

MINUTES

Meeting: SALISBURY AREA BOARD
Place: Alamein Suite - City Hall, Malthouse Lane, Salisbury, SP2 7TU
Date: 8 November 2018
Start Time: 7.00 pm
Finish Time: 9.10 pm

Please direct any enquiries on these minutes to:

Lisa Moore (Democratic Services Officer), Tel: 01722 434560 or (e-mail) lisa.moore@wiltshire.gov.uk

Papers available on the Council's website at www.wiltshire.gov.uk

In Attendance:

Wiltshire Councillors

Cllr Derek Brown OBE (Chairman), Cllr Sven Hocking (Vice-Chairman),
Cllr Brian Dalton, Cllr Matthew Dean, Cllr Atiqul Hoque, Cllr Ricky Rogers and
Cllr John Walsh

Cllr Pauline Church – Salisbury Recovery Update

Wiltshire Council Officers

Karen Linaker, Salisbury Community Engagement Manager
Lisa Moore, Democratic Services Officer
Tracy Carter – Director Waste and Environment
Vicki Harris – Waste Services

Town and Parish Councils

Salisbury City Council

Partners

Wiltshire Police – John Hutchings
Dorset & Wiltshire Fire and Rescue – Paul Webber

Total in attendance: 60

<u>Agenda Item No.</u>	<u>Summary of Issues Discussed and Decision</u>
33	<p><u>Welcome and Introductions</u></p> <p>The Chairman, Councillor Derek Brown welcomed everyone to the meeting of the Salisbury Area Board and invited the members of the Board to introduce themselves.</p>
34	<p><u>Apologies for Absence</u></p> <p>Apologies for absence had been received from:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cllr Mary Douglas
35	<p><u>Minutes</u></p> <p><u>Decision</u> The minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 27 September 2018 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.</p>
36	<p><u>Declarations of Interest</u></p> <p>There were none.</p>
37	<p><u>Chairman's Announcements</u></p> <p>The Chairman made the following announcements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Future Themed meetings – The January Area Board meeting would focus on Air Quality and the March meeting would focus on Housing. • Crime and community safety event 19th November – Atiqul Hoque • 11th Nov – war memorial 11am annual remembrance service – 100yr anniversary of the end of the WW1 • 15th Nov – Christmas Light switch on with a celebrity.
38	<p><u>Information items</u></p> <p>The Board noted the following written papers attached to the agenda:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Healthwatch Wiltshire • Wiltshire Council Information Items – Balloon & Lantern Release, and Looking to the Future. • Military/Civilian Integration consultation and discussions – circulated at the meeting for people to take away.

Salisbury Recovery Update

Cabinet Member for Economic Development and Salisbury Recovery, Cllr Pauline Church gave an update on the recovery to date.

Some of the key points included:

- Footfall gap had started to close
- £1,550,004 From Wiltshire Council Reserves
- £3,285,487 Awarded to Wiltshire Council from Central Government
- £500,000 Awarded to Visit Wiltshire from Central Government
- **Total: £5,335,491**

712 businesses in Salisbury had been contacted and offered advice and 79 in Amesbury (including those accessing drop-in support at Salisbury Enterprise Centre and Amesbury Library).

Across the three grant streams, 114 individual businesses had been supported and an estimated 304 jobs had been safeguarded.

Alongside the £1,014,629 already allocated to business support and events there were significant further requests for business support under consideration; £192,000 of short term projects and event requests were under consideration; and up to £287,000 of medium-term recovery projects were being considered. This would account for remaining funding of the £927,000 allocated by government if all were agreed.

Parking (£1.5m including £1m from WC) and Tourism (£500k) Funding

Response costs

£220,000 awarded following first incident

£997,000 awarded following second incident

Total £1,217,000

The full amount had been spent/committed on costs such as temporary barriers, security, rehousing displaced residents, remediation of sites, staff backfill and overtime and a long-term recovery team.

Aside from the allocation of Wiltshire Council funding of £1,102,417 towards car parking and park and ride, other costs drawing on Wiltshire Council reserves (spent and committed) include:

- £137,000 for reinstatement of Bourne Hill and temporary work at Five Rivers.
- £100,000 for National Armed Forces Day.
- £100,000 for tourism.
- £10,000 on business support (advice).
- £10,000 on events.
- £100,000 staff backfill.

	<p>Altogether £1,550,000 had been committed from limited reserves towards South Wiltshire’s recovery.</p> <p>South Wiltshire – Moving forward</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Zizzis reopened this week • The Mill re-vamp underway • Salisbury Christmas Light switch on – 15 November 2018 • National Armed Forces Day local and national launch – 16 November 2018 • Salisbury Christmas Market and Ice Rink opening – 29 November 2018 - 6 January 2019 – early bird tickets available now! • <p>Long Term Economic Recovery plan and initiatives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Transport improvements • Tourism campaign working with Visit England • Cathedral Masterplan • Salisbury Museum • Redevelopment of college campus • Royal Artillery Museum to be built in the Larkhill area • Maltings Planning app to go in towards the end of this year. <p>Strategic recovery and response Board – Cllr Church was Leading politically with Leader of the Council Cllr Jane Scott, to bring in some additional stakeholders.</p>
40	<p><u>Plastic Waste</u></p> <p>The Board welcomed Tracy Carter Director for Waste & Environment, and Vicki Harris, Interim Principal Waste Services Officer, who gave a presentation. The main points were:</p> <p>The Council was in the process of developing a household waste management strategy, working towards zero tolerance to waste.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DEFRA has a 25 Year Environment Plan – achievement date 2042 • Commitment to phase out avoidable plastic waste where technically, environmentally and economically practicable. • The plan sets out over thirty action points: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Half related to tackling plastic waste ○ Three related to tackling waste food. ○ Two related to reducing the amount impact of litter. ○ Seven action points on recycling. <p>The following priorities were identified within the strategy document:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Waste prevention

- Repair and reuse
- Recycling and composting
- Energy from waste
- Litter and fly tipping

Priority 1 – Waste Prevention

- The council would work with national, regional and local partners to provide advice and information to encourage residents to reduce the amount of household waste they create.
- Actions included working with Area Boards, town and parish councils and their communities to reduce waste created at home.
- Engagement with government organisations in the development of initiatives to reduce the amount of plastic waste produced.

Priority 2 – Reuse and Repair

- The council would work with local reuse organisations and contractors to increase the opportunity for items to be repaired and reused.
- We will work with town and parish councils to run community events such as repair cafes and swap shops.
- We will work with providers to separate reusable waste at household recycling centres.

Priority 3 – Recycling and Composting

- The council would continue to ensure that cost effective and efficient recycling services were provided so that residents were able to recycle a range of materials as easily as possible.
- Actions include collecting
 - plastic pots, tubs and trays
 - drink and food cartons

From 30 July along with the usual plastic bottles and cardboard in the blue lidded bins.

What happens to plastics once collected?

- Plastic bottles, pots, tubs and trays, cardboard, drink and food cartons, shredded paper and brown paper collected in blue bins is taken to a Materials Recycling Facility (MRF) based in Calne.
- Plastic bottles and cardboard are mechanically separated from each other and contaminants removed.
- The plastics and cartons are then further optically sorted into polymer types.
- The materials are then baled and are sent to the relevant re-processors.

The Chairman highlighted a project to bring a water fountain into the square in Salisbury for people to refill their own containers rather than having to buy

plastic bottles. This initiative saw the first installation of a water fountain around a month ago. Since then SCC had been contacted by a further two companies who wished to provide a further two fountains.

The initiative was hoping to produce a Salisbury drinking bottle for a small cost, to be used and refilled. Aimed at local residents and tourists, as this idea had been successfully operated in other countries already.

Any ideas on the production of the bottle scheme please contact the Community Engagement Manager karen.linaker@wiltshire.gov.uk

Following the presentation questions were taken, these included:

- Were Tetrapak's now able to be recycled? Answer: Yes, but as Tetrapak was a trade name, these are included in our reference as food and drink containers.
- Why can't we have a doorstep food waste recycling service? Answer: We carried out a consultation last year and very few people were in favour of a county wide food waste collection service, with only 17% of those who responded in support. This would be something that would be quite costly to run. We will keep it under review and may revisit in the future. We do subsidise food waste digesters for sale.
- Why aren't we able to put potato peelings in green garden waste? Answer: We operate a system called Open Window Composting for our green garden waste. If we introduce food waste we would then have to use an alternative way of composting and this would be more expensive.
- Cllr Dean – I want to congratulate Tracy and her team – with some of the difficulties some councils were facing in recycling, I am pleased that Wiltshire has managed to find ways to recycle for us. There are issues for kerb side recycling of food products in areas close to rivers as this can attract rats. I understand that WC is having a depot review, what form was that taking and what input would people have, as I would be vocal for Churchfields to have longer opening hours in the summer. Answer: The depot review was at an early stage. We are focusing on our operational depots at present – so these are the winter maintenance depots, where we store salt and house our gritters. Many household recycling centres around our county were not attached to depots, as Churchfields is. We appreciate the recycling centre is not ideal in Salisbury, the range of materials we collect there now can mean we have traffic issues.
- Eco bricks – there is another option – would like to see this promoted around Salisbury. Further info can be found online at: www.goodfair.co.uk We are based in Cross Keys shopping centre, Salisbury.
- Can I put plastic straws in to the recycling bin? Answer: I don't know we will find out.

The Board then heard from Mike Lennard from Transition City a local action

group.

There were companies that used recycled plastic to build houses with and it is stronger than concrete. There was also tarmac which is part mixed with plastic. I am sure there are opportunities for WC to make some money from initiatives such as these. Waste goes onto farmland for fertilizer.

www.salisburytransition.org

One of the outcomes of the meeting would be to call on the services of Transition city to take on some of the actions arising from this evening.

The Community Engagement Manager, Karen Linaker explained the format for the roundtable discussions which then took place.

In groups people were asked to consider:

1. What we as the consumer could do better in Salisbury to reduce plastic waste?
2. What would we like to see local businesses, and local organisations whether government, schools, churches, or charities do to reduce plastic waste in Salisbury?
3. How could we support each other in this work?

Facilitators then fed back two key points from each table. These included:

- Black plastic – There was concern with not being able to recycle this – we thought that the colour should change, then it could be recycled.
- The cost of commercial collections was too expensive so many businesses did not recycle because of the cost.
- To run a national deposit back scheme, not just for glass and plastic but also packaging.
- Return and refill containers –
- WC to follow Swansea's lead to build 6 recycled houses out of recycled plastic in the new development at Harnham – This would be pioneering if Salisbury could get on board.
- The council could consider dual waste bins.
- Rewards schemes could be given vouchers for returned plastics.
- Simpler message to public of what can go in what bin – so people are sure.
- Education – if we can get to children early enough and enforce the message that plastic is bad.
- Bring your own container/bottle/bag – set up a scheme in Sal to incentivize retailers to ask people to bring their own bags.
- Sustainable procurements – recognition for local retailers who were going the extra mile.
- Additional bins on the street for recycling
- More community led pressure to limit waste prevention – talk to businesses and hospital etc

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Communication and education more wide ranging, more fun– make it regular and access to it for all. • More awareness raising about the bricks that were mentioned. • Helping local businesses reduce – Styrofoam, black plastic and packaging. <p>The Chairman welcomed Richard Meaburn from Waitrose, ran through their Plastic Plan, detailing what had already been achieved and what was planned for the future. A copy of his update is attached to these minutes.</p> <p>The Chairman thanked everyone for taking part and noted that the Board would re-visit this theme in one year’s time, but in the meantime, there would be updates at future Boards when necessary.</p>
41	<p><u>Local Youth Network (LYN)</u></p> <p>The Board noted the LYN report attached to the agenda. Cllr Ricky Rogers gave an overview of the grants for consideration.</p> <p>Question: Had the board previously awarded funding to the anybody can cook project? <u>Answer:</u> Yes, this Board had previously awarded them £5,000, earlier in the year, for a different project.</p> <p>Anybody Can Cook - I was contacted by the Foyer, and asked to set up a series of cooking lessons for their residents. The project is for six sessions for anyone that wants to attend. Then further sessions for those individuals that wished to take catering up as a career path.</p> <p><u>Decision</u> The Any Body Can Cook Community Interest Company was awarded £1,672.44 towards the project at the Foyer.</p> <p>Gym Project - This project had been running successfully for 2 years. It was aimed at 15 – 21 year olds, that face a lot of barriers. We have had 14 young people attend the gym scheme this year.</p> <p><u>Decision</u> Wiltshire Council was awarded £4,800 towards the Salisbury Club 1 Gym Membership Project.</p>
42	<p><u>Partner and Community Updates</u></p> <p>The Board noted the written Partner updates attached to the agenda. In addition, the following verbal updates were received:</p> <p><u>Salisbury City Council – Cllr Matthew Dean</u> This weekend we will hold the Remembrance Day commemorations outside the Guild Hall.</p>

Police – John Hutchings

We are supporting Movember at the moment to raise money for charity. Many of our Neighbourhood team are trying to grow our facial hair to raise money for cancer research.

A written update circulated at the meeting, some of the point highlighted were that the Police had now moved back in to Bourne Hill. Pulse Patrols would be continuing.

We have been 100% successful in the delivery of a police presence at any event or meeting we have been asked to attend.

Questions:

- Cllr Dean - We had a presentation in the spring about your trial of a combined post with the Fire Service, what has happened to that? Answer: Yes, this was a trial with two officers that happen to be retained Fire Officers as well as their PSCO roles. The reality is that the support they have offered the Fire service, had not impacted on his day duties with us at the moment.
- Are you at 100% cover with PCSO's? Answer: No we still have vacant Posts, however we have just had a recruitment campaign.
- Cllr Walsh - SCC had spent a lot of money on beefing up the security side of the city should we continue? Answer: We work in partnership with them, and there was some success at the beginning, however as time has moved on their lack of powers has thwarted their success. It is an intelligence based partnership.

Community Engagement Manager – Karen Linaker

Salisbury had big plans for national Armed Forces Day, which would include a series of events at end of June 2019.

The first defibrillator funded by the Area Boar had been installed this week.

The Men's Shed initiative was developing and had attracted the attention of Turning Point.

Important Area Board dates -

- **13th November, 5.30pm** – Child Wellbeing Group meeting at Five Rivers
- **16th November, 12pm** - Salisbury Interfaith Week event at Café Diwali
- **19th November, 3.30pm** – Crime & Community Safety Event – Guild Hall
- **3rd December, 4pm** – Health & Wellbeing Group meeting, City Hall
- **13th December** – deadline dates for grants to next area board meeting
- **24th January, 6.30pm** – Next Area Board meeting, City Hall

43	<p><u>Community Area Transport Group (CATG)</u></p> <p>The Board considered the notes and recommendations of the last CATG meeting, and the Salisbury Area Maintenance Works for 2018/2019, as attached to the agenda.</p> <p>Cllr Sven Hocking noted that the bus shelter replacement work has been held up due to a problem with the supplier.</p> <p>The Street name plate initiative was moving forward. There had been three wards where repainting had been undertaken by a local tradesman hired by the Board.</p> <p>CATG had been looking at a scheme to put a footpath in Harnham but this had escalated to be a £170k scheme, so for now it had been put on hold.</p> <p>Cllr Rogers thanked the CATG for supporting the scheme to install a hand rail in Bemerton Heath. This simple addition has had such a big benefit to those people using the path.</p> <p>Cllr Dalton noted in relation to issue 6588 for double yellow lines at the bottom of Hollows Close in Harnham, that the bus stop and the other side was used by residents to park. The layby was used as an unofficial school drop off point. Currently, you still can get a ticket if you park there. He had spoken to the Highways engineer, and he had agreed that when the lines fade, they would then painted inside, so the £2,160 would be better spent on something else.</p> <p><u>Decision</u> The Salisbury Area Board approved the recommendations as set out by the CATG at its meeting on 9 October 2018.</p> <p><u>Decision</u> The Salisbury Area Board noted the schedule of maintenance works for 2018/19 as detailed in the agenda.</p>
44	<p><u>Community Area Grants</u></p> <p>The Board considered the application for funding from the Community Area Grants Scheme for 2018/19, as detailed in the report attached to the agenda.</p> <p><u>Food Cycle, Salisbury hub</u> The CEM informed the Board that the applicant was not in attendance.</p> <p>Cllr Hocking noted that he had wished to ask the applicant some questions on the project before he could consider awarding funding. He suggested that the application be deferred until the next meeting to enable the applicant to attend.</p> <p>Cllr Dean also noted that the applicant was currently only in the building on a temporary basis, and that they would need to discuss with SCC the prospect of</p>

	<p>them staying there long term, ahead of the Board considering the project.</p> <p>Karen noted that the applicant was planning to start work there in November.</p> <p><u>Decision</u> The application from Foodcycle Salisbury Hub was deferred until a future meeting to enable someone to attend to answer questions and support the application. <u>Reason</u> – The application met the Community Area Grants Criteria 2018/19.</p>
45	<p><u>Cllr Led initiative - Hand on Heart Defibrillator project</u></p> <p>The Board considered a Councillor Led Initiative to provide funding to a project which aimed to purchase five defibrillators for dual school and community use.</p> <p>The Board was asked to allocate £5,000 towards this project. The Initiative was backed by Cllr Ricky Rogers, who spoke in support, stating that this initial request for five units was just a start. It was hoped that in the years to come more buildings could be included in the scheme.</p> <p><u>Decision</u> The Salisbury Area Board allocated £5,000 towards the Councillor Led Initiative – Schools Community Defib Project.</p>
46	<p><u>Close</u></p> <p>The Chairman thanked everyone for attending and noted that the next meeting of the Salisbury Area Board would be held on Thursday 24 January 2019.</p>
<p><u>Attachment: Waitrose Handout</u></p>	

This page is intentionally left blank

COMMITMENT TO ELIMINATING UNNECESSARY PLASTIC

The impact of plastics on the environment is a serious concern for both our Partners and customers. Plastic serves several important functions in retail, including protecting products from damage in transit and helping preserve food for longer. However, we only want to use plastic when it is really needed and prevent it from entering the environment where it can cause damage to animals and ecosystems.

We have already reduced our packaging by almost 50% since 2009. We have taken important steps to eliminate unnecessary plastic for example by removing disposable coffee cups from our shops, eliminating microbeads from our products and innovating in alternatives to plastic, but we want to go further. This document sets out our commitments, progress and plans.

OUR COMMITMENTS



- We are determined to make all our own-brand packaging widely-recycled, reusable or home compostable. We will have identified solutions for all our packaging by 2020 and will meet our target by 2023.
- Transparency is important to drive progress in this area so we will disclose our plastic packaging data annually in tonnes and units.
- 70% of the plastic in our own-brand product packaging is already widely recyclable. We aim to increase this to 80% by 2020 and 100% by 2023.
- By the end of 2019 we will have removed black plastic from all our own-brand products.
- In 2019 we will pilot refillables in our shops and test even more loose produce ranges.
- In 2019 we will work further with our customers to determine which plastic packaging can be removed without decreasing quality and reducing shelf life to make sure that we don't increase food waste.
- We are replacing loose fruit and veg bags with home compostable alternatives by spring 2019 and will remove 5p single-use carrier bags by March 2019.
- We want to eliminate glitter from our own-brand cards, wraps, crackers, tags, flowers and plants. From 2020 all of these ranges will be either glitter-free or use an alternative.
- Building on the £1.5 million we have already donated to initiatives tackling plastic pollution, we are now putting forward a further £1 million in grants to fund projects targeting the prevention of plastic pollution and/or the impact it causes.

OUR CUSTOMERS CARE

Since Blue Planet II aired at the end of 2017, our customer services team has seen an 800% increase in questions about plastic.

We received 30,000 questions and posts about plastic on @waitrose twitter in 6 months.

In our shops customers are changing behaviours. In 2018 we have seen a 30% reduction in the use of fruit and veg bags when compared with the previous year.

OUR PLASTICS PLAN

We believe that recyclable plastic can play an important role in protecting the food that we sell to our customers. But we are committed to eliminating unnecessary plastic and we will achieve this aim in five steps.

1) PRODUCT PACKAGING

We are removing and re-designing our packaging.
We are also introducing alternatives to non-recyclable plastics.



2) PRODUCTS WE USE AND SELL

We are removing unnecessary plastic from the products that we sell and use as a business.



3) CUSTOMERS

We are working with customers to understand which plastics are unnecessary and trialling new ways of shopping.



4) SUPPLY CHAIN

We are working with our suppliers to understand where unnecessary plastic is used and reduce it.



5) PLASTIC POLLUTION & HEALTHY OCEANS

We are supporting organisations that are tackling plastic pollution through innovation and conservation.



PRODUCTS WE USE AND SELL

We are committed to eliminating unnecessary plastic in the products that we use like carrier bags, coffee cups and on our counters and in the products that we sell like straws and cutlery.

PRODUCTS WE SELL

We have taken a strong stand in this area. We were the first supermarket to stop selling products containing microbeads and at the same time we switched our plastic stem cotton buds to paper.

This year we stopped selling packs of single-use plastic straws. In 2019 we will stop selling packs of single-use plastic cutlery.

We have also been working across the horticulture industry to find an alternative to black plastic plant pots and will be introducing a widely recyclable alternative in 2019.

Our next focus is glitter. There is roughly half a gram of glitter on a bunch of flowers. There are over 43,000 tiny particles in this small amount which can easily enter the environment. For Christmas 2018 75% of our own-brand cards, wraps, crackers and tags will be glitter-free and 50% of our flowers and plants. We will significantly improve on this for Christmas 2019. By 2020 we want all own-brand products in these ranges to either be glitter-free or use an alternative.

PRODUCTS WE USE

As well as in our packaging, we use plastics at our counters, in our carrier bags, in our cafes and for loose products like bread and fruit and veg.

We are replacing loose fruit and veg plastic bags with home compostable alternatives by spring 2019. These can be used as food caddy liners by customers. At the same time we will introduce a reusable bag for fruit and veg for customers to buy.

We have also committed to removing 5p single-use plastic carrier bags by March 2019 in all shops.

Since March 2018 our customers have been able to bring their own clean and lidded reusable containers to our counters to take home cold products. This has contributed to a reduction of 5 million deli counter bags since 2017.

Our next focus is eliminating unnecessary plastic at our counters and our cafes. We aim to achieve this by 2020.

INNOVATION IN OUR SHOPS

We are trialling alternative bread bags in our shops that are widely recyclable.

In 2019 we are replacing all plastic cutlery from our Food To Go and cafes with an FSC certified wood alternative. This amounts to 13 million items of plastic cutlery per year.

We are removing disposable coffee cups from our shops which amounts to 52 million coffee cups per year. We provide customers with a choice of reusable alternatives.

PRODUCT PACKAGING

One of our key packaging principles is to reduce packaging where it is not needed and simplify it where it is. Our target is for all our own-brand packaging to be widely-recycled, reusable or home compostable by 2023 and we will have identified solutions by 2020.

We believe in being transparent about the amount of plastic we are putting onto the market. In 2017 our own-brand product packaging included 18,400 tonnes of plastic which equates to 1.4 billion units. 70% of this packaging (in tonnes) is widely recyclable and we aim to increase this to 80% by 2020 and 100% by 2023.

We also want the widely-recycled plastic we use to include 50% recycle by 2019. We currently specify 30% as a minimum.

UNNECESSARY & PROBLEM PLASTICS

We specify that none of our own-brand packaging contains these problem plastics: EPS, PVC or PLA. Polystyrene is used in some products like yoghurt pots which account for 29 tonnes of our total plastic and we want to remove this by 2020.

We want to eliminate plastic laminated board or paper which is used for products like sandwiches by 2021 and complex laminates like crisp packets by 2023.

By the end of 2019 we will have removed black plastic, which is difficult to recycle, from all our own-brand products. By the end of 2018 we will have achieved this in meat, fish and poultry, and fruit and veg. This amounts to a reduction of 1,300 tonnes of black plastic which means we are more than half-way there.

While removing black plastic we have also taken the opportunity to reduce the amount of plastic in many lines by removing trays from fruit and veg like apples, broccoli and pak choi. Where a tray is needed to protect delicate fruit and veg we have started to move to card alternatives.

However this is just the start. We want to work with our customers to understand which plastic packaging truly is unnecessary without impacting the freshness and the quality.

PACKAGING INNOVATION

We launched sandwich wrappers that are easier to recycle as the cardboard can be separated from the plastic film more easily.

Duchy tomatoes are in packaging made from tomato leaf and recycled paper. This will save 3.5 million plastic trays per year.

SINGLE-USE PLASTIC

The term single-use is widely used, but definitions vary. For us it means any product or packaging that is designed to be used only once. We are committed to removing any unnecessary single-use plastic, but it's worth noting that widely-recycled plastic can play an important role in reducing food waste by improving shelf life. By 2023 we will have eliminated any unnecessary plastic and in doing so we will have significantly reduced the number of products using single-use plastic packaging.

OUR CUSTOMERS AND SUPPLIERS

We want to work with our customers to understand which plastic packaging truly is unnecessary, without impacting on the freshness and the quality of the food.

We are also working with our suppliers to understand where most plastic is used through our supply chain and remove it where it can be avoided.

CUSTOMERS

Our customers want us to help them to reduce the amount of plastic that they use and in research we carried out in January 2018, over 85% said they wanted us to lead the way in reducing packaging or increasing recyclable packaging.

We have engaged with our customers on the topic of plastic through social media, signage in our shops and our publications including Waitrose Weekend.

In 2019 we are going to trial selling more fruit and veg loose. We are currently working out which products still need some protection to maintain their quality and avoid waste.

Some of the trials we have done so far with alternative packaging (or no packaging) have dramatically reduced the shelf life of products. One alternative packaging trial reduced shelf life from 3 days to just 6 hours!

We want to work with our customers to understand which products lend themselves to no packaging, which need more protection and which are suited to refills. All steps that we take in this area need to maintain the quality and freshness of our products.

SUPPLY CHAIN

In 2018 we signed up to the Global Ghost Gear Initiative which aims to protect marine life and minimise plastic pollution from abandoned fishing equipment. We will be working with stakeholders across the fishing industry to find solutions to lost and discarded fishing equipment.

We also shared our plans at our supplier and farmer conferences and asked them to work with us to address plastics through our supply chains.

PLASTIC POLLUTION & HEALTHY OCEANS

We want to tackle plastic pollution beyond our direct influence in our supply chains, products, shops and communities.

In 2017/2018 we have donated £1 million to the Marine Conservation Society and £500,000 to the Commonwealth Marine Plastics Research and Innovation Challenge Fund. We are stepping up our activity in this area to help to fast-track solutions for all.

£1 MILLION PLASTICS FUND

In early 2018, we launched an innovation challenge through JLAB, focusing entirely on plastic waste, calling on businesses with a deep knowledge and expertise of this issue to find creative concepts that could significantly reduce plastic waste for John Lewis & Partners and Waitrose & Partners. The result was an amazing collection of innovation and energy to make a difference.

The Waitrose & Partners Plastics Fund will build on the momentum from JLAB to address other key areas in the plastic life-cycle including education and changing societal behaviour to prevent the causes, as well as tackling the consequences and effects, of plastic pollution.

We are putting forward a further £1 million in total from the sale of 5p carrier bags.

We will be looking for initiatives that focus on plastics in one of the following areas:

- Social plastics - plastic recycling/circular economy linked to social impact
- Education campaigns - youth and children
- Consumer behaviour change - new ways of shopping
- Reduction, alternatives and re-use of plastics in food, agriculture and farming
- Impact, reduction and prevention of microplastics

JLAB

JLAB is the John Lewis Partnership's start-up acceleration hub.

In 2018 JLAB ran an innovation challenge to tackle plastic in our operations.

10 businesses were shortlisted with ideas on alternative packaging, chemical recycling, sustainable materials and plastic-free products.

CupClub™, an innovative returnable packaging service for drinks will now be trialled.