

<b>Subject:</b>	<b>Single-Use Plastics</b>		
<b>Date of Meeting:</b>	<b>19 April 2018</b>		
<b>Report of:</b>	<b>Executive Lead Officer for Strategy, Governance &amp; Law</b>		
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	<b>Name:</b>	Mark Wall	Tel: 01273 291006
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<b>Wards Affected:</b>	<b>All</b>		

**FOR GENERAL RELEASE****1. SUMMARY AND POLICY CONTEXT:**

- 1.1 Under the Council's Petition Scheme if a petition contains more than 1,250 signatures and is not petition requesting officer evidence, it will be debated by the Full Council.
- 1.2 The e-petition has resulted in triggering a debate at the council meeting, having exceeded the threshold with a total of 1,416 signatures confirmed at the time of printing the report.

**2. RECOMMENDATIONS:**

- 2.1 That the petition is noted and referred to the Tourism, Development & Culture Committee for consideration at its meeting on the 21<sup>st</sup> June 2018.

**3. RELEVANT BACKGROUND INFORMATION / CHRONOLOGY OF KEY EVENTS:****3.1 The Petition**

We the undersigned petition Brighton & Hove Council to insist that all the events held in the City are free from single-use plastics, and if not the council will not issue licenses to the event organisers.

Following the agreement at the Environment, Transport & Sustainability Committee at 4.00pm on 28 November 2017 to report on the potential for a ban on the purchase of single-use plastics in all council buildings and agencies. We urge the council to go further to protect our coastline to insist that all City's events are free from single-use plastics and if not event licenses will not be issued to the event organisers. We would also like the promised report to be published by June 2018.

Lead Petitioner – Nicki O'Neill

Additional Information

## Background:

Convenient at the time, single-use plastics are used for a matter of minutes, but last a lifetime in the marine environment, causing death and destruction to all that resides there. With parts of the ocean now holding more plastic than plankton, our entire ecosystem is under threat. Losing food, recreation and the oxygen giving qualities of the ocean will impact every single one of us. We are our concerned about the amount of plastic in the marine environment. The problem with plastic in our oceans is that it can be deadly for wildlife. Plastic can entangle, injure and drown animals; it can also be mistaken for food and starve animals to death by blocking their digestive systems. For humans, our wild spaces and oxygen supply, as well as our health, are at risk. The chemicals that plastics leach and absorb in seawater have been linked to endocrine disruption and some cancers and with 1 in 3 fish caught for human consumption now containing plastic, it's no longer a question of if there is plastic in our seafood, but how bad exactly that is for us.

Following the recent Blue Planet II TV programme, Sir David Attenborough hopes the programme will help every viewer to realise "that we have a responsibility" to take plastic off the menu. "We've seen albatrosses come back with their belly full of food for their young and nothing in it. The albatross parent has been away for three weeks gathering stuff for her young and what comes out?"

"What does she give her chick? You think it's going to be squid, but it's plastic. The chick is going to starve and die."

"We may think we live a long way from the oceans but we don't. What we actually do here ... has a direct effect on the oceans and what the oceans do then reflects back on us.

## Current Research:

Future of sea plastic pollution <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/future-of-the-sea-plastic-pollution>

Love of the seas could be the answer for plastic pollution

<https://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2017/09/170918132726.htm>

SAS Marine Litter Report

<https://www.sas.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/SAS-Marine-Litter-Report-Med.pdf>

MCS Marine Plastics Report

<https://www.mcsuk.org/downloads/pollution/PPPS%20Marine%20Plastics.pdf>

As a group of all year round sea swimmers, we see first hand the effects single-use plastics have on our beaches and coastlines. Following the recent Brighton Half Marathon, we saw and collected discarded single-use bottles given out at the event from the beaches and promenade. We love Brighton & Hove and are not in principle against the many great events that we hold in our vibrant City. Many of us are also keen runners and participate in City events. But we are concerned about the levels of marine litter that we encounter throughout the year. Following some research we have found some events that are leading the way (Trail running war, <https://www.trailrunningmag.co.uk/news/articles/war-on-plastic> on plastics) and have banned plastic from their events. Anglesey Half Marathon, <http://alwaysaimhigh events.com/anglesey-half-marathon/anglesey-half-marathon-route-info>, Centurion Running, <http://centurionrunning.com/>, Croyde Ocean Triathlon, <http://croydeocean.co.uk/>, LoveSwimRun, <http://loveswimrun.co.uk/>, UTMB Mont Blanc, <http://utmbmontblanc.com/>, Lakeland 100, <http://www.lakeland100.com/> & the

Otillo Swim Run, <https://otilloswimrun.com/no-more-cups/> events are trialling reusable cups, such as Hydrapak Speed Cups, <https://www.ultralightoutdoorgear.co.uk/eq>

#### **4. PROCEDURE:**

4.1 The petition will be debated at the Council meeting in accordance with the agreed protocol:

- (i) The Lead petitioner will be invited by the Mayor to present the petition and will have up to 3 minutes in which to outline the prayer of the petition and confirm the number of signatures;
- (ii) The Mayor will then open the matter up for debate by councillors for period of 15 minutes and will first call on the relevant Committee Chair to respond to the petition and move a proposed response. The Mayor will then call on those councillors who have indicated a desire to speak in the matter, before calling on the relevant Committee Chair to respond to the debate;
- (iii) An amendment to the recommendation in paragraph 2.1 of the report or to add additional recommendations should be submitted by 10.00am on the day of the meeting; otherwise it will be subject to the Chair's discretion as to being appropriate. Any such amendment will need to be formally moved and seconded at the meeting;
- (iv) After the 15 minutes set aside for the debate, the Mayor will then formally put:
  - (a) Any amendments in the order in which they are moved, and
  - (b) The substantive recommendation(s) as amended (if amended).

