

Communities and Environment Scrutiny Select Committee

05 November 2025

Part 1 - Public

Matters for Cabinet - Non-key Decision



www.tmbc.gov.uk

Cabinet Member	Robin Betts – Housing, Environment and Economy Des Keers – Community Services
Responsible Officer	Damian Roberts – Chief Executive
Report Author	Gill Fox – Corporate Policy and Communities Manager

Waste Minimisation and Waste Management at events on council-owned land

1 Summary and Purpose of Report

- 1.1 This report seeks endorsement of a proposed new guidance note for event organisers regarding their waste management responsibilities and provides background information regarding work with contractors to minimise waste and remove single use plastics.

2 Corporate Strategy Priority Area

- 2.1 Sustaining a borough which cares for the environment.
- 2.2 As part of the council's Annual Service Delivery Plan for 2025-26 we committed to "Work with contractors to minimise waste and remove single use plastics from their operations". To encourage a greater use of refills and reduced waste from council owned sites, the guidance note details waste management responsibilities for event organisers.

3 Recommendations

- 3.1 Members to **ENDORSE** the proposed guidance note attached at Annex 1.

4 Introduction and Background

- 4.1 To progress the action in the Annual Service Delivery Plan (ASDP) for 2025-26 to work with contractors to minimise waste and remove single use plastics from their operations, letters have been sent and meetings held with our main contractor (TMAActive) to understand what active steps they are currently taking and where possible consider eliminating plastics from their operations at Leisure sites.

- 4.2 Feedback so far (from TMAActive) has been encouraging. A full list of plastic products which have now been switched to either recyclable, compostable or biodegradable and those that are yet to be implemented, has been shared with officers. This work will be followed up by the Climate Change Officer now that she is in post, along with further contact made with other smaller contractors used by the council.

5 Proposal

- 5.1 To further support the current ASDP target a suggested new guidance note (provided in Annex 1) has been drafted to support organisers in aligning their events with the council's objective to remove single use plastics from their operations. Subject to member approval, this guidance note can be issued to all event organisers for the 2026 event programme.
- 5.2 This new guidance will place requirements on event organisers to be fully responsible for waste, to separate the collection of recyclables and general waste and operate a single use reusable cup deposit scheme.

6 Other Options

- 6.1 A lighter approach was considered, giving customers the "option" to purchase a single use cup, however the decision was taken to make this a requirement. This is standard practice at events, and it is felt that customers and event organisers will not find this unreasonable.

7 Financial and Value for Money Considerations

- 7.1 £5,000 from the waste and recycling budget has been allocated to support this initiative. This will be used to purchase re-usable cups and additional bins for waste separation. These can be loaned out to smaller community event organisers who may not be able to incur additional costs and will need help to manage this new process.

8 Risk Assessment

- 8.1 Support will be provided in the first year to smaller community managed events to ensure that they are not disadvantaged. It is important to improve the sustainability of events held on council owned land, but it is also important that smaller community run operations are supported by the events team to comply with the new procedure.

9 Legal Implications

- 9.1 None

10 Consultation and Communications

- 10.1 The events team have already started working with larger organisations regarding future events. Many of these organisers are already following these procedures as they are standard requirements at other venues. The Events Team will work with the Media Team to ensure that event waste management messaging is clear on the website, via social media and throughout the booking process.

11 Implementation

- 11.1 Subject to Member approval, this guidance note can be issued to all event organisers for the 2026 event programme.

12 Cross Cutting Issues

12.1 Climate Change and Biodiversity

- 12.1.1 Some impact on reducing emissions in support of carbon neutral by 2030 or enhancing the natural environment.

- 12.1.2 Climate change advice has been sought in the preparation of the options and recommendations in this report.

- 12.1.3 Improving the sustainability of events on council-owned land supports sustainability by reducing waste, conserving resources and promoting environmentally responsible behaviour.

12.2 Equalities and Diversity

- 12.2.1 The decisions recommended through this paper have a remote or low relevance to the substance of the Equality Act. There is no perceived impact on end users.

12.3 Other If Relevant

- None

Background Papers	None
Annexes	Annex 1 – Guidance Note for Event Organisers