



REPORT TO:	PERFORMANCE MONITORING PANEL
DATE:	14 TH MARCH 2023
SUBJECT:	SUSTAINABLE PRODUCTS POLICY - MONITORING MEASURES
PURPOSE:	TO SET OUT A PACKAGE OF MONITORING MEASURES TO ENSURE SUCCESSFUL IMPLEMENTATION OF THE SUSTAINABLE PRODUCTS POLICY
KEY DECISION:	N/A
PORTFOLIO HOLDER:	LORD GARY PORTER
REPORT OF:	ASSISTANT DIRECTOR - REGULATORY
REPORT AUTHOR:	HEATHER PRESCOTT – CLIMATE CHANGE AND ENVIRONMENT OFFICER
WARD(S) AFFECTED:	N/A
EXEMPT REPORT?	NO

SUMMARY

Following the adoption of the Sustainable Products Policy in November 2022, a number of measures have been identified to monitor the successful implementation of this policy and improve sustainability across our operations by embedding the Sustainable Products Policy in the procurement framework and discontinuing the purchase of single use products where possible.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Policy Monitoring Panel are recommended to:

Approve the monitoring measures outlined in this report to support the successful implementation of the Sustainable Products Policy, in line with the Council's commitments to resource and waste management, and mitigation and adaption to Climate Change.

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

South Holland District Council is committed to ensuring a sustainable approach to resource management and adoption of this policy was listed as a corporate priority in the South and East Lincolnshire Council's Partnership Annual Delivery Plan. The Sustainable Products Policy and associated monitoring measures will assist us in establishing practices for a more sustainable future, thereby supporting us in meeting our net zero targets and reducing the environmental impact of our operational activities, in line with the Climate Change Strategy.

OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

None. Local authorities have a legal obligation to produce plans and policies to adapt to and mitigate climate change in line with the provisions of the Climate Change Act 2008. This policy and the associated monitoring measures will assist the Council in achieving our net zero targets in line with the Climate Change Strategy, alongside other co-benefits.

1. BACKGROUND

- 1.1** The production of single use products and the resultant waste from their usage and disposal are one of the greatest environmental concerns we face globally today. The South and East Lincolnshire Councils Partnership (SELCP) has therefore sought to address this issue via the adoption of the Sustainable Products Policy which SHDC approved in November 2022.
- 1.2** This policy has made a commitment to discontinuing the procurement of single use products within our internal operations, as far as possible, and finding the best alternative solutions where single use products cannot be eliminated completely. To achieve this, we must embed the Sustainable Products Policy in the Procurement Framework of the Partnership authorities, to ensure an aligned approach and establish a culture of reuse and recycling across the Partnership.
- 1.3** Following the adoption of the Sustainable Products Policy, a number of measures have therefore been identified to monitor the successful implementation of this policy and improve sustainability across our operations.

2. REPORT

Monitoring Measures

- 2.1** The establishment of a Sustainable Products Transition Group has been identified as a key measure to ensure that representatives from across SELCP have greater ownership over the policy and are able to have influence over the changes we need to make. Representatives on the Sustainable Products Transition Group will be well positioned to advise us about the products they use and provide a great deal of operational insight, informing a wider picture

of purchasing habits across the authority to be established. The formation of this group will also enable representatives to give feedback on transitions to new products which can be reported back to the Climate Change & Environment Team. The group will be drawn from representatives across relevant services areas and authorities and will meet quarterly. Representation will likely include the Procurement, Facilities and Waste Teams, along with Cleansing supervisors.

- 2.2** Initial audits of products in operational buildings and the development of a single use products register will assist us with understanding our current requirements and identifying commonly purchased items which may need to be replaced with more sustainable options, where usage cannot be discontinued. Utilisation of quarterly procurement reports will also allow us to monitor changes over time.
- 2.3** The production of a most-used suppliers list and an assessment of their environmental and social value credentials will ensure that due consideration is given to the green credentials of companies during the tender process for membership of future procurement frameworks. Following completion of this assessment we will work closely with contractors and suppliers with a view to improving the green credentials of framework organisations, and to ensure provision of sustainable products where transitions are required.
- 2.4** A communications campaign focussed on raising awareness of the policy and how services can contribute, will seek to ensure that a culture of reuse and recycling is successfully established, and conscientious consumption is encouraged and promoted across the Partnership. This will include a 'single use products challenge' for staff and members to engage with. Procurement training will also be offered to staff and will include a section around sustainability to raise awareness of the importance of these considerations when making procurement decisions.
- 2.5** Where feasible we will also look to implement the Re-fill scheme and other recycling schemes such as Terracycle, pod recycling, and battery recycling, across our operational sites, to further promote cultural awareness and change and support our local communities to do their bit.

Challenges and Looking to the Future

- 2.6** A Joint Head of Procurement and Contracts has recently been appointed and a new Procurement Strategy has now been drafted. This strategy will assist with the alignment of Procurement operations across the Partnership. Successful implementation of the Sustainable Products Policy will however be reliant on the ability to embed the relevant themes within the Procurement Strategy and build education and monitoring opportunities into this framework. The Climate Change and Environment Officer will therefore meet with the Joint Head of Procurement and Contracts on a bi-monthly basis, to ensure continued close working towards the necessary cultural and strategic changes which will be required for the successful implementation of this policy, to ensure alignment of the Sustainable Products Policy and Procurement Strategy and support improved centralisation of procurement processes.

2.7 Historically the three SELCP Council's have carried out procurement tasks in a piecemeal fashion using separate systems, individual accounts, and payment methods such as P-cards. This approach has led to the inability to access comprehensive purchasing records and there is no centralised system to enable us to carry out a comprehensive audit at this time. We will therefore seek to address this where possible and undertake initial audits of supplies at operational buildings in the short term. Initial audits of products in operational buildings are to be completed within the next three months and an assessment of current suppliers, within the next six months.

3. CONCLUSION

3.1 The monitoring measures outlined in this report seek to ensure that the Sustainable Products Policy is successfully embedded within the procurement framework, that procurement of single use products is discontinued wherever possible and transitions to plastic-free or more sustainable alternatives are made where usage cannot be discontinued. A culture of reuse and recycling, as well conscientious procurement decision making will also need to be encouraged and promoted across the partnership. These cultural and strategic changes will take time to establish but will also ultimately be key to achieving the aspirations of the Sustainable Products Policy. It is therefore recommended that reporting against the monitoring measures outlined in this proposal take place on an annual basis.

EXPECTED BENEFITS TO THE PARTNERSHIP

The Sustainable Products Policy was developed as a cross-partnership policy aiming to assist us in meeting our net zero targets and the aspirations of our Climate Change Strategy, providing reputational benefits through our accountability as a community leader. Improving our waste and resource management also provides environmental and health benefits resulting from reduced pollution levels. The development of monitoring measures will be crucial to ensure that the implementation of this policy is successful.

IMPLICATIONS

SOUTH AND EAST LINCOLNSHIRE COUNCILS PARTNERSHIP

Our ambition seeks to align activity and action across the three sovereign councils to deliver environmental benefits across the subregion, and shared learning for the benefit of the Partnership.

CORPORATE PRIORITIES

The Sustainable Products Policy and associated monitoring measures have been developed in line with the strategic aims of the South and East Lincolnshire Council's Partnership and the corporate priorities of the three Councils. Adoption of this Policy was listed as a corporate priority in the South East Lincolnshire Council's Partnership Annual Delivery Plan and the monitoring measures identified will assist with its successful implementation.

STAFFING

None.

CONSTITUTIONAL AND LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

Local authorities have a legal obligation to produce plans and policies to adapt to and mitigate climate change in line with the provisions of the Climate Change Act 2008 and failure to do so could result in a legal challenge being made.

DATA PROTECTION

None.

FINANCIAL

External funding opportunities will be sought wherever possible whilst ensuring that future expenditure within existing Council budgets seeks to include carbon savings and waste management as part of the procurement and delivery of services. The completion of an audit will confirm whether any increase in expenditure will be required to achieve the aims of this policy however it is often the case that financial savings can be made through reduced waste disposal costs and bulk purchasing.

RISK MANAGEMENT

None.

STAKEHOLDER / CONSULTATION / TIMESCALES

Consultation with Key Officers and portfolio holder have been undertaken.

REPUTATION

Adoption of the Sustainable Products Policy and the subsequent identification of monitoring measures which seek to ensure the successful implementation of this policy, highlight our commitment to meeting both our net zero targets and environmental aims, enhancing our reputation as a community leader and setting a positive example for others to follow.

CONTRACTS

None.

CRIME AND DISORDER

None.

EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY/ HUMAN RIGHTS/ SAFEGUARDING

None.

HEALTH AND WELL BEING

The Sustainable Products Policy aims to deliver positive outcomes for the natural environment and the health and wellbeing of our communities. Plastic products in particular release chemicals during their degradation which have a negative impact on plant and animal habitats and once released the resultant gas emissions can be toxic, having adverse effects on both the environment and human health.

CLIMATE CHANGE AND ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

Commitment to our net zero targets will be crucial, alongside the work of all other authorities, businesses and individuals in the global battle to reduce our carbon emissions and limit climate

change to temperature increases of well below 2% in line with the Paris Agreement. Failure to do so would be catastrophic to the environment with extreme weather events expected to become more frequent and severe.

At current levels, greenhouse gas emissions from the plastic lifecycle threaten our global commitment to the Paris Agreement. Successful implementation of this policy is therefore vital to ensure that we effectively manage our waste and reduce its impact. It is a global problem of which we can only make a small contribution, but we must seek to reduce our operational footprint as far as possible and manage our waste in a considered and environmentally conscientious manner.

LINKS TO 12 MISSIONS IN THE LEVELLING UP WHITE PAPER

MISSIONS	
This paper contributes to the follow Missions outlined in the Government’s Levelling Up White paper.	
Health	The Sustainable Products Policy seeks to reduce pollution and contamination of the food web thereby reducing hazards to health across the sub-region
Wellbeing	The Sustainable Products Policy supports a more sustainable future for our operations which will lead to improved wellbeing for staff and ultimately residents.
Local Leadership	The Sustainable Products Policy highlights our commitment to meeting both our net zero targets and environmental aims, enhancing our reputation as a community leader and setting a positive example for others to follow.

ACRONYMS

None.

APPENDICES	
Appendices are listed below and attached to the back of the report: -	
APPENDIX A	Sustainable Products Policy - Monitoring Measures Action Plan

BACKGROUND PAPERS	
Background papers used in the production of this report are listed below: -	
Document title	Where the document can be viewed
<i>Sustainable Products Policy</i>	Sustainable Products Policy - South Holland District Council (sholland.gov.uk)

CHRONOLOGICAL HISTORY OF THIS REPORT
A report on this item has not been previously considered by a Council body.

REPORT APPROVAL

Report author:	Heather Prescott Climate Change and Environment Officer
Signed off by:	Christian Allen Assistant Director Regulatory
Approved for publication:	CLlr Gary Porter