

The following question has been received from Councillor Cate Cody to the Lead Member for Finance and Asset Management. The answer is given by the Lead Member for Finance and Asset Management, Councillor Stewart Dove, but is taken as read without discussion.

	Question
1.	<p>I have repeatedly asked why we are still purchasing single-use cups for visitors, staff and Members. They are fully biodegradable; however the reality is that they are not biodegrading and instead are being incinerated. We are supposed to be a single-use plastics-free Council, yet the aforementioned cups arrive in tubes wrapped in plastic.</p> <p>Many staff and Members do use washable cups and / or have their own water bottles, but some are still using these cups as well as visitors who aren't currently given a choice.</p> <p>Please could some cups be purchased (or consider asking for donations of surplus cups - I'm sure Members and staff would be happy to donate and save the Council any expense).</p> <p>It would be good to find an alternative to the non-recyclable, single-use coffee sachets sometimes used as well.</p>
	Answer
	<p>Property Services have identified, and are in the process of purchasing, cups that are fully recyclable rather than being incinerated. It has also been confirmed that the packaging is fully recyclable. This approach has been quality assured by Suez, where all of the Public Services Centre recycling material is handled. These cups will be used for the water coolers, located in the reception area and the civic suite. The cups will also be provided with the refreshment boxes which are requested when booking a meeting room.</p> <p>All other water dispensers used by Council staff and Members are serviced by china mugs and/or glasses.</p> <p>With regards to procuring recyclable drink sachets, this is currently being investigated by the Property Services Team who will respond to Councillor Cody accordingly.</p>