

NOTICE OF MOTION

BANNING OF SINGLE USE PLASTICS

This Council requests:

- (1) The Environment, Transport & Sustainability Committee to consider calling for a report detailing the economic and environmental impact of single use plastics, and the potential for a ban on the purchase of 'single use plastics' in all BHCC buildings and agencies;
- (2) The Policy, Resources & Growth Committee to consider the implementation of a ban on the purchase of 'single use plastics' in all BHCC buildings and agencies; taking into account the financial implications of such a ban and the recommendations of the Environment, Transport & Sustainability Committee;
- (3) To request the Procurement Advisory Board to encourage all businesses with which the council engage, via the procurement network, to support the banning of these consumables in their place of work.

Supporting Information

We produce roughly 300 million tons of plastic each year and half of it is disposable. The nature of petroleum based disposable plastic makes it difficult to recycle and new materials and chemicals must be added to it to do so. Although plastic will not biodegrade, it will break down into tiny particles after many years. In the process of breaking down, it releases toxic chemicals which make their way into our food and water supply. These toxic chemicals can be found in our bloodstream. And the latest research has linked them to cancer, infertility, birth defects, impaired immunity and many other ailments.

Single use plastics are a major source of marine litter. Items such as bags, bottles and straws present a physical danger for marine life. In landfill or in our oceans, these everyday objects result in a vast loss of energetic and material value to the economy. The transition to a circular economy offers opportunities to close the loop and prevent marine litter and its ecological, social and economic impacts.

Further note:

1. £64-97 billion of material value from plastic packaging alone is lost to the economy each year.
2. Sectors such as tourism, fishing and shipping are commonly impacted by marine litter, and there is an economic burden on local authorities through clean-up costs.

