

**Amended Motion 2: Proposed by Councillor Penny Otton and seconded by Councillor Robert Lindsay**

**Council notes with concern that:**

- 300 million tons of new plastic is made each year, half of which is for single-use. In many cases there are practical alternatives available that are either re-usable or sustainable;
- Plastic in rivers and seas leads to rubbish on beaches and riverbanks, as well as coastal dead zones, entanglement, death through ingestion, toxic transfer and, once degraded into microplastics, contamination of the animal and human food chains.

**Council agrees that Suffolk County Council will reduce plastic waste, specifically by:**

- Working towards using only sustainable or re-useable plastic alternatives where possible within the Authority's buildings, and all Council commissioned services, with an ambition for the Council to become a signatory to the Plastic Free Pledge.
- Informing members of the public in its online and written communications about reducing plastic waste;
- Using its membership of the Suffolk Waste Partnership to improve opportunities to recycle new materials wherever possible;
- Using its membership of the Suffolk Waste Partnership to encourage all councils in Suffolk to support the phasing out of throwaway plastic cups, bottles, cutlery and straws from festivals and events, including investigating the possibility of requiring food and drink vendors to avoid SUPs as a condition of their event permission;
- Write to all Suffolk Members of Parliament and to the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs urging them to consider legislation and regulations which will reduce the amount of single-use plastic used in England;
- Working collaboratively with Suffolk residents, community groups (such as Plastic Free Communities), individual plastic-free businesses and representative organisations, such as the LEP and Chamber of Commerce, to explore the creation of a "Plastic Free Suffolk network" that could provide business support, practical guidelines and advice to help local businesses transition from SUPs to sustainable alternatives;
- Writing to the major supermarket chains with a presence in Suffolk asking them to consider introducing a 'plastic free aisle' in their local stores on a trial basis;
- Exploring all options to reduce single-use plastic water bottle waste in Suffolk, such as:
  - encouraging community water-refill schemes
  - improving access to tap water in local businesses and organisations
  - ending the sale of plastic bottled water on council managed premises
  - promoting apps to help consumers locate free tap water.