

Motion for Full Council, 21 November 2018: Single-use plastics

Proposer: Cllr Mark Holland

Seconder: Jennifer Cooper

Council notes that:

- (1) Estimates of the amount of plastic waste entering the world's oceans range from 4.8 million tonnes to 13 million tonnes annually. A 2016 study found that a majority of this waste comprised single use plastic items and packaging.
- (2) It is forecast that, without urgent action to cut demand, UK plastic production will reach 34 billion tonnes by 2050.
- (3) The Marine Conservation Society reported an average of 718 items of litter per 100m of UK beach in 2017, an increase of 10% compared to 2016.
- (4) Following the broadcast of the documentary series 'Blue Planet II' one year ago, public awareness of marine plastic pollution and concern about the long-term harmful effect on the environment and wildlife of plastic waste have greatly increased.

Council welcomes the UK Government's 25-year plan to eliminate avoidable plastic waste and the recent resolution of the European Parliament endorsing an EU-wide ban on a range of single-use plastic items.

Council believes that in support of national and supranational efforts, we should lead by example in our own borough and take all measures possible to reduce plastic waste and eliminate completely plastic waste that is avoidable.

Council resolves:

- (1) To seek to eliminate all single-use plastics within Council-managed premises and facilities by 2023, the 850th anniversary of our loyal and ancient borough's charter.
- (2) To encourage our partners in Castle House to adopt a similar goal.
- (3) To work with suppliers to reduce single-use plastics within the Council's supply chain, with the ambition of eliminating single-use plastics from goods and services provided to the Council by 2025.
- (4) To ask the Portfolio Holder for Environment and Recycling to raise this matter at the next meeting of the Staffordshire Joint Waste Management Board.
- (5) To ask the Leader of the Council to write to the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs:
 - (a) informing him of this Council's policy
 - (b) responding positively to his consultation on proposals to ban the distribution and sale of plastic straws, plastic-stemmed cotton buds and plastic drink stirrers in England
 - (c) urging him to bring forward plans for an England-wide plastic bottle deposit return scheme, in line with similar schemes that are forthcoming from the devolved administrations in Wales and Scotland.