**Single-Use Plastic Reduction Action Plan**

**Annual Report**

**2021**



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# Executive Summary

Despite unprecedented pressures across all departments due to the Covid pandemic, DAERA, in partnership with DoF, has removed all unnecessary single-use plastic (SUP) from the Government estate **within the target date of October 2021.**

The single-use plastic reduction action plan (agreed by the Executive in October 2020) to end the use of unnecessary SUP across the Northern Ireland Civil Service (NICS) Government Estate reached the end of the implementation phase on 30 September 2021. From 1 October 2021, a ban is now in place. Suppliers have identified alternatives to the disposable items in use, replacing them with reusable items or more environmentally friendly alternatives.

Financial implications of the plan have indicated to date that although some items increased in price, others actually showed a decrease. Overall we have established that the measures taken have been broadly cost neutral.

In February 2020 and across 5 NICS sites, a baseline audit was carried out for plastic cutlery and takeaway boxes. This audit showed 103,400 items were procured for plastic cutlery and takeaway boxes, averaging approximately 20,000 SUP items each year per site. These items have now been eliminated and are no longer available to order. From working with suppliers, 25 ‘in scope’[[1]](#footnote-1) items have either been eliminated or replaced with more environmentally friendly alternatives throughout the buildings.

One supplier devised a shopping list for approximately 45 plant based foodservice packaging items with all products made from renewable, lower carbon, recycled or reclaimed materials and compostable.

The Department will continue to monitor progress of this plan as well as ensuring consumption of ‘in-scope’ single use items is being prevented where possible, and the remaining items being reduced or replaced with environmentally friendly alternatives.

As the aim of the plan has been to work towards a ban on single-use plastic in the government estate, awareness of the issue has been raised among staff and has achieved genuine engagement with staff who have welcomed the changes. This important work of raising awareness, educating and changing behaviour around unnecessary consumption of single-use plastic and removal of single-use plastic items has provided a significant contribution to the overall aim being achieved.

This report intends to provide a comprehensive overview of actions taken by the Department to implement the plan across the government estate, as well as highlighting the key achievements. It will also cover problems faced implementing this type of policy during a global pandemic and discuss lessons that have been learned along the way.

**Summary of Achievements - Raising awareness and changing behaviour across Government**

* **100%** of government departments have been made aware of plan via their permanent secretaries and formation of an Interdepartmental Working Group;
* **100%** of staff have been made aware of plan via the Interdepartmental Working Group, global intranet articles and a memo to all staff;
* Premises Officers have been made aware of plan by Departmental Accommodation Representatives;
* The Procurement Board has been made aware of changes by Construction and Procurement Delivery (CPD);
* **100%** of permanent secretaries in NICS have been made aware of SUP procurement changes;
* **100%** of departments have invited their Arm’s Length Bodies (ALBs) to establish a similar scheme; and
* **100%** NICS staff invited to an NICS wide webinar on 21October 2021, hosted by DAERA. Webinar recording and Q&A was issued to all NICS staff following event.

**Summary of Achievements - Working with our suppliers and contractors** **led by CPD**

* **100%** suppliers (Aramark, Banner, Mount Charles, Orchardville, Food by Donna, The Proper Food Company & XMA) have been made aware of the plan via meetings and E-Tenders notices;
* **100%** of suppliers produced plans to remove SUP from government sites;
* **100%** of suppliers and contractors provided feedback on how work progressed during the implementation phase. This was gathered by email, completed monitoring templates, verbally at meetings;
* SUP action plan deliverables were integrated into the contract review process; and
* Environmental statement/ clause added to all new contacts and tenders.

**The Impact of Covid-19**

The closure of buildings has had some impact on implementing the plan. Buildings being closed and the majority of staff moved to home working meant that alterations needed to be made to the planned implementation strategy to accommodate new ways of working.

We are continuing to work with our suppliers, contractors, premises and accommodation teams to have the necessary changes in place for when buildings reopen and to provide support for those presently open. The communications plan has been altered to reflect working from home with staff encouraged to reduce their use of unnecessary single-use plastic both in the home or office environments. All communications to date have been conducted virtually, but plans are in place for new signage and posters to be developed once buildings are fully reopened and staff return to the workplace.

**Arm’s Length Bodies**

ALB’s were invited to set up a similar scheme in June 2021. All ALBs have now been contacted regarding the plan and we are currently working with them to establish what actions have been achieved to date or planned for the future, offering assistance, support and guidance if and when required.

**Reporting and Monitoring**

There was a requirement built into the plan for each department to provide a report to their respective Minister in October 2021, but in light of departmental pressures due to the pandemic, it has been decided that DAERA will assume responsibility for producing an annual report this year (2021-22) on behalf of the government estate, with the obligation for individual departmental reporting reviewed in 2022-23.

# Background

In October 2020, the NI Executive approved a plan to reduce unnecessary plastic within the NICS government estate. The overall aim of the plan is to work towards a ban on unnecessary single-use plastic in the government estate by October 2021 (Annex A).

The plan provides guidance and instruction on the removal of SUP from the central government estate offices and includes a requirement to ask ALBs to establish similar schemes. A summary of work achieved against targets set can be found in Appendix 1 of this report.

DoF’s Construction & Procurement Delivery (CPD) are leading on the work with supplies and contractors and DAERA are leading on raising awareness and changing behaviour across the NICS with a view to eliminating unnecessary single-use plastic as well as increasing waste prevention and recycling rates across our estate. A summary of work carried out against targets is listed in Appendix 1.

The plan focuses mainly on the categories of Catering (tableware and takeaway) Packaging, Facilities (cleaning) and Office Supplies and aimed to remove all unnecessary single use plastics from the government estate by October 2021.

The plan helps meet the ‘New Decade, New Approach’ commitment to tackle plastic pollution and supports the work on which DAERA is providing support to Defra around banning 10 single-use plastic items. It also aligns with work across the UK and across the EU to reduce or remove unnecessary single-use plastics.

Further details on the key dates for rolling out the plan can be found in Appendix 2.

# Project aims

To work towards a ban on unnecessary single-use plastic in the government estate by October of 2021.

## 1.1 Who the plan affects

We define the government estate as central government estate offices except laboratories, which are out of scope of the ban. Other public bodies, such as Councils, State Agencies, Health and Social Care Trusts and the wider public sector, have been invited to establish similar schemes and report progress.

## 1.2 Items ‘In Scope’

To be categorised as ‘in scope’ of the plan, an item has to meet **all** of the following conditions:

* It is made wholly or partly of plastic and is typically intended to be used just once and/or for a short period of time before being disposed of;
* It is a product which is regularly used as a consumer item, rather than relating to a particular applied or industrial process, (for example a toner cartridge or PPE plastic gloves have been identified as out of scope);
* It is avoidable[[2]](#footnote-2) *OR* is there a viable[[3]](#footnote-3) non-plastic available alternative;
* It is purchased under a Government contract (products purchased or brought in by staff members are excluded).

## 1.3 Items ‘Out of Scope’

Operational single-use plastics, such as clothing or equipment used for medical or health and safety reasons (where a suitable non-disposable alternative cannot be found) and toner cartridges, are considered out of scope. Confectionery (including vending machines) sold in on-site shops and canteens is also out of scope until the supply chain is able to offer viable alternative packaging at appropriate scale.

## 1.4 Implementation

It was considered that a one year implementation period was relevant to allow the organisation to adjust to the changes, after which an outright ban would come into effect.

Implementation, between the start of the voluntary scheme and the formal ban, was split into 2 phases:

* Phase 1 – October 2020 to September 2021 (voluntary scheme)
* Phase 2 – October 2021 onwards (ban)

## Actions to Remove Unnecessary Single Use Plastics

The plan identified 4 areas for removal of SUP’s from the government estate – Catering (tableware and takeaway) Packaging, Facilities (cleaning) and Office Supplies.

Our suppliers were very receptive to eliminating single use plastic and some of them had already started their journey given the strong public desire to tackle plastic pollution.

**Catering**

Although this area has been more impacted by Covid-19 and building closures than the other areas for action, work has been ongoing behind the scenes so suppliers and catering providers are compliant with the plan once their services are able to fully resume. All of our catering suppliers (Aramark, Mount Charles, Orchardville, Food by Donna and the Proper Food Company), have removed in scope items and replaced them with sustainable alternatives, where possible.

Items within scope include; Single use sachets e.g. coffee pods, sauce sachets, milk pods/sachets, take-away cutlery, take-away boxes and plates, cups or containers made wholly or partially of plastic, straws, stirrers and water bottles.

Below are some examples of swaps and initiatives that suppliers have put in place:

* **Aramark** - Devised a Vegware shopping list for 45 plant based food service products. Vegware uses a variety of renewable plant-based materials to manufacture and is compostable.
* **Mount Charles** – At all the CAFRE sites, Mount Charles removed the polystyrene food containers and moved to Bagasse[[4]](#footnote-4). This is also applicable to all other public sector contracts that Mount Charles deliver.
* Examples of alternatives introduced across all catering suppliers:
* Plastic cutlery replaced by wooden alternatives;
* Plastic cups replaced by compostable cups or crockery;
* Tea bags replaced by ‘plastic free’ alternatives;
* Crisp packet recycling scheme put in place;
* Reusable coffee cups and water bottles on sale through our suppliers;
* Reusable cup price reductions scheme put in place;
* Plastic sandwich wrappers replaced by paper;
* Reusable bottle service for milk; and
* Liquid soap replaced by foam.

**Packaging**

XMA who provide toner cartridges across the NICS estate have been using recycled paper filler as opposed to plastic air pockets for transporting their products.

Banner purchased a new machine which pulps used and damaged cardboard into a shock absorbent filling for use in customer deliveries. Banner are also trialling 100% recyclable and biodegradable gummed paper tape which will lead to a reduction of thousands of rolls of plastic tape.

**Facilities**

Aramark have switched to more sustainable products for many of their items. The cleaning solution that Aramark use comes in a concentrated form, which is decanted and diluted into reusable containers. In terms of soap, they use a bottle container of soap that will dispense over 2500 doses per bottle. The bottle itself is also 100% recyclable and collapses as contents are used thereby reducing waste. Work was also undertaken with Aramark to identify alternatives for plastic wipes. These were subsequently replaced with plastic-free and compostable wipes.

**Office Supplies**

Banner is the main supplier of these items to the government estate and through a series of productive engagements, alternative items were identified for wipes, bin bags, plastic folders, files, dividers, highlighters, packing tape, plastic cups and cutlery. These were added to the contract as alternatives in June 2021 with the SUP items removed at the start of October 2021. In terms of pricing, some items had increased and some had decreased depending on client requirements. Some buildings who switched to reusable items highlighted that SUP elimination is as much about changing behaviours and promoting reusable items where possible. This has been achieved through a combination of removing the ability to purchase these items and encouraging and educating staff to be more environmentally friendly.

#

# Actions to Communicate the Plan to all NICS Staff

Communication activities commenced in October 2020 and ran throughout 2021. A Press Release from DAERA Minister at the beginning of the implementation phase showed support for plan. This was followed by a series of global internet articles, staff memos, internal magazine articles and an NICS wide webinar entitled ‘The Final (Plastic) Straw’. A uniform or ‘one size fits all’ approach ensured that all communications were clear and concise. Communications to each department were disseminated through the Inter-Departmental Working Group.

The communications plan has been altered to reflect working from home due to Covid-19 with staff encouraged to reduce their use of unnecessary single-use plastic both in the home and office environment. All communications to date have been delivered virtually but plans are in place to develop signage and posters highlighting the plan once staff begin to return to the workplace.

Premises Officers across the estate were informed of the plan and the impact it may have when buildings begin to reopen. Work and support on this aspect of the plan will continue as more staff begin to move back to office working following the pandemic.

# Conclusions & Next Steps

In conclusion, each department is responsible for implementing the plan within their own buildings. We acknowledge that no two buildings are the same and so the flexible nature of the plan and its implementation gave opportunity for changes to be made over time prior to the ban being put in place. Whilst Covid-19 and the closure of buildings has had an impact on implementing the plan, the majority of planned actions to implement the plan have been carried out. Some, such as the individual departmental responsibility for monitoring and reporting, have been delayed and will be subject to review.

The combination of ensuring suppliers offer sustainable alternatives and staff have an awareness of the environmental benefits of these will be key to the plans ongoing and increasing success.

Work will continue on the plan, monitoring progress, in order to ensure the ban is adhered to and to provide help and support to people where it is necessary. The plan will not be fully implemented until a complete culture change in how we use and dispose of our SUPs has taken place. The continued monitoring and reporting programme will help to determine this change. Below are some examples of work that is continuing following the outright ban now in place:

* Whilst suppliers have already worked hard to eliminate single-use plastic and implement the plan, DAERA and DoF will continue to support our suppliers and contractors until we are satisfied that the plan has been fully implemented. Feedback from our suppliers has indicated that they have expanded the changes made as a result of the plan to other businesses outside of the NICS.
* Encouraging all departments to provide better recycling facilities for staff and promoting more recycling in the workplace and at home, paying particular attention to the 5 R’s of Recycling – **Refuse Reduce, Reuse, Recycle and Responsible Disposal.** This will include working in partnership with Premises Officers.
* Following the success of the NICS webinar and the number of questions received around recycling, DAERA intends to deliver a further event on waste prevention and recycling in Summer 2022.
* Waste contracts have also been recently reviewed, and the re-tender of the current NICS waste contract is underway. This change will help drive circular economy objectives within the government estate.
* As the communications plan has been altered due to the pandemic, the plan will be reviewed and adapted again once staff begin to return to the office.
* Arm’s Length Bodies (ALB’s) were invited to set up a similar scheme in June 2021. Departments are continuing to work with them to establish work achieved or planned, offering assistance, support and guidance if required.
* There was requirement for each department to provide a report to their respective Minister but in light of departmental pressures, DAERA agreed to assume responsibility for this year with the obligation for individual departmental reporting reviewed in 2022-23.
* In February 2020 and across 5 NICS sites, a baseline audit was carried out for plastic cutlery and takeaway boxes. This audit showed 103,400 items were procured for plastic cutlery and takeaway boxes, averaging approximately 20,000 SUP items each year per site. These items have now been eliminated and are no longer available to order. From working with suppliers, 25 ‘in scope’[[5]](#footnote-5) items have either been eliminated or replaced with more environmentally friendly alternatives throughout the buildings.

The Department will continue to monitor progress of this plan as well as ensuring consumption of ‘in-scope’ single use items is being prevented where possible, and the remaining items being reduced or replaced with environmentally friendly alternatives.

As the aim of the plan has been to work towards a ban on single-use plastic in the government estate, awareness of the issue has been raised among staff and has achieved genuine engagement with staff who have welcomed the changes. This important work of raising awareness, educating and changing behaviour around unnecessary consumption of single-use plastic and removal of single-use plastic items has provided a significant contribution to the overall aim being achieved.

A summary of lessons learned and key decisions taken is listed in Appendix 3

# Appendix 1 - Work achieved against targets set

|  |
| --- |
| **Single-Use Plastic Reduction Action Plan** |
|  | **ACTION** | **TARGET** | **ACTION LEAD / OWNER** | **TARGET DATE** | **UPDATE ON WORK ACHIEVED AGAINST TARGETS SET** |
| **Raising awareness and changing behaviour across Government** | Staff awareness campaign commences within DAERA(talks, newsletter article, Lyric Theatre production) | All staff aware of SUP Reduction Plan | DAERA Environmental Policy Division | October 2020 - MET | *100% of NICS staff made aware of plan via memo to all staff.**100% government departments aware of plan via Interdepartmental Working group* |
| Procurement Board briefed on proposals for SUP elimination in government contracts | E Tenders Notice agreed. Procurement Board advised of changes.  | DAERA Environmental Policy Division and Construction Procurement Delivery (CPD)  | October 2020 - MET | *100% suppliers aware of plan – via meetings, E-Tenders notices.**Procurement Board made aware of changes by CPD.* |
| Communications issued on SUP reduction across government | Permanent Secretaries in NICS aware of SUP procurement changes | DAERA Environmental Policy Division Construction and Procurement Delivery (CPD) | October 2020 – MET  | *Submission made to DAERA Permanent Secretary and memo shared with fellow Perm Secs – 100% of permanent secretaries in NICS aware of SUP procurement changes.* |
| Each Department writes to all Public Bodies on SUP restrictions and requests annual report on resource use, waste minimisation and recycling measures | All Chief Executives of Public Bodies in Northern Ireland invited to establish similar scheme.  | DAERA Environmental Policy Division | October 2020 - MET | *100% of ALBs have been invited to establish a similar scheme. DAERA will continue to engage with them over the coming weeks and months to monitor progress and provide support as required.* |
| Talks/workshops carried out to introduce government departments to the broader concepts of resource efficiency and how to report progress | All government departments have participated in resource efficiency talk/workshop | DAERA Environmental Policy Division | June 2021 – MET  | *An NICS wide webinar was held on 21October by DAERA.**Webinar recording and Q&A issued to all NICS staff following event.* |
| Trials of SUP free events | Reduction of SUP at DAERA events | DAERA Marketing and External Stakeholder Engagement Branch | June 2021 – DATE EXTENDED | *On-going. Due to pandemic this date has been extended by DAERA. Whilst it is the aim to reduce SUP items, where existing stock is held it is still better to use rather than dispose of this.* *DAERA is currently working with organisers of the Winter Fair and Balmoral Show to trail sustainability solutions.*  |
| Public bodies submit report on resource use, waste minimisation and recycling measures | Progress reports by Public Bodies to their respective Ministers | All Public Bodies | September 2021 - MET | *In light of Covid-19, this requirement was removed for 2021. Instead DAERA’s Annual Report will incorporate this.*  |
| **Working with our suppliers and contractors** | Inform suppliers on relevant procurement frameworks about SUP Reduction Plan | All relevant suppliers aware of SUP Reduction Plan | Construction and Procurement Delivery (CPD) | October 2020 - MET | *100% suppliers (Aramark, Banner, Mount Charles, Orchardville, Food by Donna, The Proper Food Company & XMA) aware of plan – via meetings, ETenders notices led by CPD.*  |
| In-scope suppliers establish plans to remove SUP from government sites | SUP action plans developed by each FM supplier | Construction and Procurement Delivery (CPD) | March 2021- MET  | *100% of suppliers produced plans to remove SUP from government sites, led by SPD.* |
| Collect feedback from suppliers on progress | Feedback at Phase 1 supplier review meeting | Construction and Procurement Delivery (CPD) | June 2021 – MET  | *Feedback was collected from 100% of suppliers via email, completed monitoring template/ verbally at meeting, led by CPD.* |
| Establish monitoring and reporting mechanism for SUP arisings in government contracts | SUP action plan deliverables integrated into contract review process | Construction and Procurement Delivery (CPD) | September 2021 - MET | *SUP action plan deliverables integrated into the contract review process, led by CPD.* |
| Include environmental statement/clause on SUP in new contacts and tenders | Environmental statement on SUP embedded in relevant FM Frameworks / Contracts | Construction and Procurement Delivery (CPD) | September 2021 - MET | *Environmental statement/ clause added to all new contacts and tenders, led by CPD.* |
| Ban of SUP in government estate offices comes into effect | All staff and suppliers aware of government ban on SUP | DAERA Environmental Policy Division | From 1 October 2021 - MET | *Target to remove all unnecessary SUP achieved by end of implementation phase with a ban in place from 1 October 2021, led by DAERA and CPD.*  |

# Appendix 2 - Key Dates Table

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Month** | **Activity** | **Lead** |
| October 2020 | Executive Approval of plan (with Implementation date of October 2021 before ban comes into place) | DAERA |
| November 2020 | Minister’s Press Release – Lets work together to cut out SUP | DAERA |
| December 2020 | Communications article- Working together to reduce SUP, shared via global intranetCommunications article on reducing plastic in workplace – DAERA Team Brief8x Christmas swaps, shared globally | DAERA |
| January 2021 | Round of supplier meetings – XMA, Aramark, Mount Charles, Banner and Orchardville. | DoF |
| February 2021 | First Interdepartmental meeting | DAERA |
| March 2021 | Submission to Permanent Secretary – asking for representation from all departmentsCommunications article - Issue memo to staff on plan and 5 x R’s waste hierarchy | DAERADAERA |
| April 2021 | Full list of Departmental Contact received from Permanent SecretaryNotice/ Plan posted unto E-Tenders PortalMemo issued to Premises Officers via Departmental Accommodation RepsUpdate given to AERA Committee  | DAERADoF DAERADAERA |
| May 2021 | Reformed Interdepartmental Working Group -Meeting 1 Round of supplier meetings – Aramark, Mount Charles, Banner & Orchardville | DAERADoF |
| June 2021 | Invite sent to Arms lengths Bodies (ALBs) inviting them to establish a similar scheme. Reformed Interdepartmental Working Group - Meeting 2Communications article – Interview with Plan Lead, Rachael Hook and Teabreak Quiz | DAERADAERA |
| July 2021 | Plan uploaded to DAERA internetNotice to suppliers and contractors uploaded to E Tenders – reminder  | DAERADoF |
| August 2021  | Reformed Interdepartmental Working Group -Meeting 3 | DAERA |
| September 2021 | Reformed Interdepartmental Working Group -Meeting 4 | DAERA |
| October 2021 | Round of supplier meetings – Aramark, Mount Charles, Banner & Orchardville, Food by Donna, The Proper Food CoNICS webinar – The Final (Plastic) Straw | DoFDAERA |
| November 2021 | Reformed Interdepartmental Working Group -Meeting 5Webinar Recording and Q&A circulated across NICS | DAERADAERA |

# Appendix 3 - Summary of Lessons Learned and Key Decisions Taken

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **No.** | **Issue** | **Lessons learned / key decision taken for future projects.** |
| **GENERAL ISSUES** |
| 1 | Excellent collaboration between DAERA and DoF with clear, consistent and regular engagement. Despite pandemic, DoF agreed to proceed with plan.  | Ensure ‘buy-in from main departments involved in implementing plan. Project Lead on this was a full-time position. Building good relationships was very important. |
| 2 | Covid-19 – Mainly additional pressure put unto departments E.g. Closure of buildings and some remaining open, viability of staff to help, workload of staff. | Being able to act quickly by speaking to departments and by changing deadlines E.g. publication of articles, invite to ALBs delayed.  |
| 3 | Good collaboration with departments via the Interdepartmental Working Group (IDWG) ensuring that each department was responsible for implementing plan as appropriate. | Forming IDWG needed to come from highest level down. This group took two attempts to form. This level of department support required a memo from Permanent Secretary to his Perm Sec colleagues asking for named contact. The group is invaluable for information sharing and learning from each other |
| 4 | Getting an accurate baseline assessment. Difficulties encountered around getting a breakdown of all plastics.  | The baseline figures that we received came from DoF Procurement Team. Ask for data at highest level possible |
| 5 | Record Keeping and access to information.  | A shared information management system ensured that information was saved, updated and logged accurately to allow quick as easy reference at short notice.   |
| **No.** | **Issue** | **Lessons learned / key decision taken for future projects.** |
| **RAISING AWARENESS AND CHANGING BEHAVIOUR** |
| 6 | Communication methods to roll out plan to staff working from home and from workplace buildings. (Includes Press Releases, articles, memos, meetings, submissions, webinar)  | Overall, communication was very good with clear, concise information with a NICS wide approach. A Press Release from DAERA Minister at the beginning of the implementation phase showed support for plan. Memos, articles to staff were simple and coherent with plenty of time allowed to issue them. A uniform or ‘one size fits all’ approach worked best when issuing communications to prevent error in publishing. |
| 7 | Adapting to changing situation due to Covid-19 against meeting timescales set out in the plan.  | Quick decisions were taken due to the pandemic. This included switching to on-line engagement with staff largely through emails, memos, on-line quiz, and staff webinar. Staff support was very positive. Monitoring and Reporting measures altered as result of Covid-19. DAERA removed the requirement for each department to provide a report to their respective Minister in light of departmental pressures due to the pandemic.Due to pressures faced in all Departments because of the pandemic a decision was taken to delay asking ALB’s to establish a similar scheme.  The invite was then extended in June 2021, just after the mid-way point of the implementation phase. |
| **No.** | **Issue** | **Lessons learned / key decision taken for future projects.** |
| **WORKING WITH SUPPLIERS AND CONTRACTORS** |
| 8 | Flexibility and sensitivity when dealing with suppliers and contractors due to closure of buildings.  | Flexible engagement was important due to individual circumstances. E.g. closure of buildings. All suppliers (Aramark, Banner, Mount Charles, Orchardville, Food by Donna, The Proper Food Company & XMA) engaged with us using various methods. Communications methods included on-line meetings, via email, telephone call and E-Tenders notices. |
| 9 | Suppliers and contractors were very receptive to the plan from the outset and had already implemented a number of changes even from our first engagement with them. Suppliers had more work achieved than we imagined. | Overall, support for the plan was very positive with all suppliers and contractors carrying out all requirements of the plan. Regular follow up and feedback was monitored via telephone and email ensured that Monitoring Templates were completed. E.g. Aramark devised a Vegware shopping list for 45 plant based products. Feedback from suppliers has indicated that as a result of the plan, they expanded the changes to other businesses outside of the NICS. |
| 10 | Financial implications around implementing the plan. | Pricing was generally not an issue with suppliers and contractors. Feedback indicated that some items had increased and some had decreased. Some buildings who switched to reusable items, reported a cost saving after a few months also highlighting that SUP elimination is as much about changing behaviours and encouraging staff to use reusables where possible.  |

1. See section 1.2 of this report for more information on items ‘in-scope’. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. Avoidable meaning the use of a product made of a certain material is not essential and has readily available alternatives. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. For example, aluminium cans have a greater negative environmental impact than plastic bottles based on a carbon life cycle assessment. Therefore, we consider these a non-viable alternative to plastic bottles for soft drinks. Through the UK Plastic Pact further work will be done on alternatives to plastic packaging. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. Bagasse is the waste from sugar cane plants left over after the sugar has been extracted and bagasse food container items are biodegradable and fully compostable. [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
5. See section 1.2 of this report for more information on items ‘in-scope’. [↑](#footnote-ref-5)