



## COUNCIL MEETING – 20 SEPTEMBER 2018

### PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO MOTION 1

#### **MOTION 1: Single Use Plastic – Unflushables**

Proposed amendment to be moved by Cllr Claudia Webbe

This council notes:

- The recent report of the Environment Committee of the London Assembly on single-use plastic unflushables.
- That use of single use plastic disposable products is increasing. There has been a 25 percent increase in the use of wet wipes and fifty percent increase in the use of incontinence products over the last five years.
- That period pads and incontinence products contain up to 90 percent plastic and disposable nappies up to 50 percent.
- No period or incontinence product or wet wipe on the market disintegrates fully when flushed.
- Unflushables combine with fat in sewers forming blockages and fatbergs.
- Thames Water unclog five blockages an hour from London's sewers. These cause huge distress to people who are flooded with backed up sewage and cost Thames Water and ultimately Londoners £12 million per year to clear.

This council further notes:

- [Islington Council annually reviews its waste minimisation and recycling strategy and communications with residents. This strategy includes reducing plastic waste through introducing new water fountains in the borough and promoting the use of refillable water bottles.](#)
- The significant cost and environmental damage caused by the inappropriate flushing of single use plastic items such as incontinence and period products, as well as disposable nappies and wet wipes.
- The important role borough councils have in London in educating and informing residents in order to reduce this environmental damage.
- The particular role of the council as an education authority and early years provider.

- [Islington Council's ongoing work to tackle period poverty and reduce stigma in the borough, including through introducing the 'Tricky Period' scheme alongside Islington Libraries so that women and girls can access free sanitary products.](#)
- [The Council has developed personal, social, health and economic \(PSHE\) education resources for primary and secondary schools to contribute to the reduction of stigma relating to periods.](#)
- That Islington already participates in the reusable nappy scheme offering new parents a voucher to buy reusable nappies worth the equivalent cost of sending an average baby's nappies to landfill.
- That while reusable nappies and reusable period products such as menstrual cups, period pants and washable pads can save people significant sums of money, people in nappy or period poverty may not have access to convenient washing facilities to make their use viable.

This council resolves:

- ~~To work~~ [To build on the Council's existing PSHE work by working](#) with head teachers to develop culturally sensitive period positive education as part of the Healthy Schools initiative; and to use period positive language to reduce stigma around menstruation enabling students to more easily discuss opportunities to cut the cost of managing their periods with reusable products and binning not flushing single use plastic wipes and period products.
- To use contact with parents through the council's Brightstart Early Years provision to raise awareness of the opportunity for people to save money via the council's reusable nappy voucher scheme, [potty training at an early age](#) and by using reusable period products; and to raise awareness of the importance of binning not flushing wetwipes and disposable period products.
- To ~~provide-explore~~ [providing](#) "bin it, don't flush" it labels for toilet doors ~~in schools and council buildings~~ along with bins in men's toilets for single use plastic unflushable items [across buildings the Council is responsible for, including schools.](#)

***The amended motion would read as follows:***

This council notes:

- The recent report of the environment committee of the London Assembly on single-use plastic unflushables.
- That use of single use plastic disposable products is increasing. There has been a 25 percent increase in the use of wet wipes and fifty percent increase in the use of incontinence products over the last five years.
- That period pads and incontinence products contain up to 90 percent plastic and disposable nappies up to 50 percent.
- No period or incontinence product or wet wipe on the market disintegrates fully when flushed.
- Unflushables combine with fat in sewers forming blockages and fatbergs.

- Thames Water unclog five blockages an hour from London's sewers. These cause huge distress to people who are flooded with backed up sewage and cost Thames Water and ultimately Londoners £12 million per year to clear.

This council further notes:

- Islington Council annually reviews its waste minimisation and recycling strategy and communications with residents. This strategy includes reducing plastic waste through introducing new water fountains in the borough and promoting the use of refillable water bottles.
- The significant cost and environmental damage caused by the inappropriate flushing of single use plastic items such as incontinence and period products, as well as disposable nappies and wet wipes.
- The important role borough councils have in London in educating and informing residents in order to reduce this environmental damage.
- The particular role of the council as an education authority and early years provider.
- Islington Council's ongoing work to tackle period poverty and reduce stigma in the borough, including through introducing the 'Tricky Period' scheme alongside Islington Libraries so that women and girls can access free sanitary products.
- The Council has developed personal, social, health and economic (PSHE) education resources for primary and secondary schools to contribute to the reduction of stigma relating to periods.
- That Islington already participates in the reusable nappy scheme offering new parents a voucher to buy reusable nappies worth the equivalent cost of sending an average baby's nappies to landfill.
- That while reusable nappies and reusable period products such as menstrual cups, period pants and washable pads can save people significant sums of money, people in nappy or period poverty may not have access to convenient washing facilities to make their use viable.

This council resolves:

- To build on the Council's existing PSHE work by working with head teachers to develop culturally sensitive period positive education as part of the Healthy schools initiative; and to use period positive language to reduce stigma around menstruation enabling students to more easily discuss opportunities to cut the cost of managing their periods with reusable products and binning not flushing single use plastic wipes and period products.
- To use contact with parents through the council's Brightstart Early Years provision to raise awareness of the opportunity for people to save money via the council's reusable nappy voucher scheme, potty training at an early age and by using reusable period products; and to raise awareness of the importance of binning not flushing wetwipes and disposable period products.
- To explore providing "bin it, don't flush" it labels for toilet doors along with bins in men's toilets for single use plastic unflushable items across buildings the Council is responsible for, including schools.