

No Supermarkets Compact

This Council ~~notes regrets the prevalence of negative issues from a range of sources within the~~ that retail and distribution ~~workers have been at the front line of the Covid-19 crisis, facing a high-~~ ~~pressured environment and that~~ sector that hamper the city's sustainability aspirations. The supermarkets have made many adaptations to keep the city running during the lockdown. ~~This commitment and innovation could from which we can learn but need to~~ be extended to deliver greater permanent benefits.

~~The Council notes a number of challenges within the retail and distribution sector that hamper the city's sustainability aspirations. These challenges include, but not exclusively:~~

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- extensive usage of a wide range of packaging materials
- continuing use of materials, particularly plastics, with poor recycling outcomes
- excessive levels of wastage, particularly of food
- increasing heavy vehicular distribution-miles, both cross-countries and within the city

~~Council further regrets that precious resources and taxpayers' money have to be used to resolve and mitigate some of these issues, where this is an option.~~

~~The Council regrets that it lacks the regulatory powers to control the negative outcomes from some large commercial organisations- in the city and the resources required to resolve and mitigate some of these issues.~~

This Council notes the announcements and actions by more conscientious firms to address some of these issues to reduce their costs and be more responsible.

This Council notes the unacceptable level of food poverty in our city.

This Council notes the increasing challenges around goods delivery vehicles in our city ~~and the use of freight consolidation~~ which is attempting to reduce the volume of traffic and improve air quality.

This Council notes that a successful plan to deliver carbon neutrality by 2030 will require committed leadership to inspire common purpose in everyone and across all groups in our city

This Council notes that much customer packaging places volume and disposal demands on the city's waste services, while their bulk packaging is also unsustainable though disposed through commercial operators.

This Council notes that a proposal to address these issues ~~is~~ supported by research and a dossier of detailed responses by all of the eight major supermarkets, ~~which~~ has been prepared by a BCC scrutiny committee and was commended by a committee of the Core Cities team.

~~The Council resolves to thank our retail and distribution workers,~~

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~~It indicated how~~ A focused and co-operative ~~approach use of BCC resources~~ might deliver multiple benefits, including a:

- ~~reduction in the use of waste/~~plastics ~~reduction~~
- ~~reduction in~~ food ~~waste-saving~~
- reduction in delivery-miles

- rewarding sustainable practice
- getting out our sustainability message through big players to the shopping public
- tackling at source some resulting issues ~~currently funded through the public purse that our taxpayers presently have to fund so re-allocating reduced costs, and greater savings, to the originators~~

The Council resolves to set up a working group to engage with key stakeholders, including supermarkets, councillors and trade unions, to resolve these challenges.

Council therefore resolves to launch the first core-city co-operative initiative of its kind:

Council resolves that this working group will explore a Supermarkets Charter~~A Supermarkets Compact agreed~~ with the major chains in Bristol where the City council sets a small number of key criteria that will benefit the city and promotes a 'Kitemark'- type scheme awarding recognition as each is achieved. This would ~~applaud~~ recognise good practice, in a competitive market increasingly sensitive to improving sustainability, and ~~open up opportunities for reaching out to enable~~ customers to make informed choices, with ~~rising credentials~~ the 'Kitemark' displayed on their premises and promotional literature.

Such a scheme would be a simple and highly visible way of advancing our sustainability ambitions. It would be co-operative, competitive and catalytic while fair and sustainable. It would be a cost-effective way for this city to offer mutual solutions to long-standing common problems. It would be a bold advance in the crucial community engagement measures to deliver real-life sustainability, closer to source. We request the Mayor to take this forward through the most appropriate structures.

~~This council resolves to request the incumbent administration to instruct officers to take forward this proposal.~~

Motion to be presented by: Cllr. Anthony Negus (Cotham, LibDem councillor)

Date of submission: 25th June 2020