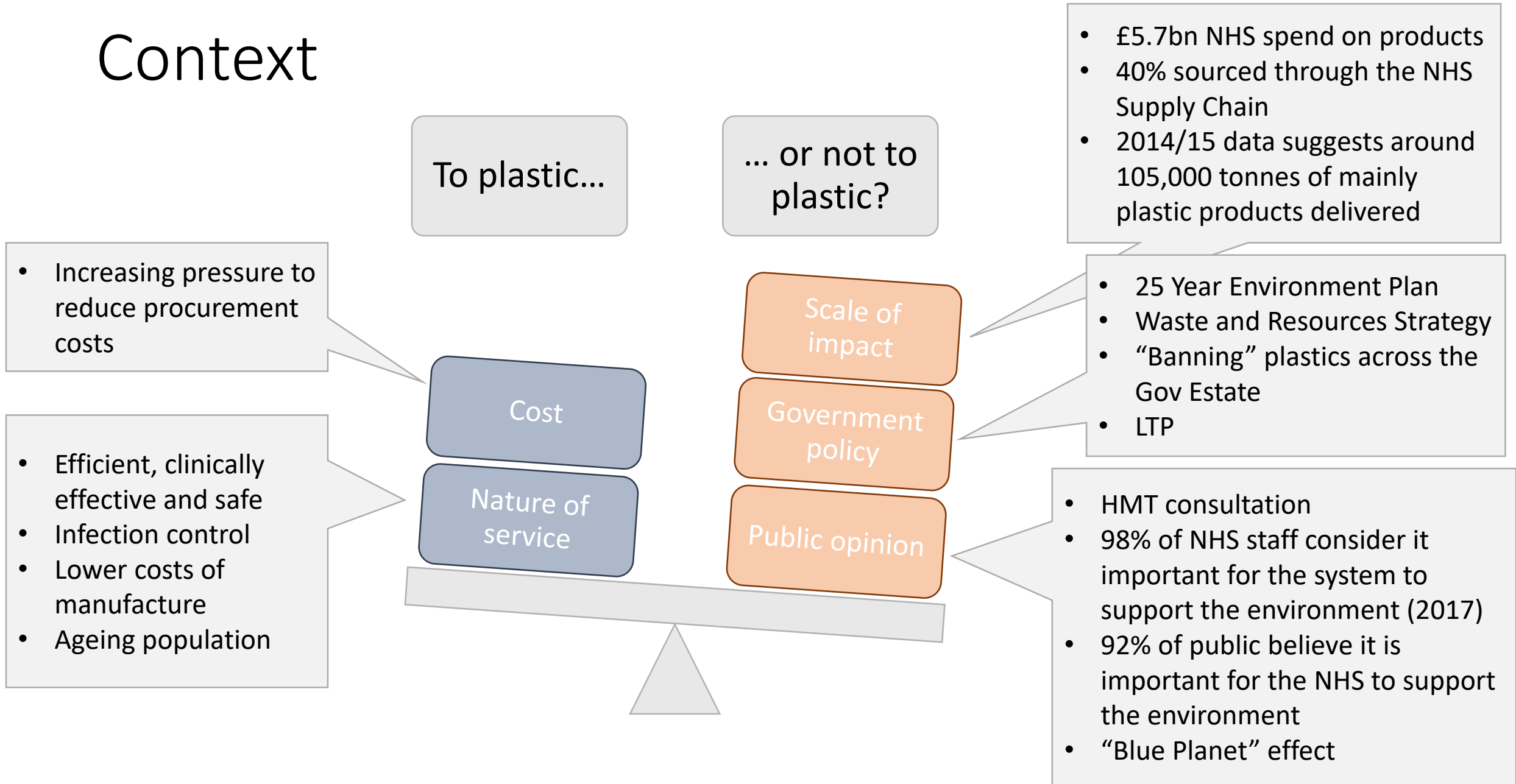


# What can we do about Plastics?

*Eleni Pasdeki-Clewer*  
*Sustainable Development Unit*

# Context



# What do you see?



- **1,970g** of **waste** from 1 cataract operation
- of which **1298g** is **plastic** and **280g** **paper/card**
- we **burn** it all at an average cost of **£0.94**
- we do **330,000** cataract operations every year
- amounting to **650 tonnes** of waste
- what if we could recycle the card, and some of the plastic?



With thanks to Dr Caspar Gibbon and his team Sue Baker, Tony Erskine Grey and Sheryar Khan at North Devon Healthcare NHS Trust



# Plastics – How to tackle?



## 1. Reduce

- Use less of (gloves)
- Replace with alternatives (aprons, plastic bags, kidney dishes)
- Reduced packaging (procedure packs)

## 2. Reuse

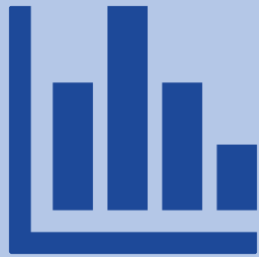
- Durable goods (crutches)
- Repurpose (plastic bags)

## 3. Recycle

- Innovation:
- Clearly marked packaging
- Suppliers to take back packaging
- Recycle

No.	Product type	Weight 14/15 (t)	High CO <sub>2</sub>	% of total plastic 'footprint' through NHS SC by weight	% of total plastic 'footprint' through NHS SC by £
1	Single Use Theatre Protective Clothing (inc drapes)	9,402	Y	9%	3.49%
2	Examination Gloves	7,952	Y	8%	3.91%
3	Disposable Wipes and Cleaning Cloth products	7,045		7%	2.81%
4	Catering Products Tableware and Light Equipment	5,628	Y	5%	0.50%
5	Polymer Products (aprons and bags)	5,244	Y	5%	2.05%
6	Medical Hollowware	5,044	Y	5%	0.12%
7	Disposable Continence Care products	5,029	Y	5%	6.33%
8	Blood Collection Systems (sample tubes & syringes)	4,851	Y	5%	2.70%
9	General Wound care	4,066	Y	4%	6.28%
10	Suction Consumables (catheters, tubing, drains)	3,823	Y	4%	2.02%
11	Syringes, Needles and Associated Products	3,353	Y	3%	1.70%
12	Clinical Waste Containers	3,216	Y	3%	1.44%
13	Medical Packs and Sterile Supplemental Products	3,028	Y	3%	1.51%
14	Needle free Connection Systems Products	2,324	Y	2%	2.15%
15	Urology Products (Drainage bags, catheters etc)	2,296	Y	2%	0.79%
	TOTAL	72,301		69%	38%

# So... what can we do?



## Baseline

Purchasing – in  
Packaging – within  
Waste – out  
Link with population health



## Good practice

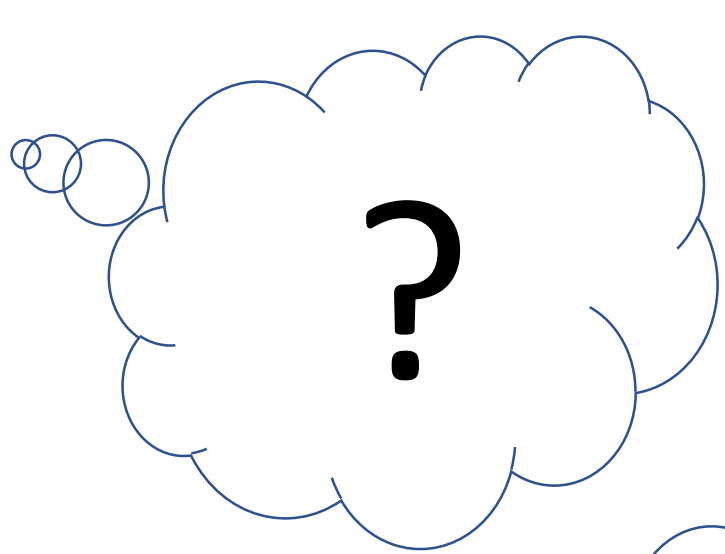
Site-specific  
Product-specific  
Industry engagement  
Food standards



## Tools

Policy levers  
Innovation programmes  
NICE  
Public awareness campaign

**G o v e r n a n c e**



# My questions

Always on the lookout for good practice examples – are you aware of any?

The South Region Sustainability Network is focusing on this – how do other Networks feel?

Particularly interested to speak with infection control or microbiology colleagues – any contacts?

Clinical vs non-Clinical – useful separation?

What interventions would help you?