

AGENDA ITEM 17

AMENDMENT to Motion regarding the use of Single Use Plastics from Councillor Boden

Many Fenland residents have very real concerns about the use of Single Use Plastics (SUPs), especially following David Attenborough's recent television series about our seas and oceans.

Anecdotal evidence suggests somewhere in the region of eight million tonnes of plastic waste enters the sea each year. David Attenborough urged: "a plastic crisis is engulfing our seas and we need to stop the problem urgently".

This Council should in absolutely no way be responsible, either directly or indirectly, for plastic waste entering our seas and oceans.

THIS COUNCIL THEREFORE RESOLVES:

1. that an audit of the disposal of single use plastics used by this Council be conducted and presented to the July meeting of Cabinet to give assurance (or otherwise) that no plastic waste produced by FDC is entering our seas or oceans.
2. that if any evidence is found that single use plastic waste produced by FDC is entering our seas or oceans, immediate action be taken by Officers to change our disposal methods to stop any of FDC's plastic waste entering our seas or oceans.

The disposal and use of SUPs is but a part of a much wider problem. FDC should be adhering to the "REDUCE, RE-USE and RECYCLE" principles (often called the "3Rs") when considering all of its activities.

THIS COUNCIL THEREFORE RESOLVES:

3. that a comprehensive report be prepared and considered by Cabinet this calendar year evaluating our success or otherwise in adhering to the 3Rs principles in all of FDC's activities, proposing improvements to current practice wherever possible. In that context, specific consideration should be given to how the direct use of any SUPs by FDC can be consistent with FDC's adherence to the 3Rs.
4. that the comprehensive report in item 3 above should consider how FDC can, via its procurement of goods, services and supplies, wherever feasible and appropriate minimise if not eliminate its indirect use of SUPs via its procurement of goods, services and supplies.
5. that, once FDC is able to display a high level of compliance with the 3Rs principles, we should seek to lead by example and influence the behaviour of the District's other institutions, businesses, tenants and citizens.