



Plastic-Free Action Plan

The Council fully recognises the need to eliminate single-use plastics and is committed to moving towards removing these items where possible, starting with our own offices, facilities and services.

An outright ban on all single use plastics overnight would have a detrimental impact on the many small businesses that trade at the market and other sites owned by the Council. For that reason we are recommending a phased approach, which allows time for businesses to adjust.

The policing of any plastic free policies outside of the Market and Events operated by the Council would be extremely difficult, if not impossible for the Council to do.

What we have done already:

2010

- Recycling bins for plastic bottles and food containers available in all offices.

2018

- Single-use plastic cups have been removed from use at the District Offices. Glass jugs and glasses provided for meetings. Staff encouraged to bring their own cups.
- Coffee machines for staff removed from use at the District Offices.

2019

- Banned the use of Styrofoam from use at the market. Traders were given 6 months to run down any existing supplies.
- Information stall was held at St Albans market to advise traders on alternatives to single-use plastic and educate the public about how to support the issue in their own homes.
- Waste contractor Veolia has met with local food businesses to discuss options for recyclable food containers at takeaways.
- Installed two water bottle refill fountains in the town centre and Clarence Park and launched a Refill St Albans Campaign to reduce the use of single use plastic bottles.
- Banned the sale of plastic bottles, plates, cutlery, bags and polystyrene at Council events.
- Trialled the use of reusable cups at two Council events.

2020

- Final coffee machines removed from District Offices.
- Biscuits and refreshments no longer provided to visitors and events at the District Offices.
- Our Sustainable Procurement Policy restricts the purchase of other non-essential single-use plastic items and provides advice on avoiding plastic waste for example by ensuring items are branded in a way to allow later reuse.
- Planning Department stopped using plastic laminated planning application notices to lampposts using cable ties.
- Refill hand sanitiser dispensers from larger bottles rather than replacing individual bottles in District Offices and Museums.

2021

- Plastics issues included in mandatory staff Sustainability training.

Our Commitments:

The table below shows an outline timetable of the Council's planned steps towards a plastic free St Albans.

	Action	By Whom
2022	Plastic film and crisp packet bins provided to staff in most used kitchens in the District Offices	Sustainability
	Bottle refill fountain installed to St Peters Street	Estates
	Refill fountain moved from District Offices to another location where it will be used more	Estates
	Trial separation and recycling of plastic food crates from Charter market	Markets
	Prohibit the use of single use plastic cutlery from food stalls on the market and events	Community Engagement / Markets
	Monitor milk bottle waste produced by staff at the District Offices and consider provision of centralised milk purchase if necessary	Sustainability
	Trial the use of biodegradable cable ties across the Council	Estates / Capital Projects / Housing Asset Management / Planning
2023	Include a requirement that only biodegradable balloons are permitted at Council events	Community Engagement
	Include relevant plastic-free policies within the tendering of the Council's largest contracts	Leisure / Procurement / Housing / Capital Projects
	Work with Councils suppliers to encourage the reduction of plastic packaging and products in the supply chain	Sustainability / Procurement
	Prohibit the supply of single use plastic bags or other single use plastic items to the public at the market and events	Community Engagement / Markets
	Work with the Business Improvement District and Chamber of Commerce to encourage reduction of single use plastics across local businesses, if not addressed by the Governments waste strategy	Economic Development
2024	Single use plastic and plastic-lined card drink cups no longer offered for use by the public at any Council managed events	Community Engagement