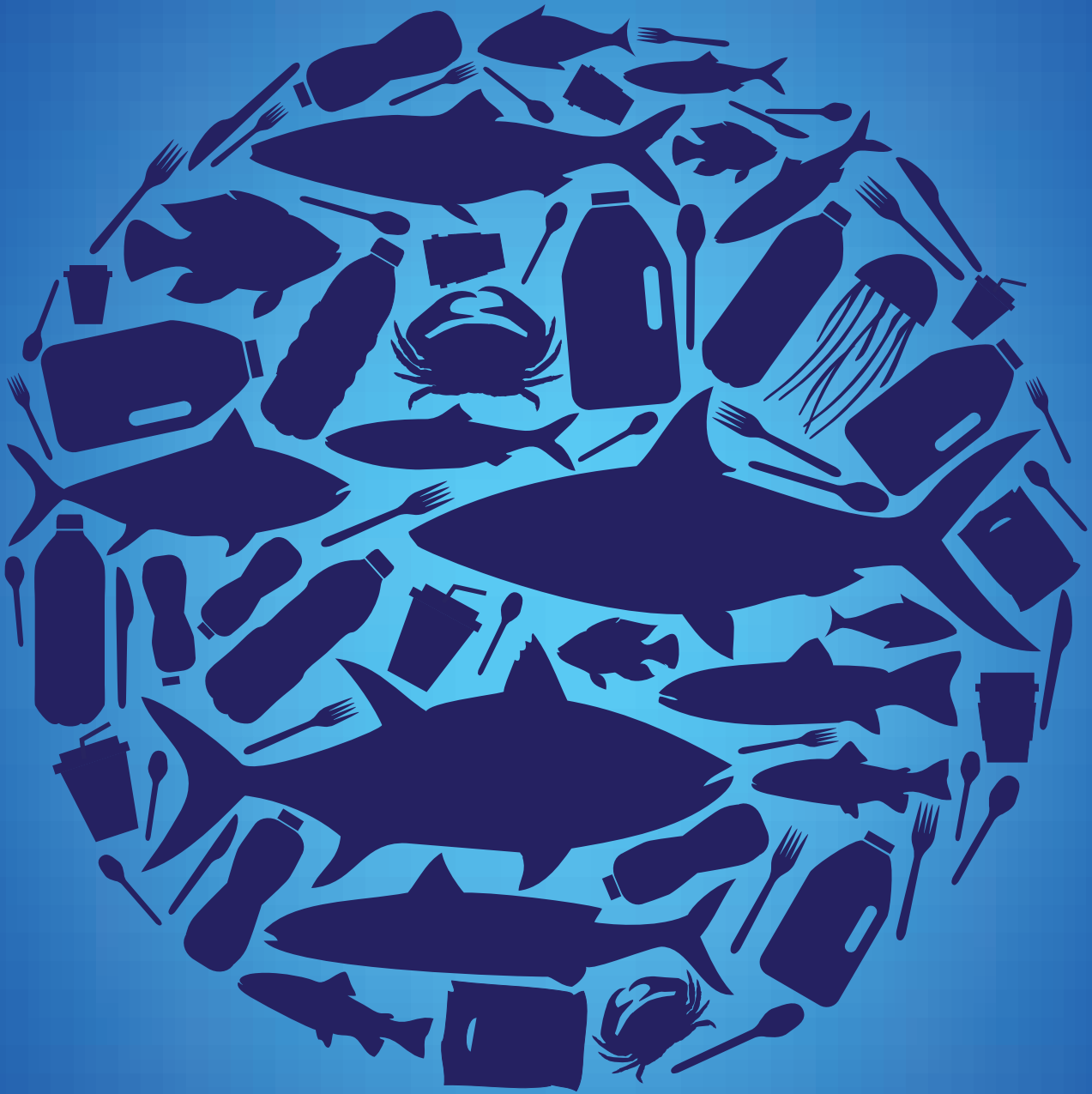


# PLYMOUTH'S PLAN FOR PLASTICS



**As Britain's Ocean City, Plymouth is at the vanguard of the worldwide effort to eliminate plastics from our natural environment.**

**We have created this Plan for Plastics in a truly citywide collaboration of organisations, businesses, education organisations, research establishments and communities.**



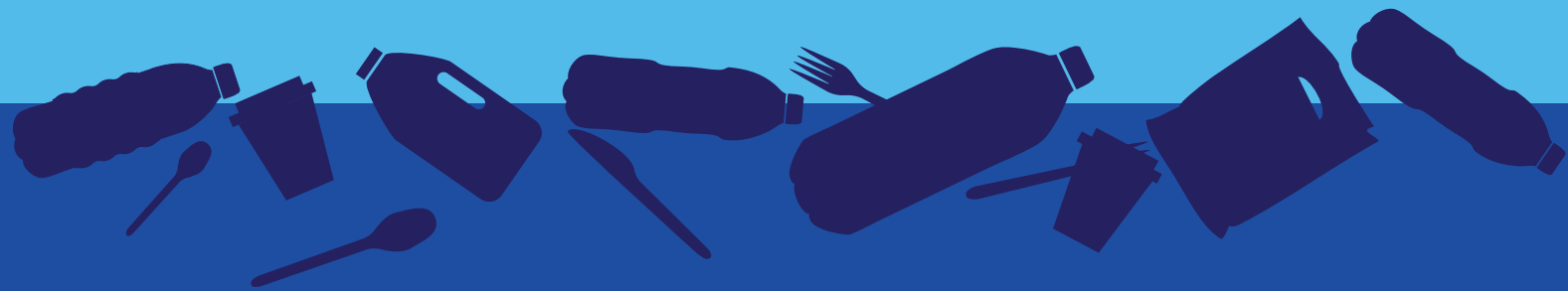


**Over the last century our use of, and reliance on, plastic has grown to a point where we seldom consider its place in our everyday lives. Recently, there has been increased international awareness of the issues resulting from plastic pollution in the marine environment.**

As Plymouth Britain's Ocean City with an enviable natural environment and world-renowned marine research and knowledge base we are perfectly placed to lead in eliminating plastics from our environment. Plastic is a versatile synthetic material which comes in a wide range of forms and because of this versatility it has been used in many ways in almost every aspect of modern life. In some cases, such as food hygiene, plastics are vital products for which there are currently no viable alternatives.

However the elements that make plastic so durable also make them resistant to natural processes of degradation. The sheer scale of plastic use and consumption by humans is now recognised as one of the most serious environmental challenges facing the Earth.

We can however rapidly reduce our consumption of unnecessary plastic, such as single use plastic bottles and together we can investigate new products and technologies to reduce our need for plastics to the absolute minimum and move towards its elimination. As Plymouth Britain's Ocean City our collective goal is to become a global leader in solving this problem.



**The Plan for Plastics will focus and drive a citywide effort to significantly reduce our use of single use plastics by 2020 and lead work to achieve our ambition of reducing plastic use to an absolute minimum by 2034.**

The Plan for Plastics will also include an element of work to enable everyone, but particularly, children and young people to access and enjoy the natural environment so that they can reclaim their oceans and greenspaces for their generation and for their children.

The delivery of the Plan for Plastics will be driven, monitored and supported by Plymouth Britain's Ocean City Task Force will have representatives from public bodies, environmental sector voluntary sector, academia, industry and businesses.

The Plan is framed around four fundamental principles:

**AVOID**

**RECYCLE**

**INNOVATE**

**CONNECT**

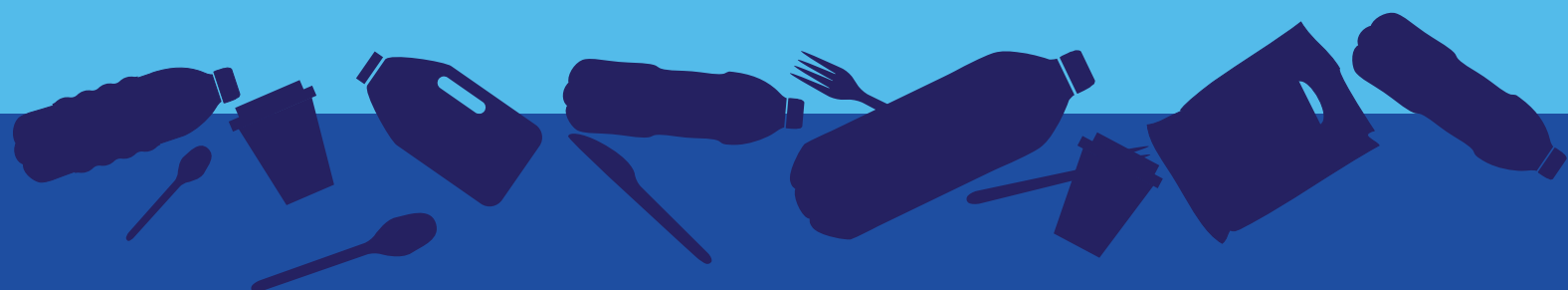
**These fundamental principles will enable organisations, businesses, community groups and schools to develop their own detailed action plans to achieving our collective citywide ambition. The principles will drive short-term improvements and longer term goals.**

**AVOID – This principle will drive an immediate reduction in plastic consumption in the City.**

- Drive forward a significant reduction of single use plastics by 2020.
- Develop ‘Plymouth Britain’s Ocean City’ branded alternatives to single use plastics, such as coffee cups. These will not only highlight the aims of the Plan, but enable the ring-fencing of contributions from each item sold which will help fund the work to deliver against the ‘Connect’ and ‘Innovate’ principles.
- Ensure that plastic alternatives are available to everyone in a manner that is not cost prohibitive to anyone contributing to the goals of the Plan.
- Lead a wholesale change in the use of plastics within organisations and businesses across the City, initially focussing on the quick wins that can rapidly reduce plastic use.
- Utilise the buying power of a coordinated citywide approach to deliver a step change in plastic consumption.
- Encourage every individual in the City to do their bit in supporting the Plan for Plastics.
- Encourage organisations, businesses, communities and schools to pledge to reduce single use plastics.

**RECYCLE – This principle will drive a change, which will prevent plastics polluting the natural environment and enable plastic products to be reused or recycled while alternatives to plastics are investigated and developed.**

- Increase recycling rates, ensuring all plastics that can be recycled actually are.
- Work with the partners across the City and industry to identify the types of plastic products that do not currently have an identified recycling stream and develop recycling options.
- Review current recycling options for plastic and deliver new ways to make it easier for people to contribute to the Plan for Plastics goals.
- Deliver a plastic off-setting scheme for organisations across the City to compensate for the plastic use that is unavoidable in the short term. For example, for every tonne of plastic thrown away, there could be a commitment that two tonnes of plastic will be removed from the natural environment through sponsored beach cleans and litter picks.
- Deliver commercially-viable methods for recycling marine plastics.





**INNOVATE** – This principle will drive forward a longer-term ambition to lead the development and production of plastic free alternatives and more innovative approaches to reducing the plastic waste already found within the natural environment.

- Support academic and industry led research and development into plastic alternatives using the significant knowledge base within the City.
- Investigate technical options for storing plastics for future re-use when the necessary technology and processing methods have been developed.
- Research and prototype new methods for removing plastics from the marine environment, including micro plastics, by capitalising on the world-renowned marine knowledge base in the City.

**CONNECT** – This principle will drive forward work to ensure that everyone has the opportunity to explore, experience and enjoy their natural environment, encouraging positive action for the future.

- Provide a programme for communities to access the marine environment through a range of water sports and events, partly funded through the contribution scheme from 'Plymouth Britain's Ocean City' branded single use plastic alternatives, such as cups and water bottles.
- Deliver a coordinated programme of beach cleans that also include wildlife surveys and fun activities.
- Support an education programme that sits alongside the Plan for Plastics that engages young people of all ages and links strongly with the City STEM agenda.

A detailed and fully costed Action Plan that will set out how each of the principles will be taken forward will support this Plan for Plastics. This will be produced by the Plymouth Britain's Ocean City Task Force during 2018.

For more information or if you can contribute to the delivery of the Plan for Plastics please contact [plastics@plymouth.gov.uk](mailto:plastics@plymouth.gov.uk)



