

**LANCASHIRE COMBINED FIRE AUTHORITY
RESOURCES COMMITTEE**

Meeting to be held on 27 November 2019

**SINGLE USE PLASTIC PROMOTION
(Appendices 1 – 4 refer)**

Contact for further information:

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Executive Summary

During a recent Combined Fire Authority Meeting a question was asked by a Member how the Service was reacting to the increasing environmental concern in respect of the use of single use plastics. This report outlines the actions taken so far.

Recommendation

The Resources Committee is asked to note the current position.

Information

At a recent Combined Fire Authority meeting the question was posed by a Member as to what the Service had done in respect of eliminating single use plastics. This issue remains under review, and options to reduce use remain under consideration. The steps undertaken so far are:-

Hydration

The most significant action undertaken so far; in addition to educating staff in respect of environmental concerns is the issue of a reusable water bottle to each employee in March 2019 (both operational and support staff), to encourage individuals to both remain hydrated and it was intended that this would significantly reduce the need for single use bottles (either purchased by the individual or utilised at incidents during the working day). The issue of the water bottle has been well received and favourably commented on, but as an emergency service involved in strenuous activity in hot conditions,(sometimes for extended periods) situations will continue to exist that require the provision of small water bottles.

Purchasing

In provision of consumables, the issue of single use plastic is considered, alongside other relevant decision making factors – inevitably it is a compromise between cost, availability and practicality of provision, whether the item purchased is for use on the fire ground or other areas such as in the Service Training Centre canteen facilities. This area is being kept under review. Alterations to our arrangements will normally have a negative financial impact during any tendering process and this aspect is considered in setting any qualification requirements.

Promotion

In addition the Service has undertaken promotional work in respect of single use plastic, a brief summary of which is as follows:-

- May 2018 – routine bulletin item and intranet article – Reasons to refuse single use plastic and the BIG 4 – bags, bottles, coffee cups and straws.
- July 2018 - routine bulletin item and intranet article – promotion of Plastic Free July.
- Summer 2018 – ‘BYOB..(Bring Your Own Bottle) bottle, cup or mug’ poster and coffee machine/water cooler labels ‘refill here’.
- March 2019 – reusable hydration bottles distributed to all staff to reduce use of plastic water bottles at incidents and support the stay hydrated promotion supporting staff wellbeing (as indicated above).
- May/June 2019 - Environmental Update sent first to Environmental Champions and Station Managers and then via routine bulletin – included reducing waste and prompt to look out for Plastic Free July.
- June/July 2019 - Plastic Free July – sent to Environmental Champions firstly then promoted across the service via routine bulletin.
- July 2019 – SHE team met with Procurement/Stores team to discuss sustainable procurement including reducing packaging from suppliers.
- August 2019 – ‘Focus On’ sheet sent to Environmental Champions for them to look at single use bottles of water, 5 litre containers, stockpiling of dated products – all to focus on reduction on single use plastic.
- Assistant SHE Advisor working with Environmental Champions to reduce single use plastic and carrying out an audit looking at waste created to understand where reductions can be made by suppliers / LFRS staff.

Some examples of the posters used are attached as appendices 1-4.

The SHE department and local Environmental champions are seen as the mechanism to advance the Service’s position together with open consideration of alternative approaches where single use plastic is involved.

Financial Implications

None from this report.

Sustainability or Environmental Impact

None. Measures taken will reduce single use plastics.

Equality and Diversity Implications

Not applicable.

Human Resource Implications

Not applicable .

Business Risk Implications

Measures taken are to align activities with public sentiment.

Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985

List of Background Papers

Paper	Date	Contact
None		
Reason for inclusion in Part II, if appropriate:		