

Full Council 13 November 2018



Report of: Quentin Baker, Interim Director - Legal & Democratic Services

Title: Petition debate – City Wide Ban on Single Use Disposable Plastics

Recommendation

That Full Council debates the petition and refers it to the Mayor / relevant Cabinet member for a formal response.

Summary

Under the Council's petitions scheme, where a petition has 3,500 or more signatures from people who live, work or study in Bristol, the petition organiser can request a Full Council debate.

The Council has received a petition in relation to a City Wide Ban on Single Use Disposable Plastics.

The petition organisers have requested that Full Council debates the petition.

Details of the petition

1. The wording of the petition is as follows:

Petition title / subject: City Wide Ban on Single Use Disposable Plastics

We the undersigned call for the Mayor to take all practical steps* to make Bristol an exemplar disposable plastic-free city.

Single use, disposable plastics such as polystyrene takeaway containers and plastic cups are a cause of litter, a waste of resources, and a problem for future generations. They waste fossil fuels and create unsightly streets, and their persistence causes untold harm for wildlife on land and at sea.

While accepting that there are a few cases where single-use plastics are essential, such as in medical treatment, for most uses there are alternatives. But to achieve this, many people have to play their part, including users, traders, and those organising events and providing services in the city.

The Council needs to play a leading role as champion, active supporter, regulator, and service provider in ending the prevalence of single use, disposable plastics. We the undersigned therefore call on the Mayor of Bristol to support and enforce a ban on single use plastic packaging and containers, including through events licensing, as a provider of services, as a partner working with other organisations, and through media and education.

* Things the Mayor can do include:

- Specifying how the council's own events and facilities are run – setting a better example!
- Changing events rules.
- Procurement choices that specify alternatives.
- Helping bulk buy compostable packaging for traders via Bristol Waste Company.
- Better promotion of recycling and composting facilities and services where they are needed.
- Licensing rules being amended for street traders and takeaways.
- Better enforcement of littering sanctions.
- Educational initiatives.
- Using council media work to promote the ban.
- Lobbying government for better powers to control waste.

2. The petition has been organised by Councillor Martin Fodor and Alex Morss.
3. The petition has secured 4070 validated signatures.
4. The Full Council is asked to debate the petition.
5. Under the petition scheme, the petition organiser is permitted up to 5 minutes to present and speak to the petition. The petition scheme allows a further period of up to 15 minutes for discussion of the petition by councillors at the Full Council meeting.
6. The Full Council has agreed the following in relation to dealing with petitions with over 3500

signatures: The topic of the debate should be referred to the Mayor/Cabinet, or other relevant body with the petitioner's views and Full Council's views.

RECOMMENDATION

Following the debate, the Full Council is recommended to refer the petition to the Mayor, in order that the Mayor can consider his response, in liaison with the relevant Cabinet member.