



NOTE TO:	Performance Monitoring Panel
DATE:	24 January 2023
SUBJECT:	Sustainable Products Policy Briefing Note
PURPOSE:	To provide an update on plans for a framework to ensure the newly adopted Sustainable Products Policy is successfully monitored and measured across the Partnership.
NOTE OF:	Climate Change and Environment Manager

NOTE:

The Sustainable Products Policy was adopted by South Holland District Council on 16 November 2022 finalising its adoption across the South and East Lincolnshire Councils Partnership.

Since then, the Climate Change and Environment Team have met with the new Head of Procurement & Contracts to discuss how this will fit within a new draft Procurement Strategy. This is a positive initial step given that procurement decisions have previously not given any consideration to issues of this nature. Officers are currently working to explore what existing tools/frameworks are in existence across other Councils to consider what inclusion in our Procurement Strategy may need to look like without reinventing the wheel. The draft Procurement Strategy is due to be ready, subject to approval, by April 2023.

Alongside this, the Climate Change and Environment Team will start in early 2023 to identify 'quick wins' in line with the new Sustainable Products Policy. Undertaking a full audit is not possible because the recording of procurement decisions and purchases across Councils and departments has not been routinely undertaken. Instead, contact with key teams/services alongside visits to main Council assets will help determine current usage of items. Examples of particular items considered may include things such as the purchasing of paper towels, sugar/milk sachets and small bottles of cleaning products/materials. This information can then be used to identify opportunities to change or reduce how items are purchased, particularly where this is done below a threshold which may trigger wider Procurement Strategy guidance.

Officers will also be contacting other Councils that have existing single-use waste policies to understand the monitoring frameworks they have in place. Once again, reinventing the wheel when there are potentially mechanisms already in existence does not seem a constructive use of time so sharing of knowledge which can be altered to suit our own local requirements will be prioritised if such frameworks exist.

Some form of baseline understanding of existing purchasing in relation to single-use products is required before embedding any form of monitoring framework. As outlined, this is in itself a challenging exercise. Careful consideration will need to be given to how any monitoring of the Sustainable Products Policy is dovetailed within wider procurement monitoring or whether it needs to be considered as a separate monitoring framework.

A report will be brought back to PDP in April/May 2023 in relation to progress on the above by which time the draft procurement strategy should have been agreed and an initial audit/identification of 'quick wins' should have taken place.