

MOTION ON NOTICE

City Council 29th January 2018



PLASTIC FREE PLYMOUTH

Plymouth is Britain's Ocean City. The ocean has shaped our city, its economy, and its history. However, a huge amount of damage in the form of plastic pollution is being inflicted on our ocean. In the 500 years it takes for plastic to degrade, it fragments into microscopic pieces that find its way into our marine life affecting the food chain, and the water we eventually drink.

Every day 8 million pieces of plastic pollution finds its way into our ocean, with on average 75% of ocean debris being plastic. This council believes this current state is unacceptable, and that we need to fundamentally change our usage of plastic to avoid an environmental catastrophe for future generations.

As Britain's Ocean City, this council should take leadership on this issue by striving to become Britain's first "Plastic Free Coastline" accredited city. By immediately starting to phase out this council's own usage of Single Use plastics, working with local businesses and community groups, we will set an example to the rest of the UK to follow, and gain nationally recognised "Plastic Free" accreditation. This would be a fitting achievement in the run up to Mayflower 400.

As part of a campaign to designate Plymouth Sound as the country's first National Marine Park, this council will support a "Plastic Free" Plymouth by:

1. Having a council-led Plastic Free Plymouth Task Force that involves local businesses and organisations in place by June 2018. This task force will create an action plan that works towards moving away from the use of unnecessary single usage plastics in Plymouth.
2. As far as reasonably practicable start phasing out its use of unnecessary 'single use plastic' (SUP) products such as bottles, cups, cutlery and drinking straws in all Council buildings and at all Council events by June 2020.

Proposed by Councillor Darren Winter

Signed via email

Seconded by Councillor Tudor Evans

Signed via email

Dated 22th January 2018