

Motion: Motion 2 Proposed by Councillor Penny Otton and seconded by Councillor Robert Lindsay  
Amended by Councillor Hicks and seconded by Councillor Vigo di Gallidoro

This Council, which has the ambition to be "the Greenest county", congratulates the Secretary of State for the Environment, Michael Gove, on his initiative to look at introducing a plastic bottle return scheme.

It is a well-established fact that plastic is one of the worst pollutants of the environment.

A recent report (available from link below) to the Government by Eunomia showed that a deposit return scheme would lead to savings of between £62,000 and £495,000 for any local authority that introduces it, by reducing the authority's waste handling costs. It would also send a strong message that plastics are not for single use and would significantly cut the amount of plastic ending up in the marine environment, endangering our sea life.

The Council also notes that recycling rates for plastic bottles in Britain stands at 57% - in comparison to over 90% in countries that have a Deposit Return Scheme (e.g. Germany, Norway, Sweden, Denmark).

Suffolk is ranked as the second-best performer out of 32 Waste Disposal Authorities in two tier areas for the recycling of dry-recyclables, so we will always welcome any proposals brought forward to further improve our performance.

The council will look favourably upon any pilot proposals and will see to participate where we believe the pilot would help to improve environmental outcomes and reduce costs in Suffolk and we ask that the cabinet member for environment writes to the Secretary of State to support his proposal.

<http://www.eunomia.co.uk/reports-tools/impacts-of-a-deposit-refund-system-for-one-way-beverage-packaging-on-local-authority-waste-services>

**Members present agreed unanimously by a show of hands.**