

Request:

Does the Council have a specific policy relating to single-use plastic usage at premises owned or leased out to 3rd parties? If so, please provide further details.

The Council has an action plan to work towards eradicating the use of single use plastics in its premises. Good progress has been made in some areas, particularly ending the use of plastic knives, forks, spoons and straws. Some challenges remain and will take longer to overcome, such as plastic bottles in leisure centres. Additionally, for premises that are leased out, we are unable to change the lease to ban single use plastics unless the tenant agrees to it. We are however in the process of developing a simple business guide to support the Mayors appeal to reduce single use plastics in the Borough. The guide will help businesses to reduce their dependency where possible on single use plastics.

Does the Council have a specific policy relating to single-use plastic usage among Council staff and elected officials? If so, please provide further details.

No, there is no policy relating to single-use plastic usage by staff or elected officials. However, the Council does have an action plan to work towards eradicating the use of single use plastics in its premises.

Is the Council engaged with any local initiatives to reduce single-use plastic? If so, please provide further details.

The Council supports local community initiatives to tackle single use plastics. This is done through working very closely with campaign coordinators i.e. Plastic Free North Tyneside and Plastic Free Whitley Bay.

The Council is working with the regional North East Procurement Organisation (NEPO) to develop a series of steps which will influence suppliers of products to local authorities to provide single use plastic alternatives. For example, this will apply to areas such as construction, facilities management and catering services.

Does the Council currently provide ample refill water stations for use by staff and visitors at premises owned or leased out to 3rd parties? If so, please provide further details.

The Council provides access to drinking water refills in its public buildings such as leisure centres and customer services centres.

The Council has also supported the Young Mayor's Water Refill Scheme which enables the public to refill water containers in participating shops and other venues throughout the Borough. Businesses have a sticker in their window to show they are a participant in the scheme and can register on the Refill app.

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North Tyneside Council

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The Council is looking at the option of providing simple public water refill points along the coast line.

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