

## **Single Use Plastics Free Wirral Policy**

**September 2024**

'Single Use Plastics' (SUP) are defined as plastics used once, or for a short period of time, before being thrown away. According to UK government website it is estimated that England uses 2.7 billion items of single-use cutlery, most of which are plastic and 721 million single-use plates per year, with only 10% recycled. To address the impact and dangers SUP products have on our local environment, Wirral Council will work to reduce and eliminate the use of 'single-use plastics' (SUPs) from our organisation's procedures and services where possible. The council will lead by example to implement these changes across the wider borough.

The objectives of this policy are as follows:

### **1. Wirral Council will target internal reduction of SUPs:**

- Embed the SUP policy into key council strategies procedures.
- Internal communication campaign, to provide guidance to staff around SUP purchasing and new government legislation.
- Work with procurement to eliminate and reduce SUPs in the council's tendering processes and work with existing and future suppliers to provide alternative list for SUP products.
- All council buildings to contain the correct recycling facilities and procedures, ensuring recycling is utilised where the use of plastics is unavoidable.

### **2. Supporting communities, events and partners to reduce SUPs across Wirral:**

- Work with the Cool Wirral partnership and other key partners to develop their own policies and strategies for reducing SUP products and utilise recycling where the use of plastics is unavoidable.
- Ensure event organisers using council locations adhere to Wirral Councils Plastic Free Event Guidance, sharing the guidance across the borough.
- Collaborate with council partners to communicate the importance of protecting our environment and wildlife by supporting and promoting positive initiatives, campaigns and actions for reducing plastic waste.
- Support communities and litter pick initiatives to ensure our parks, beaches and open spaces are free from plastic litter.

### **3. Monitoring and reporting**

- Ensure all council data around plastic consumption is recorded accurately and implement consistent tracking of metrics around the amount of plastic waste produced by the council.
- Report on to Environment and Climate Emergency and Transport committee on an annual basis through the Environment and Climate Emergency annual progress report.