

Notice of Motion – Phasing Out Single Use Plastics

Councillor Achilleos has submitted the following motion:

“This local authority believes that single use plastics (referred to as SUPs from here onwards) are one of the biggest threats to environmental sustainability globally. This includes their widespread availability and their improper disposal which is leading to an increase in landfill and waste incineration, the two most environmentally damaging forms of waste disposal.

It is difficult to quantify the damaging impact SUPs have on our local area, but we need look no further than the litter on our streets and in our green spaces which poses a threat to wildlife and biodiversity. Our waterways and ponds are frequent victims of SUPs, and our air quality is inadvertently affected by the mass disposal of such plastics.

This is a global issue, but it is one that requires action. This council recognises it's responsibility to address this problem and aims to lead by example, seeking to phase out the use of SUPs across all services provided by the local authority where practical and economically viable. In some areas this may not be possible due to the financial constraints placed on us by central government, but we believe it is our duty to explore all options.

This council aims to begin the process in-house by limiting the availability of single use plastics in all our buildings and by staff leading to reducing the use of SUPs to zero as soon as practicable. Specifically, this council recognises SUP's as plastic bags, disposable utensils, beverage containers, plastic drinks bottles, food wrappers, straws, stirrers and plastic lids. We aim to investigate launching a public 'Plastic Free LBBD' campaign in order to extend the reduction of use from staff and commissioned services, contractors, suppliers and local authority schools where feasible.

This may affect the products we buy and use such as bottles, cutlery, food packaging, stationary and the use of straws. As the second biggest employer locally, it is our belief that by raising awareness in this way will help inform our residents on the matter, collectively reducing SUPs across the borough and bringing us one step closer to becoming the green capital of the capital.

We aim to work alongside the Chamber of Commerce, schools, voluntary organisations, businesses, and our community to help make ensure that the eradication of SUPs is high on the agenda. We believe that the local authority has an obligation to protect the environment for future generations: it is because of this obligation that we show leadership in this issue today.