

**From:** "Johnston, Sadhu" <Sadhu.Johnston@vancouver.ca>  
**To:** "Direct to Mayor and Council - DL"  
**CC:** "City Manager's Correspondence Group - DL"  
**Date:** 11/27/2019 2:56:37 PM  
**Subject:** questions from council on single use items

Greetings Mayor and Council

Please find questions and answers to your questions on the single use items report:

1. Can we require that paper shopping bags (which will replace plastic shopping bags) have handles, for ease of carrying, especially important for seniors.

Our overall preference is to have people move to reusable bags with handles. The proposed fee for paper bags is most likely to result in a move away from single use bags all together and an increased use of reusable bags. We are seeing paper bags with handles in the market place already and expect that market forces will drive an increase in future. We recommend monitoring the situation over time and should there be a need we can revisit the issue in the future.

2. At the time of the original motion on this (June, 2018), direction to staff included addressing a just transition for workers. Please report on what has been done on this.

There was no formal resolution from Council directing staff to consider this. The actual impact on industry of the foam ban in Vancouver is quite low. Should the Provincial government move to a Province wide ban on these materials as part of their strategy the impacts would be greater and there may be a need for a provincially coordinated strategic approach around worker transition.

3. What are the current limitations on reusable cup share programs and how could those be overcome.

The primary limitation around cup share programs is that they are a new initiative. It will take time to develop the required infrastructure, and build awareness and participation. We are very encouraged by the progress we are seeing in the community with 2 companies in start-up mode and others looking at mug share as an opportunity. We see the best role for the City as putting a suitable regulatory structure in place that allows these types of programs to develop. Through the fee approach on the cups there is a basic financial incentive to encourage development of mug share programs. We don't see the need for the City to develop its own mug share program as this would undermine the efforts of the private sector. We will continue to monitor progress should there be a need for City support around program development we will advise Council.

4. What is the city's ability to deal with plastic water bottles?

Vancouver is in the fortunate position that plastic water bottles are included as part of the provincial deposit return system. In Vancouver the deposit supports the binning community, recovery rates are high for plastic bottles (+76%) and the plastic collected through the program is recycled at facilities in BC similar to Recycle BC (primarily Merlin Plastics in Delta). Encorp which is responsible for the deposit return system just increased the deposit on plastic water bottles from 5 to 10 cents and we expect this will increase the overall recovery. There is no need for the City to tackle the issue of plastic water bottles as they are covered under provincial legislation.

**Sadhu Aufochs Johnston** | City Manager  
Office of the City Manager | City of Vancouver  
[sadhu.johnston@vancouver.ca](mailto:sadhu.johnston@vancouver.ca)  
604.873.7627



*The City of Vancouver acknowledges that it is situated on the unceded traditional territories of the Musqueam, Squamish, and Tsleil-*

*Waututh peoples.*