

COUNCIL 3 FEBRUARY 2021

NOTICE OF MOTION – STRATEGIC THEME MOTION

Council notes with concern:

1. the ever-growing plastic contamination of our oceans and the threat to life this wreaks; and
2. that at every step in its lifecycle, even long after it has been discarded, plastic creates greenhouse gas emissions that are contributing to the climate change emergency.

Council calls on Government to take action to reduce plastic use and find ways to stop our throwaway culture, and urges Government to fulfil its manifesto commitment to ban the practice of exporting unsorted plastic waste to developing countries, which the EU has banned since 1 January 2021.

In addition to necessary Government action, Council recognises that there is also a local leadership role to play in reducing plastic pollution across the borough, and therefore requests that Cabinet commits to:

1. working with residents, businesses and organisations across Merton to help them go ‘single-use plastic free,’ sharing business support and practical advice to help the transition from single-use plastics to re-usable alternatives; and
2. incorporating a relevant workstream into the Climate Change Delivery Plan (that might include, for example, the Council itself becoming ‘single use plastic free’, participation in schemes that encourage the refilling of drinking bottles, the installation of further water fountains, the collection and recycling of a full range of plastic materials, deposit schemes for plastic containers and information for residents and businesses).

Cllr Jenifer Gould Cllr Hina Bokhari Cllr Anthony Fairclough