

Title of Report:	PeriodSmart – Reusable Period Products
Committee Report Submitted To:	Environmental Services Committee
Date of Meeting:	14th November 2023
For Decision or For Information	For Information
To be discussed In Committee YES/NO	No

Linkage to Council Strategy (2021-25)	
Strategic Theme	Climate Change and our Environment
Outcome	
Lead Officer	Head of Operations

Budgetary Considerations	
Cost of Proposal	£1,000
Included in Current Year Estimates	No
Capital/Revenue	Revenue
Code	2305 62202
Staffing Costs	N/A

Legal Considerations	
Input of Legal Services Required	NO
Legal Opinion Obtained	NO

Screening Requirements	Required for new or revised Policies, Plans, Strategies or Service Delivery Proposals.		
Section 75 Screening	Screening Completed:	Yes/No	Date:
	EQIA Required and Completed:	Yes/No	Date:
Rural Needs Assessment (RNA)	Screening Completed	Yes/No	Date:
	RNA Required and Completed:	Yes/No	Date:
Data Protection Impact Assessment (DPIA)	Screening Completed:	Yes/No	Date:
	DPIA Required and Completed:	Yes/No	Date:

1.0 Purpose of Report

1.1 The purpose of this report is to advise members of an initiative, PeriodSmart, to reduce waste around period products.

2.0 Background (to include any previous decisions of Council)

2.1 Individuals with periods use more than 11,000 disposable menstrual products in their lifetime (based on an average 38 years of menstruation using 22 items of sanitary products per cycle, 13 cycles per year).

2.2 Disposal of single use menstrual products – tampons, pads and applicators – generates c.240 tonnes of waste annually in Causeway Coast and Glens.

2.3 Most menstrual pads are made from 90% plastic, which can take hundreds, if not thousands of years to decompose in landfills or the ocean.

2.4 The initiative supports PlasticSmart and the aim to reduce single use plastics.

3.0 Proposal

3.1 Similar to NappySmart, under the PeriodSmart initiative, council would offer a refund voucher for people living in the Borough who submit a receipt for reusable period products i.e. cloth sanitary pads, menstrual cups and period pants.

3.2 Council would issue a voucher to be spent in a local business where zero waste period products can be purchased.

3.3 Value of refund would be 75% of purchase cost of product(s). This mirrors the refund available in respect of NappySmart and cloth nappy purchases.

3.4 The initiative would be run on a trial basis to ascertain uptake and demand, with a maximum allocated budget of £1,000.

4.0 Recommendation(s)

It is recommended that the Environmental Services Committee note the initiative, PeriodSmart, to be run on a trial basis with a maximum allocated budget of £1,000 and with the aim to reduce both the generation of single use plastic and waste going to landfill.