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Date: 6 April 2021

My Ref: NH/TakeawayApril21

Your Ref

Dear Sir/Madam

### **Takeaway Litter**

As Plymouth prepares to emerge from lockdown, further measures are being put in place to encourage everyone to work together to dispose of litter and waste sensibly to help keep our city clean.

Many businesses already work hard to reduce the impact of their waste on the local environment. We also understand that it is down to the individual to take responsibility for their own litter.

As part of the Council's commitment to keeping our city clean, we are writing to local businesses to suggest further ways to help reduce the impact of littering, especially plastic waste, and provide more opportunities to encourage others to not drop litter. Here are a few ideas:-

- Consider what steps you take to dispose of your waste correctly: Do you clean up around your premises? Do you provide large enough bins for customers, and empty them regularly?
- If you have 'drive through' facilities, have you thought about recording the registration number on the till receipt? This may help us identify perpetrators who dispose of their waste irresponsibly.
- Is there any packaging you could change or stop using, to reduce costs and waste? Have you considered incentives to re-use containers?
- Are there any more environmentally friendly alternative packaging options?
- Could you put up signage to remind customers to discard litter responsibly? Resources are available on the Keep Britain Tidy webpages.
- Cigarette butts are the biggest source of litter, do you have appropriate litter bins for butts for customers and staff?

Environmental Enforcement Officers patrol Plymouth, issuing fines to those who are seen littering. Last year they issued 1,642 fixed penalty notices to those caught dropping litter.

There is information online about how to control business waste. Businesses can either use Plymouth City Council to collect their trade waste or another registered waste carrier. For information on Plymouth City Council trade waste, please visit

<https://www.plymouth.gov.uk/binsrecyclingandwaste/commercialwasteservices>

For general business advice please visit <https://www.plymouth.gov.uk/publicprotectionadviceandsupport>

Within the Preventing Plastic Pollution Project, Environment Plymouth are encouraging businesses to sign up to a Plastic Free Charter. Building on their existing Plastic Free Communities work with Surfers Against Sewage, they will be taking action one step further into Phase 2, working with businesses to change their usage of avoidable plastics, increasing recycled materials and modifying their supply lines. This is open to all businesses within Plymouth and provides a great opportunity to become a greener, more sustainable organisation, working towards Plastic Free certification. For more information, or to get involved and make your pledge towards a plastic free future please email

[plasticfreeplymouthsound@gmail.com](mailto:plasticfreeplymouthsound@gmail.com)

We appreciate any support you can give to help us keep our city clean. You can report fly tipping or littering through our website. <https://www.plymouth.gov.uk/streetcareandcleaning/reportflytipping>

You may also wish to keep up to date on news stories about our enforcement activities on our dedicated Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/environmentalenforcement>

There have also been recent reports of large queues forming outside premises whilst customers are waiting for takeaway food. Please ensure you have adequate staff to be able to manage your queues to ensure social distancing is maintained and footpaths are not blocked.

Thank you for your help.

Yours sincerely

**Nicola Horne**  
**Environmental Health (Environmental Protection) Manager**