

## **Lewisham Council's use of single-use and short-term use plastics**

This Council notes:-

- We are currently using a large volume of single use and short term use plastic and a plan or strategy in place to phase out its use needs to be created
- According to recent research, highlighted in programmes such as 'Blue Planet II' and 'Drowning in Plastic', 8 million tonnes of plastic waste ends up in the world's oceans each year
- There is a growing awareness and understanding of the impact and risks posed to animal and human health through the toxic chemicals present in plastics
- The Ellen MacArthur Foundation estimated that by 2050, the weight of plastic in the oceans will exceed that of fish
- The use of single-use and short-use plastic when not properly recycled has a detrimental impact on our environment.

### **Lewisham Council resolves:**

- That the Mayor and Cabinet be asked to consider a report on the phasing out of the use of single and short term use plastics and in particular dealing with the following matters:
  - Making Lewisham Council a single use and short term use free authority by the end of this term of office – May 2022
  - Ending the sale and procurement of such plastics (such as bottles, cups, cutlery and drinking straws), with allowances made for rigid straws to support those with disabilities needing them
  - Working with all sites owned or managed by LBL to support the phasing out of these plastics
  - Collaborating with any festival or other such event organisers to replace the use of such plastics at events in the Borough and promote the use of re-useable or deposit scheme cups leading to this being a request or condition for the obtaining a licence for such events
  - The adoption of a strategy across all Borough owned premises as to the phasing out of the use of such plastics, as part of the Council's approach to recycling, and environmental issues
- In addition, the Council resolves to ensure that this message goes out to partner organisations and commercial enterprises in the Borough. As Lewisham Council became a Fair Trade Council, that it take steps to become a Plastic Free Council, beginning with the phasing out of single and short term use plastics.

### **This Council believes:**

That Lewisham should be part of the wider movement to phase out the use of single and short term use plastics, and in so doing, become a Council that does not use single-use or short-use plastic wherever possible.

**Proposer:** Cllr Hilary Moore

**Seconded:** Cllr Silvana Kelleher