

Single-Use Plastic Policy

The amount of plastics in our oceans has become one of the most concerning environmental challenges we are facing in the world today. Every day approximately **8 million pieces** of plastic pollution find their way into our oceans. Approximately **5,000 items** of marine plastic pollution have been found per mile of beach in the UK. This is having a detrimental impact on our marine life and birds; with **100,000 sea mammals and 1 million birds dying each year**.

The council will strive towards minimising the use of Single-Use plastic across its operations and its services. All staff and council members will pro-actively work with businesses, individuals, and partners to discover positive solutions for reducing their waste and unnecessary plastics.

What are single-use plastics?

Single-use plastics are plastics designed to only be used once. These can include plastic bags, bottles, wet wipes, disposable coffee cups, straws and disposable utensils.

What Abingdon Town Council pledge to do to help make Abingdon a Single-Use Plastic free community.

	Work with event organisers to eliminate single-use plastics across town events and market places.		The council will help the town transition into a single use plastic free town utilising staff and resources where possible.
	To support communities in litter picking activities to ensure communal areas are clean and tidy.		Use UK government legislation to support efforts where we can.
	To consider suppliers single-use plastic footprint when obtaining products or materials for council business.		Where the use of plastics is unavoidable the council will encourage the use of bio-degradable plastics as a last resort.
	To work with residents, businesses, suppliers and visitors to share best practice and initiatives for a single-use plastic free town.		Work with partners, charities in joint ventures for reducing the use of plastics in Abingdon.

The council will strive to adopt these policies across the town, working collaboratively with residents, businesses, schools and events in order drastically reduce single-use plastics in the town.

Abingdon is proud to be granted "Plastic-Free Status" by Surfers Against Sewage and we will work to maintain this status.

