

NOTICE OF MOTION**LABOUR AND COOPERATIVE GROUP****GOVERNMENT RESOURCES AND WASTE STRATEGY**

This council resolves to ask the Chief Executive to write to the Secretary of State for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, requesting that:

- The target in the strategy for meeting 100% of plastic packaging to be reusable, compostable or recyclable from 2025 is brought forward, as the well-known issues around non-recyclable plastic need urgent action, alongside concerted action to reduce reliance on plastics.
- Weekly food waste collections for households in all local authority areas is also brought forward from the current timescale of 2023, and with sustainable sources of funding identified, as this would raise recycling rates by 5% nationally.

Proposed by: Cllr Mitchell

Seconded by: Cllr Horan

Supporting information

We deplore the extent to which low-grade plastic remains in use in the UK. The public do not want products packaged in low-grade plastic that cannot be re-used, recycled or composted. The LGA has also identified this as a key concern. We regret that, where low-grade plastic is being put out for recycling collection by the public in other local authority areas, there is increasing evidence that the majority is in fact either landfilled, burned or sent abroad. See for example a recent report "Everyday Plastic: What we throw away and where it goes" <https://www.everydayplastic.org/>. It is not acceptable for the UK to export its plastic waste, with the risk of it ending up in landfill or polluting rivers and lakes in other countries, as well as the world's oceans.

We note that ETS committee has given agreement for the introduction of a food waste collection service to be built into the City Environment Modernisation programme, subject to sustainable sources of funding being identified. We also note that the Resources and Waste Strategy identifies separate food waste collections for households across all local authority areas as an objective, but with a delay in implementation that may be explained by unwillingness to commit current resources despite the pressing need to reduce waste and increase recycling.

In summary we note the government's Resources and Waste Strategy begins to address the relative neglect that has taken place nationally in the policy area of waste and recycling over recent years, but we feel it does not show enough urgency, particularly in respect of household food waste collections and non-recyclable plastic packaging.

