policies/managing-waste/>

- “We recommend that the city works to end single-use plastic waste and that it commits to developing Scotland’s first plastic free shopping zone”
- “We recommend that Glasgow’s schools formally engage with pupils on the climate emergency and the actions which can be taken to tackle it.”
- “We recommend that the Council develops a more sustainable approach to school meals and pilots the changes needed to move towards plastic-free school catering.”
- “Recognising that there is much the city can learn from the experience of new Glaswegians, we recommend that the Council and partners work with community and faith groups to ensure their voices are heard as part of a wider community climate conversation.”

4.10 Global Good Practice – Policy Context

4.10.1 The proposals for local action in this plan have been informed by consideration of best practice and innovative action on single-use plastics across the world. The following examples highlight issues of behavior change and the use of alternative materials:

- **Valencia:** Valencia is the first city to pilot its **Plasticircle** scheme. This EU Horizon 2020 project trials the use of smartcards for citizens to use at designated recycling points. The smartcard is used to print out a unique label that is then attached the bag of recyclate they are depositing. This then allows residents to be given rewards for recycling as they collect ‘ecopoints’. **This supports the need to consider investment in smarter and new technology as part of the solution to the problem.**
- **Indonesia:** Indonesia has been looking at environmentally friendly plastic alternatives, especially bioplastic made from seaweed. Indonesia has the second highest production rates of seaweed (China being first) and seaweed as a bioplastic offers promising potential. Unfortunately, bioplastics made from foodstuffs like corn, sugarcane and cassava require extensive deforestation, water usage and can compete with basic food production. Seaweed as a source of bioplastic addresses these issues as it is not a staple foodstuff in most nations, it grows quickly, doesn’t require fertilizer, and acts as a carbon sink. The Indonesian government has been working with entrepreneurs to try to stimulate this sector and it is believed that within five to ten years, Indonesian production of seaweed as a bioplastic could be on an industrial scale. **This could be particularly relevant for Scotland as seaweed is a significant resource for the country, which can support the need to be agile and innovative in response to any continuing need for plastic products.**
- **Cambodia:** Outside of public sector efforts to curb plastic waste, Cambodia’s ‘Refill not Landfill’ initiative has prevented millions of plastic bottles from entering the nation’s waste stream. It was set up by a prominent hotel owner and pushes for

businesses in Cambodia to offer citizens aluminium water bottles instead of single-use plastic ones. On the bottles is a list of key refill stations, alongside a QR-Code that, once scanned, will give the user a list of every refill station in Cambodia. **This supports new opportunities afforded by curbing unnecessary use of single-use plastics.**

- **Ghent:** The city has tackled the issue of single use plastic waste at its Ghent festival by requiring all vendors work with reusable cups. This was a complex project as there were fourteen different organisations involved. Vendors were incentivised by being offered subsidies where reusable cups were used. It was so successful that the regional government has now introduced legislation that requires all festival events to use reusable cups.

5.0 Plastics Reduction Consultation Work

5.1 Overview

5.1.1 This strategy has gathered views from key stakeholders, drawing on thinking around current best practice, assessments of the legislative and policy landscape, and suggestions for new approaches.

5.1.2 A short consultation was held in September 2018 with twenty key stakeholder organisations in order to gauge opinion on those actions which are considered essential. In addition, the request was also issued to all “Friends of” groups and equalities groups via the Glasgow Equalities Forum.

5.1.3 All responses highlighted the need for action on single-use plastic pollution and support for the Council in its efforts to tackle the issue.

5.1.4 The suggestions for action were wide ranging, from relatively small steps through to major interventions. They provided a context for further consultation as well as consideration of the following issues:

- Promotion of the waste hierarchy.
- Incentivising others to reduce, reuse and recycle plastics.
- Influence policy around procurement.
- Events and licensed premises.
- Public refill initiatives.
- Support bottle return schemes.
- Promote and incentivize circular economy.
- Improve education.
- Encourage public, private and community groups to become plastic free.

5.2 Wider Public Stakeholder Consultation

5.2.1 A wider public consultation was subsequently undertaken in July 2019 and received a total of 1,578 responses. The overwhelming majority of responses backed action

on single-use plastics from the Council, the private sector and the public, and reinforced support for all of the key actions listed above. More detailed results from this consultation are outlined in Appendix 2.

6.0 Challenges and opportunities

6.1 Challenges

- 6.1.1 Influencing positive change:** Whether influencing the public, private sector, or individual citizens, encouraging positive action will be key in a context where the Council does not have a direct role in bringing about preferred outputs. This will involve provision of meaningful information and advice about the impacts of plastic use across the city together with the need to consider suitable incentives to stimulate action.
- 6.1.2 Enforcement:** When looking at the potential for more direct action or a potential ban on certain SUP items, the issue of enforcement will need to be considered. This would require investment in staff time and resources in order to support enforcement of any such action.
- 6.1.3 Cost:** Any potential restrictions or bans on SUPs will require a robust impact analysis to be undertaken to ensure that all cost impacts are fully understood. It is not sufficient to compare the price of one item directly against another as there may be other indirect costs which can affect the viability of switching products.
- 6.1.4 Availability of suitable alternatives/ solutions:** Given the overwhelming public support for strong action, it will be important to consider suitable plastic alternatives. Where obvious alternatives are not yet available then innovation and research need to be supported. It is noted that this must be directed by the need to consider the full impact of any alternatives on all equality groups before undertaking major change.
- 6.1.5 Capacity to handle shifting waste streams and volumes:** Any robust action on SUPs has the potential to significantly change the composition of the waste stream, with which waste contractors, including the Council, currently deal. There is therefore a need to ensure that the capacity exists to process and handle increased amounts of plastic waste diverted from the marine environment.

6.2 Opportunities

- 6.2.1 Public support /behaviour change:** The overwhelming response received to the public consultation highlighted the support for strong and bold action when tackling the issue of single-use plastics. Such a clear sense of public opinion can help to provide confidence in further action on plastics across the city. Creating targeted communication campaigns will enhance public understanding and widen potential public support.

6.2.2 Climate Emergency: The national and local declaration of a climate emergency will lead to further significant moves to cut the city’s carbon emissions and support for other environmental policies. There has been cross-party political support for such action and a strong public appetite for the city to take a lead role in addressing such issues. Tackling single-use plastic waste is intrinsically linked to broader issues around sustainability in this light. The declared climate emergency presents an opportunity as well as a responsibility to utilise support from all sectors and communities across the city on the plastics agenda.

6.2.3 COP 26: Glasgow will host the UN conference of climate change (COP26) in November 2020. This fixed point in the life of the city gives the Council a huge opportunity to establish a radical re-visioning of the city’s approach to plastic waste and to showcase its action to a worldwide audience.

6.2.3 Multipurpose response: One of the most common concerns amongst Glasgow’s citizens is litter. Addressing plastic waste, which litters the streets and will not biodegrade, obviously overlaps with this issue. The impact of messy streets is a prominent issue for citizens and serves as another reason to address the connection between plastic pollution and litter.

6.2.4 Recycling Targets: Raising awareness of plastics issues in conjunction with the waste hierarchy principles should impact positively on recycling targets.

6.2.5 Circular Economy: There is an inherent circularity involved in plastic reduction measures, which will support policy development and more circular business opportunities across the City. This will also be a key element of the forthcoming Circular Glasgow Routemap, which will be published in 2020.

7.0 The Vision

7.1 In the light of the considerations presented above, the vision which informs this strategy is:

To work towards a city free from unnecessary plastics by 2030, phasing out all single-use plastics throughout Glasgow by the end of 2022.

7.2 The term ‘unnecessary’ plastics has been taken from the UK WRAP definition which states that plastics should be avoided where:

- Its use is avoidable; or
- reusable options are available.

7.3 This definition relates to the following items in particular:

- 1) Disposable plastics cutlery
- 2) All polystyrene packaging
- 3) Cotton buds with plastic stems
- 4) Plastic stirrers
- 5) Plastic straws
- 6) Oxo-degradables that break down to microplastics
- 7) PVC packaging
- 8) Disposable plastic plates and bowls.

7.4 The above list gives a sense of where the city should be heading towards 2030, but also should not be regarded as exhaustive. As technology develops and culture changes, the city's partners should expect to broaden their actions and include increasing amounts of plastic under the scope of the term 'unnecessary'. This will ensure that where plastic has a continuing role, it shall only be where it is seen as an absolutely necessary element of city life.

8.0 Plastic Reduction Action Plan

8.1 The need to halt the issues of a throwaway society and single-use plastics is a constantly evolving landscape. As a result, it is therefore considered that a one year plan of action is relevant, after this time progress will be reviewed and actions either refined or strengthened.

8.2 Twenty-three actions are outlined in the following Plastic Reduction Action Plan. These are grouped into five main action areas, which are:

- Glasgow's declaration on Plastic Reduction
- National Action
- City Wide Reduction
- Internal Action – Leading the Way
- Behaviour Change.

8.3 The Plastic Reduction Action Plan can be viewed in Appendix 1.

9.0 Monitoring and Review

9.1 The Plastic Reduction Action Plan will be monitored at three month intervals and after a one year period each action will be assessed and reviewed. Where necessary each action will then be refined or extended as appropriate.

9.2 An annual update on progress will be presented to partners and further actions agreed for the following year. This will ensure that the action plan can keep pace with national policy and legislation as well as enhancing the momentum which has been built in the city for further change.

APPENDIX 1 - PLASTIC REDUCTION ACTION PLAN

ACTION NO	SPECIFIC ACTION	TARGET	OWNERS	NOTES	TIMESCALE
GLASGOW'S PLASTIC DECLARATION					
Action 1	Glasgow City Council formally signs the EUROCITIES Environment Forum declaration on Curbing Plastic Waste and Littering.	To sign this declaration by the next meeting of the Environment Forum.	Glasgow City Council - NS.	Signing this important declaration helps to set the scene for Glasgow's plastics reduction aspirations and to illustrate the city's commitment to working together to reduce single-use plastics.	April 2020.
NATIONAL ACTION					
Action 2	Establish a working group to make representation to the Scottish Government on wider plastics issues including plastic bags and plastic packaging.	Prepare a City wide working group to raise local plastics issues with the Scottish Government for further consideration.	Glasgow City Council NS to co-ordinate with key city partners.	The extent of plastic packaging used by the retail sector was a strong concern raised through the public consultation. Whilst these issues affect Glasgow they cannot be addressed by the city alone and require national action.	May 2020.
Action 3	Explore the potential for Glasgow to act as a pilot city for the Scottish Government's proposed Deposit Return Scheme for plastic bottles, allowing the scheme to be introduced earlier to the city than across the country.	Undertake detailed discussions and feasibility studies with a view to piloting the Deposit Return Scheme.	Glasgow City Council – NS, Scottish Government.	This action would be a tangible sign of the city's willingness to address these issues and potentially be put in place in time for COP26.	October 2020.

CITY WIDE REDUCTION					
Action 4	Undertake a feasibility study with a view to a city-wide ban on specific SUP items (namely plastic straws, stirrers, cutlery, and takeaway boxes). This will take account of the legislative context, as well as the need for relevant exemptions for disabled citizens.	Feasibility report concluded by October 2020.	Glasgow City Council - NS.	This came through particularly strongly from the recent public consultation. This action will attempt to address the huge scale of single-use plastic waste.	October 2020.
Action 5	Provide support to businesses, caterers, licensed premises and event organisers on how to reduce SUPs in day-to day operations.	Prepare and circulate Best Practice guides to business by April 2020. Undertake two focussed workshop sessions to discuss reduction of plastics in businesses by Oct 2020.	Glasgow City Council – DRS Business Advisors, Licensing, Glasgow Chamber of Commerce.	This action will attempt to address the challenge of single-use plastic waste directly with the business sector.	October 2020.
Action 6	Continue to support the work of Best Bar None Glasgow to recognise and support licensed premises and venues which reduce plastics usage.	Continue to provide support and expand this annual awards scheme to ensure licensed premises and venues receive extra credits for the reduction of unnecessary single-use plastics.	Glasgow City Council NS, Best Bar None Glasgow.	This action will continue the positive work that has already been undertaken to date, instigated by the pupils of Sunnyside Primary School and the “NaeStrawAtAw” campaign. Best Bar None Glasgow provides extra credits to those venues which can demonstrate they have taken steps to reduce their use of plastics straws.	November 2020.

Action 7	Work to integrate the actions of the Plastics Reduction strategy with the forthcoming Circular Glasgow Routemap to identify overlap and opportunities between them.	Ensure integration of the plastics reduction strategy with the upcoming Circular Glasgow Routemap.	Glasgow City Council – NS, Glasgow Chamber of Commerce.	There are significant opportunities to see local plastic waste as an asset for circular business practices.	May 2020.
Action 8	Increase the number of top up taps in the city, which aim to be a catalyst to encourage more people to carry a refillable bottle.	Work with city partners, in particular Scottish Water and its “Your Water, Your Life” campaign, to increase the number of top up taps available across the City. Aim to have installed two additional top up taps by October 2020.	Glasgow City Council working with Scottish Water.	The need for action on single-use plastics bottles came through strongly from the recent public consultation. This action will work to improve the infrastructure to enable citizens and visitors to reduce their SUP usage.	October 2020.
Action 9	Take initial steps in developing the first plastic free shopping area in Glasgow.	Work with city partners to undertake a baseline survey on the quantity and type of plastics used by the retail and commercial shopping sectors.	Glasgow City Council, ZWS, Glasgow Chamber of Commerce.	The need to address the excessive use of plastics and packaging came through strongly from the consultation. This action will also support a recommendation of the Climate Emergency report.	October 2020.
INTERNAL ACTION – LEADING THE WAY					
Action 10	The Council will work to explore options to deliver a more sustainable approach to school meals.	This will include consideration and feasibility of options to address the changes needed to move	Glasgow City Council Encore.	The need to address the excessive use of plastics and packaging came through strongly from the consultation and from school pupils themselves. This action will also	October 2020.

		towards plastic-free school catering.		directly support a recommendation of the Climate Emergency report.	
Action 11	The Council will continue to participate in the Glasgow Cup Movement initiative in order to reduce the use of single-use plastic coffee cups and recycle those which are in the system.	An assessment of newly established recycling infrastructure will be undertaken. Consideration will be given to opportunities for the further roll out of additional infrastructure and a significant push towards reusable cups.	Glasgow City Council – NS, KSB.	The need for action on single-use coffee cups came through strongly from the recent public consultation. This action will work to improve infrastructure and information to enable Council staff and visitors to its premises to reduce their SUP usage.	May 2020.
Action 12	The Council will continue to undertake clean ups to support the Upstream Battle campaign and prevent marine plastics reaching the River Clyde.	Continue to co-ordinate clean ups that address the issue of plastics in the River Clyde and its tributaries.	Glasgow City Council – NS, KSB.	There is an urgent need to tackle the volume of plastic in the marine environment, with 80% of marine plastic coming from land sources. The issue of addressing waste in the River Clyde and its tributaries is a key element of a preventative approach.	October 2020.
Action 13	Undertake focused engagement with young people to discuss the impact of plastics as part of a climate emergency conversation, with a view to establishing Glasgow’s first SUP free school. This will be extended to an early years establishment, as well as primary and secondary schools	Prepare and deliver an engagement exercise to reach young people and foster a plastic reduction conversation.	Glasgow City Council - NS and Education Services.	The plastic reduction agenda has been a strong interest of young people. This was evident in the recent campaign to ban the use of plastic straws in Council run cafes, initiated by the pupils of Sunnyside	October 2020.

				Primary ('NaeStrawAtAw' campaign).	
Action 14	Undertake focused engagement with communities (including faith and equalities groups) about the impact of plastics to ensure that their voices are heard as part of a wider community climate conversation.	Prepare and deliver an engagement piece to reach a maximum number of residents and foster a plastic reduction conversation across communities.	Glasgow City Council – NS.	The need to address the excessive use of plastics and packaging came through strongly from the consultation. This action will also directly support recommendations from the Climate Emergency report	October 2020.
Action 15	Ensure that procurement policy pays reference to the need for plastics reduction in the context of supplier sustainability credentials.	Sustainability qualification information to be provided in tenders to encourage suppliers to address and improve their sustainability credentials particularly in relation to plastic reduction.	Glasgow City Council Procurement, Scotland Excel, City partner agencies.	Using influence through the procurement process will ensure that the Council and partners can encourage suppliers to improve their sustainability credentials, particularly in relation to plastic reduction.	May 2020.
Action 16	Undertake a refresh of the provision of information to citizens on recycling bins, and the transport and disposal of plastic waste. This will be undertaken as part of a wider communication strategy around waste management and recycling.	Provide information to citizens in relation to plastic recycling.	Glasgow City Council – NS.	Behaviour change is an aspect key to addressing issues of the throwaway society. Through the public consultation, responses asked for more information and advice on how to reduce plastic use.	May 2020.

Action 17	Continue to explore options to remove all SUP items used within Council and Encore cafes and increase the use of sustainable alternatives.	This will include consideration and feasibility of options to address the changes needed to move towards single-use plasticfree catering.	Encore.	The need to address the excessive use of plastics and packaging came through strongly from the consultation. This action will also directly support recommendations from the Climate Emergency report	October 2020.
Action 18	The Council will encourage staff to work towards plastics reduction and look to influence other partners.	Prepare a GOLD course to encourage Council staff to work towards plastics reduction as employees and citizens.	Glasgow City Council – NS, other city partners Glasgow Chamber of Commerce.	The Council and other partners, such as the NHS, are the largest employers in the city, where many citizens are also staff. Behaviour change is a key aspect of addressing issues of the throwaway society. Through the public consultation, responses asked for more information and advice on how to reduce plastic use.	May 2020.
BEHAVIOUR CHANGE					
Action 19	Support behaviour change action by learning from best practice in SUP minimisation at events held across the city.	Undertake a series of case studies on events held in the city which carry out best practice on plastics reduction, in order to inform policy and practice for future events. This will build on innovative practice in the circular economy,	Glasgow City Council – NS, Glasgow Chamber of Commerce.	The need to address the issues of SUP at events held across the city came through clearly from the public consultation. This is an area which, by its very nature, tends to work on a throwaway basis and there is therefore a pressing need to establish better practice.	October 2020.

		including work with the SEC.			
Action 20	Support pilot projects, research and development on SUP alternatives and promote circular practices across the city with on plastics.	Support pilot projects to address the issue of plastics. This will include supporting a pilot of the innovative “Bubble Barrier” in the River Clyde. Continue to support pilot projects looking to SUP alternatives. Seek funding, where available, to support research and/or pilot projects for circular work with regards to plastics.	Glasgow City Council – NS, Glasgow Chamber of Commerce, University Sector.	There are opportunities for the city to lead the way with innovative research and business developments. As society moves away from a reliance on PET plastic, there is a clear need to ensure that alternative products are sustainable and do not in turn create new problems.	Ongoing.
Action 21	Design and undertake a targeted communications campaign designed to inform and educate citizens and visitors on how to reduce, reuse and recycle their individual plastic use.	A targeted communication campaign to be delivered in support of the vision of this strategy. This will be focused on both residents and visitors to the city.	Glasgow City Council, KSB, Visit Scotland.	Behaviour change is key to addressing issues of the throwaway society. Through the public consultation, responses asked for more information and advice on how to reduce plastic use. Given relatively high volumes of potentially recyclable waste that is not recycled, achieving higher levels	Ongoing.

				of recycling among the public is key delivering this strategy.	
Action 22	Undertake research on the viability of smart recycling schemes that offer incentives for positive recycling practices.	Prepare and produce a detailed report on the viability of a smart recycling scheme that offers incentives to members of the public.	Glasgow City Council – NS, Scottish Government, ZWS.	New technologies and innovative approaches which can incentivise plastics reduction can play a complementary role in this agenda.	May 2020.
Action 23	Promote and endorse the Refill initiative across the city.	Develop a communications campaign which highlights opportunities to refill water bottles.	Glasgow City Council – NS, Refill, Visit Scotland.	Through the public consultation, responses asked for more information and advice on how to reduce plastic bottle use.	May 2020.
Action 24	Support the delivery of a COP that incorporates plastic-free principles and eliminates single use plastics.	Work with the organisers of COP26 in Glasgow.	Glasgow City Council - Corporate Services, COP organisers.	Hosting COP26 offers an opportunity to secure a plastic-free legacy for both future COPs and for Glasgow as host city	November 2020.

Appendix 2 - Public Consultation Response

1. In order to inform the development of a strategy to tackle plastic waste in the city, a public consultation survey was published on 19 June. The intention was to hear what residents feel are the important issues and to gather suggestions on the best ways in which to address them. The consultation questions are appended to this report.
2. The questions were a mix of qualitative and quantitative ones so that a broad perspective on what Glaswegians see as important could be generated, together with some numerical data to support analysis. The survey ran for six weeks and received 1,578 responses.
3. Respondents gave the following information about their gender identity:
 - Male 35.6% (n= 479)
 - Female 63.2% (n= 851)
 - In another way... 1.3% (n= 17)

The age range of respondents was:

			Response Percent	Response Total
1	16 – 24		12.38%	167
2	25 – 34		34.4%	464
3	35 – 44		22.24%	300
4	45 – 54		18.01%	243
5	55 – 59		6.89%	93
6	60 - 64		3.63%	49
7	65+		2.45%	33
			answered	1349
			skipped	229

The number of respondents who self-identified as having a disability or long-term limiting illness was 5.07% (n= 80)

			Response Percent	Response Total
1	Scottish		62.97%	903
2	British		18.48%	265
3	Irish		2.79%	40
4	Other white background		10.11%	145
5	Mixed background		2.02%	29
6	Indian		0.14%	2

7	Pakistani		0.42%	6
8	Other Asian background		0.28%	4
9	African		0.28%	4
10	Other black background		0.07%	1
11	Chinese		0.42%	6
12	Other		2.02%	29
			answered	1430
			skipped	148

1. To what extent do you agree or disagree that Glasgow City Council should take some form of action to reduce the use of single-use plastics?

		Response Percent	Response Total
1	Strongly agree		92.88% 1462
2	Tend to agree		5.21% 82
3	Neither agree nor disagree		0.57% 9
4	Tend to disagree		0.70% 11
5	Strongly disagree		0.64% 10
6	Don't know/No opinion		0.00% 0
Analysis	Mean:	1.11	Std. Deviation: 0.48
	Variance:	0.23	Std. Error: 0.01
		Satisfaction Rate: 2.2	
			answered 1574
			skipped 4

2. Which, if any, of the following should the Council focus on first when trying to reduce the use of single-use plastics?

		Response Percent	Response Total
1	Plastic bottles		82.67% 1302
2	Plastic bags		61.27% 965
3	Straws		41.90% 660
4	Plastic stirrers		38.73% 610
5	Coffee cups		56.95% 897
6	None of the above		0.76% 12
7	Other (please specify):		17.90% 282
			answered 1575

2. Which, if any, of the following should the Council focus on first when trying to reduce the use of single-use plastics?

						Response Percent	Response Total	
Analysis	Mean:	9.01	Std. Deviation:	10.85	Satisfaction Rate:	100.05	skipped	3
	Variance:	117.78	Std. Error:	0.27				

3. To what extent do you agree or disagree the Council should incentivise people to reduce their use of, and reuse and recycle plastics?

						Response Percent	Response Total	
1	Strongly agree					72.05%	1134	
2	Tend to agree					18.93%	298	
3	Neither agree nor disagree					4.38%	69	
4	Tend to disagree					2.92%	46	
5	Strongly disagree					1.08%	17	
6	Don't know/No opinion					0.64%	10	
Analysis	Mean:	1.44	Std. Deviation:	0.88	Satisfaction Rate:	8.79	answered	1574
	Variance:	0.77	Std. Error:	0.02			skipped	4

4. In what ways do you think the city could incentivise people to reduce their use of and reuse and recycle plastics?

						Response Percent	Response Total	
1	Provide small cash refund for plastic returns					61.95%	881	
2	Provide vouchers or discounts for plastic returns					48.38%	688	
3	Provide discounted rates for businesses who ban single-use plastic					75.39%	1072	
4	Other (please specify):					15.26%	217	
Analysis	Mean:	4.46	Std. Deviation:	3.46	Satisfaction Rate:	81.65	answered	1422
	Variance:	11.98	Std. Error:	0.09			skipped	156

Responses in the “Other” section include:

Whilst the majority of responses for the ‘Other’ section in the question above suggested either banning single-use plastics or using positive incentives to promote recycling, there were some novel suggestions made about trying to strengthen awareness of the links

between plastic and pollution:

“Large scale public art projects i.e. murals on derelict buildings etc.”

“Promote to older people at cinema/theatre/restaurants/cafes.”

“Empower local communities, inform them. Give tools to decentralised groups.”

“More signage on the street - triangular column info signs.”

5. What more, if anything, could businesses do to reduce the use of, reuse and recycle single-use plastics?

When asked what more businesses could do in the city to reduce use of, reuse and recycle plastics, respondents focused on a few key themes that ran throughout the rest of the consultation. Cutting down on the use of plastic packaging, and looking for more environmentally friendly alternatives (such as wood, or compostable plastic) were the main suggestions:

“Reduce plastic packaging, make all packing recyclable and offer own recycling for returned plastic, or offer incentive for bringing back plastic to be reused.

Opt for glass where safe, completely cut out plastic where possible. Hire out non plastic or reusable plastic straws, introduce incentive schemes, come up with different sustainable straw material options, promote straws and drinking vessels for a better, less polluted world. Set up campaigns to bring awareness of the use of single-use plastic straws - take responsibility for what their business does to the world and force their customers to be aware of what their actions have on their world too.”

Respondents also called for more robust recycling procedures, a better refill infrastructure for reusable water bottles, discounts for employee good practice, and the banning of both single-use plastics, and takeaway coffee cups.

6. What more, if anything, could event organisers do to reduce the use of, reuse and recycle single-use plastics?

A similar pattern of opinion was identified when respondents were asked what more event organisers could do to reduce the use of, reuse and recycle plastics. It was felt that more could be done by event organisers to find alternatives to their plastic use, particularly plastic cups and straws. Some added that sustainability had to be integrated into the ticket price of events:

“For a small fee give out reusable drink holders and more than adequate places for recycling and rubbish.”

“Up the entry price slightly and only have sustainable packaging/cutlery etc on site at events.”

7. What more, if anything, could licensed premises do to reduce the use of, reuse and recycle single-use plastics?

Respondents held much of the same views for licensed premises, although comments were weighted more towards plastic straws and recycling procedures as plastic cups were less of an issue for licensed premises:

“Don’t give plastic straws, stirrers, single-use cutlery etc for free. Always provide tap water. Have drinks on draft, in cans or glass bottles, or if only available in plastic then larger volume from which staff pour serving, not individual plastic bottles. No non-biodegradable balloons when premises are decorated. Some sort of rating/accreditation system, e.g. how a hospital has to pass certain things to be rated Baby Friendly by UNICEF, or a beach gets a rating. Licensed premises could get Eco-ratings.”

“Maybe, as part of any food hygiene inspection the premises could be awarded some kind of certificate to show that they have attained a certain recycle level, say 50%, 75%, 100% to be displayed for customers.”

8. Are you aware of the Refill initiative and App?								
						Response Percent	Response Total	
1	Yes					18.30%	257	
2	No					76.85%	1079	
3	Don’t know/Cannot remember					4.84%	68	
Analysis	Mean:	1.87	Std. Deviation:	0.46	Satisfaction Rate:	43.27	answered	1404
	Variance:	0.21	Std. Error:	0.01			skipped	174

9. What more, if anything, could the City do to increase the uptake of the Refill initiative?

There was a sense that a large increase in advertising was required, alongside expanding the Refill network, to stimulate an uptake of the initiative. Respondents suggested advertising on radio, social media, TV, in schools, and on billboards amongst others:

“I am not aware of the refill initiative so perhaps more posters, more information in local schools, public spaces, social media, etc.”

10. Are you aware of the Scottish Governments proposed bottle return scheme?							
						Response Percent	Response Total
1	Yes					65.25%	909
2	No					31.95%	445
3	Don’t Know/Cannot remember					2.80%	39
						answered	1393

10. Are you aware of the Scottish Governments proposed bottle return scheme?

						Response Percent	Response Total	
Analysis	Mean:	1.38	Std. Deviation:	0.54	Satisfaction Rate:	18.77	skipped	185
	Variance:	0.29	Std. Error:	0.01				

11. To what extent would you support Glasgow introducing a local bottle return scheme?

						Response Percent	Response Total	
1	Strongly support					84.27%	1179	
2	Tend to support					10.94%	153	
3	Neither support nor oppose					1.86%	26	
4	Tend to oppose					1.00%	14	
5	Strongly oppose					1.14%	16	
6	Don't know/No opinion					0.79%	11	
Analysis	Mean:	1.26	Std. Deviation:	0.76	Satisfaction Rate:	5.23	answered	1399
	Variance:	0.58	Std. Error:	0.02			skipped	179

12. What more, if anything, could the Council do to inform people about the pollution problem created by single-use plastics?

						Response Percent	Response Total	
1	Provide more education to school age children					81.18%	1100	
2	Provide more information to members of the public					77.49%	1050	
3	Provide a list of key actions for members of the public to take					73.36%	994	
4	Provide more information to community groups					47.82%	648	
5	Provide more information to business					70.70%	958	
6	Provide more information via social media channels					65.61%	889	
7	Other (please specify):					15.65%	212	
Analysis	Mean:	15.04	Std. Deviation:	24.32	Satisfaction Rate:	178.73	answered	1355
	Variance:	591.62	Std. Error:	0.66			skipped	223

13. In your opinion, what is the single most important issue that Glasgow should tackle in our forthcoming Plastic Strategy?

14. Do you have any examples of good practice that you would like to share?

Combined response to Questions 13 and 14 below;

Whilst the Council's recycling strategy and single-use plastics were the two most prominent issues identified by respondents, other issues were highlighted. The extensive use of plastic packaging, as a subsidiary issue of single-use plastics, was raised as an issue, particularly the role of business in addressing this. There was a sense that the business community could do a lot more to tackle their plastic waste:

"Supermarkets and their use of superfluous packaging. A lot of veg, for example, doesn't need to be packaged and can be sold by weight. Paper bags for bakery and veg/fruit items, as well."

"Packaging at a business level. Consumers can make every good choice they can but so much of the scale of waste is hidden from them. By going back in the chain and working at a wholesale level in business you could make enormous changes."

"Businesses - especially office blocks being more accountable. I say this as an office worker and my company has zero interest in taking action."

A strong focus on education also emerged, whether that was education of children in schools about the issue of plastic waste, or individuals and businesses about how best to reduce their plastic waste:

"Educating the ignorant percentage, because from personal experience, there are many people who are aware of the danger lane of plastic but simply do not care. As a school child myself, my fellow pupils may lack maturity, but when things are put in to perspective about the dire consequences of the climate crisis they may care!!"

"Educate adults. I think for the most part kids get it, schools talk about it and kids understand there is a problem but adults don't or choose to ignore it. I see more adults littering than kids and it always seems to be the middle generation (40s - 60s). Drivers littering is another issue, a lot of people now have dash cams so encourage them to report anyone they see littering and provide the dash cam footage as evidence."

Littering was also mentioned as an issue that the Council should tackle in its forthcoming plastic strategy. Many also made the point that efforts should be made to *reduce* plastic waste in conjunction with better management of it:

"Littering needs to be addressed- incentives to pick up any plastic that can be recycled."

"It's shameful how much plastic waste is seen littered about Glasgow. People have little civic pride. A campaign to make people more aware of the selfishness plastic litter causes would be great."

"Emphasis should be on reduce and reuse rather than recycle."