

## COUNCIL – 24 SEPTEMBER 2019

### NOTICE OF MOTION

#### FOR THE CITY OF LINCOLN COUNCIL TO BE A SINGLE USE, PLASTIC FREE COUNCIL

This Council notes:

- Most plastic does not decompose; a plastic bottle can last for 450 years in the marine environment. Plastic slowly fragments into smaller pieces but never truly go away – these are known as micro plastics.<sup>1</sup>
- Everyday approximately 8 million pieces of plastic are entering the oceans. Estimates suggest that by 2050 there could be more plastic in our ocean than fish.<sup>2</sup>
- Approximately 5000 items of marine plastic pollution have been found per mile of beach in the UK. Plastic bottles and packaging make up a third of plastic pollution entering the sea. Tyre dust, maritime waste, nurdles and synthetic microfibers make up another 47% of the problem.<sup>3</sup>
- The plastics crisis requires action by national and local governments to reduce plastic pollution by increasing recycling rates and eliminate unnecessary single use plastic.

What this Council believes:

We need to move away from a linear plastic economy, where we take, make and dispose of plastic to a circular system where we capture the value of plastic materials - keeping plastic in the economy and out of the ocean.

This council therefore commits to:

- 1) Support Plastic Free Lincoln as a campaign and promote plastic-free events and workshops. To liaise with community leaders to facilitate and promote the campaign locally. To encourage schools, businesses, community groups and individuals to get involved.
- 2) To become a full signatory of the 'Plastic Free Pledge' by eliminating wherever possible all single use plastics within the Council's managed buildings and facilities by 2020 and seek to encourage the elimination of single use plastics within the supply chain by 2022.
- 3) Encourage contractors, suppliers, third parties and local businesses to reduce use of single use plastics and consider this during the granting or renewing of contracts. The council are aiming for single use plastics, where a viable alternative is available, to be eliminated from the Christmas Market from 2020 onwards.
- 4) Work with the Lincolnshire Waste Partnership to minimise waste, encourage reuse, and clearly communicate to residents what can be recycled.

---

<sup>1</sup> Source: A Guide to Plastics in the Ocean. NOAA

<sup>2</sup> Source: The Ocean Conservancy

<sup>3</sup> Source: Plastic Pollution Facts and Figures, SAS.

- 5) Install a free drinking water fountain in the Lincoln Central Market and encourage retailers, public sector premises and venues in the City to provide water bottle refill facilities.
- 6) Elect a representative to join Plastic-Free Lincoln's Steering Group. This group will meet 2-3 times per year to apply for plastic-free community status and continue to drive the campaign forward.
- 7) To create a plastic free information section on the Council's website providing local information on plastic free shopping, water refill schemes and local businesses that support the Plastic Free Lincoln campaign.