

Report of the Cabinet Member
Community, Public Health, Transportation and Environmental
Services

I have been asked to report by Councillor Hook, as follows:

“An update on progress with County Council minute 44 of 5th October 2017 and ask that the Cabinet Member consider phasing out all single use plastics from the Council this calendar year; that he contacts all Devon MPs seeking their active support in introducing a bottle deposit return scheme nationally, and all Devon Supermarkets be asked to introduce a plastic free aisle in their stores. At the same time can the Cabinet Member ensure DCC will enter into detailed talks with all other Devon local authorities to actively pursue all ways to increase plastic recycling

1) An update on progress with County Council minute 44 of 5th October 2017

The Notice of Motion was discussed by Cabinet on the 8th November and its spirit was supported. The Authority also committed to addressing the issue through its environmental performance agenda to review its use of single-use plastics.

A Single-Use Plastics Strategy and Action Plan has been drafted, and the review of DCC's consumption of single-use plastics has been completed. These were endorsed by the Environmental Performance Board on the 14th May and will be presented to Cabinet on the 13th June.

2) Ask that the Cabinet Member consider phasing out all single use plastics from the Council this calendar year

This has been considered as part of the review. The conclusion is that plastics are so useful and so engrained in our lives that a slower transition is necessary. The greatest contributor to marine plastics is single-use food and beverage packaging. DCC will remove all avoidable, single-use plastic, food and beverage packaging and tableware by 2020.

3) He contacts all Devon MPs seeking their active support in introducing a bottle deposit return scheme nationally, and all Devon Supermarkets be asked to introduce a plastic free aisle in their stores.

In March the Government committed to introducing a bottle deposit return scheme for all drink containers. The detail of this will be subject to a consultation later this year which the authority will certainly engage with.

WRAP is working nationally with retailers to explore introducing plastic-free aisles. This initiative was launched within Government's 25-Year Environment Plan.

4) Ensure DCC will enter into detailed talks with all other Devon local authorities to actively pursue all ways to increase plastic recycling

Devon County Council has been working with local authorities for many years to improve the rate of plastic recycling in Devon. All districts in Devon collect mixed plastic from the kerbside, other than South Hams and West Devon that collect plastic bottles. Most plastics are accepted at all household waste recycling centres.

The Authority is working with the District Councils through the Devon Authorities Strategic Waste Committee to provide householders with an aligned, kerbside collection service across all of Devon, which will enable all residents to recycle the same materials.

Roger Croad

Cabinet Member for Community, Public Health, Transportation and Environmental Services