

Motion from the High Peak Labour Group to Full Council : Single Use Plastics

Proposed by Cllr Jean Todd

Seconded by Cllr David Kerr

This Council notes:

- Most plastic does not decompose; a plastic bottle can last for 450 years in the marine environment. Plastic slowly fragments into smaller pieces but never truly go away- these are known as microplastics.
- Everyday approximately 8 million pieces of plastic are entering the oceans. Estimates suggest that by 2050 there could be more plastic in our oceans than fish.
- Approximately 5,000 items of marine plastic pollution have been found per mile of beach in the UK. Plastic bottles and packaging make up a third of plastic pollution entering the sea. Tyre dust, maritime waste, nurdles and synthetic microfibers make up another 47% of the problem.
- Plastic pollution causes harm to wildlife such as fish, seabirds and dolphins. Recent research has found marine plastic in 100% of marine turtles, 59% of whales, 36% of seals and 40% of seabirds. 100,000 marine mammals and turtles are killed by plastic pollution every year. 1 in 3 fish caught for human consumption contains plastic.
- UK rivers have been found to be heavily polluted with microplastics. Recent studies have also found microplastics in both tap and bottled water.
- The plastics crisis requires action by national and local governments to reduce plastic pollution by increasing recycling rates and eliminate unnecessary single-use plastic (SUP).

This Council believes:

- We need to move away from a linear plastics economy, where we take, make and dispose of plastic, towards a circular system where we capture the value of plastics material - keeping plastic in the economy and out of the oceans.
- National government are not taking decisive action to deal with the problem of plastic pollution.

This Council therefore commits to:

- To become a full signatory of the 'Plastic Free Pledge' by eliminating all single-use plastics within Council managed buildings and facilities by 2020.
- Incorporate the reduction of single-use plastic into the Council's waste strategy, and investigate ways to further improve our recycling performance by making it easier for residents to recycle by seeking ways in which a wider range of plastics and other dry recyclable materials can go into the brown bins.
- Consider with partners the installation of water fountains across the High Peak.
- Work with and encourage the public, local businesses, partners and institutions to go 'plastic free'.
- Investigate incentivising traders on Council land to sell re-usable or non-plastic biodegradable containers and invite customers to bring their own, with the aim of phasing out single-use plastics, including investigating the possibility of requiring food and drink vendors to avoid SUPs as a condition of their event permission.
- Work with existing local and national groups and experts such as Keep Britain Tidy to implement these changes.
- Ask the cabinet member responsible for the environment to write to the Government Minister for Environment, requesting that the reduction of single-use plastic form part of the government's Resources and Waste Strategy.

- Ensure, where practical, all future council procurement exercises eliminate the use of single-use plastics, replacing them with sustainable or re-usable alternatives where practicable.