

Subject: Improve Brighton & Hove's Recycling Scheme-
Petition for Debate:
Extract from the proceedings of the Council Meeting
held on the 18 October 2018

Date of Meeting: 27 November 2018

Report of: Executive Lead Officer for Strategy, Governance &
Law

Contact Officer: Name: **Mark Wall** Tel: **01273 291006**
E-mail: mark.wall@brighton-hove.gov.uk

Wards Affected: All

FOR GENERAL RELEASE

Action Required of the Environment, Transport & Sustainability Committee
To receive the petition referred from the Council for consideration.

Recommendations:

- (1) That the petition be noted and referred to the Environment, Transport & Sustainability Committee for consideration at its meeting on the 27th November 2018, with the report to this meeting to include:
 - (i) a costed investigation into increasing the range of plastics the Council collects;
 - (ii) a costed investigation into the set-up of a food waste collection trial;
 - (iii) a costed investigation into an education and information publicity drive, encouraging recycling and explaining how and what can be recycled;
 - (iv) a costed investigation into options for a 'Service Guarantee,' allowing residents to know what level of recycling service they can expect the Council to provide;
- (2) That with the above investigations to include the exploration of external funding sources e.g. DEFRA, Local Enterprise Partnership, Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government and others; and
- (3) That for such a report to provide further detail on:
 - (i) how the Council may seek to ensure events granted permission in Brighton and Hove are 'single-use plastic free' by 2020;
 - (ii) an action plan, including timescales, setting out how the council will contribute to the achievement of the Waste Framework Directive target of 50% recycling by 2020.

Petition: 3,161 Signatures

We demand for the Brighton and Hove council to implement weekly kerbside recycling collection and start recycling a wider variety of plastic and food waste.

We require immediate action from Brighton and Hove Council to improve public recycling services. Currently, the local council does not recycle any food packaging plastics or other plastic waste aside from plastic bottles, and even this is on a fortnightly basis. This is unacceptable: comparable local council areas recycle a far wider range of plastics with similar council budgets.

Lead petitioner: Tea Meneghetti

BRIGHTON & HOVE CITY COUNCIL**COUNCIL****4.30pm 19 JULY 2018****COUNCIL CHAMBER - HOVE TOWN HALL****MINUTES**

Present: Councillors Simson (Chair), Phillips (Deputy Chair), Atkinson, Barford, Barnett, Bell, Bennett, Brown, Chapman, Cobb, Daniel, Deane, Druitt, Gibson, Gilbey, Greenbaum, Hamilton, Hill, Horan, Hyde, Inkpin-Leissner, Janio, Knight, Lewry, Littman, Mac Cafferty, Marsh, Meadows, Mears, Miller, Mitchell, Moonan, Morgan, Nemeth, A Norman, K Norman, O'Quinn, Page, Peltzer Dunn, Penn, Platts, Robins, Sykes, C Theobald, G Theobald, Wares, Wealls and Yates.

PART ONE**31 PETITIONS FOR COUNCIL DEBATE****(1) IMPROVE BRIGHTON & HOVE'S RECYCLING SCHEME**

- 31.1 The Mayor stated that where a petition secured 1,250 or more signatures it could be debated at the council meeting. She had been made aware of 2 such petitions. She also noted that there was an amendment to the covering report's recommendation for Item 31(1), Improve Brighton & Hove's Recycling Scheme from the Green Group.
- 31.2 The Mayor then invited Tea Meneghetti and Alizee Staes to come forward and present the first petition.
- 31.3 The petitioners thanked the Mayor and stated that the petition resulted from the need to improve the council's recycling scheme and to encourage people to recycle a wider range of plastics and to be able to make better use of home composting for food waste. There was a need to provide better information to people so that they could improve their own recycling and to look at how schools could be encouraged to get involved in educating children. M noted that of the 353 councils in the UK, Brighton & Hove was 326th for waste recycling and this needed to improve and could with support from residents, organisations and the council.
- 31.4 Councillor Mitchell thanked both petitioners for bringing the petition to the council meeting and noted that it was a wide-ranging petition and that the council was already taking some action in relation to the options outlined. She stated that more plastics could be collected, but there was a need for a national approach to this as collections differed across the country. She also noted that reprocessing plants were becoming increasingly selective about the materials they would accept and demand for low-grade materials was falling. A number of authorities had taken steps to change their collections and were not taking low-grade plastics. She stated that there was a need for

a co-ordinated approach and investment in how plastics could be recycled but that had to come from the government at a national level.

- 31.5 Councillor Littman welcomed the petition and moved an amendment on behalf of the Green Group, which called for a report to the November meeting of the Environment, Transport & Sustainability Committee detailing how matters could be progressed to meet the aims of the petition. He stated that the amendment sought to be constructive and to enable residents to have a clear understanding of what could and could not be recycled. He also suggested that Veolia as the waste contractor would be willing to invest in their equipment to improve the recycling of plastics if the council made steps to improve collections.
- 31.6 Councillor Littman stated that there had been discussions prior to the meeting and a suggestion that if the three recommendations were taken separately, there could be support for some of them. He therefore queried whether the Mayor would be willing to put each recommendation in the amendment to the vote on an individual basis rather as a whole.
- 31.7 The Mayor noted the request and stated that given the length of amendment she was minded to take it in its entirety rather than separate out the recommendations.
- 31.8 Councillor Gibson formally seconded the amendment and stated that it reflected a change in the public's attitude towards recycling and single-use plastics. He noted that current recycling rates were at 29% and the target was 50% by 2020 and stated that there was a need to listen to the community and to improve recycling rates.
- 31.9 Councillor Wares welcomed the petition and stated that the need to address the issue of the use of plastics was something that had to be addressed by everyone, including the government, manufacturers, and residents. He believed that it would take two years to get back to previous recycling rates and that the frequency of collection rates could not be reduced.
- 31.10 Councillor Hill stated that there was a need for manufacturers and retailers to look at how goods were packaged and to reduce the use of plastics. She acknowledged that the council had a part to play and would need to look at sustainable options and that residents would also need to support the council with recycling.
- 31.11 Councillor Mitchell stated that she was not minded to accept the amendment as it would impact on available resources and divert them away from other service considerations that needed to be addressed. She stated that new garden waste customers were being taken on and that there were no plans to reduce household waste collections.
- 31.12 Councillor Littman stated that he wished to revise the amendment and to remove recommendation 2.1 (iii) so that the Mayor could then put the whole amendment to the vote.
- 31.13 The Monitoring Officer confirmed that the mover of a motion could either withdraw it or seek to amend it subject to the consent of the council.

31.14 The Mayor noted the request from Councillor Littman to revise the amendment by removing recommendation 2.1 (iii) and put it to the vote, which was carried by 27 votes to 18 with 2 abstentions.

31.15 The Mayor thanked the petitioners for attending the meeting and presenting the petition, and noted that the Green Group's amendment as amended had been approved. She therefore put the revised amendment to the vote which was carried by 28 votes to 19.

31.16 The Mayor then put the recommendations as amended to the vote which was carried by 28 votes to 19.

31.17 RESOLVED:

- (1) That the petition be noted and referred to the Environment, Transport & Sustainability Committee for consideration at its meeting on the 27th November 2018, with the report to this meeting to include:
 - (i) a costed investigation into increasing the range of plastics the Council collects;
 - (ii) a costed investigation into the set-up of a food waste collection trial;
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