

## **Proposed by Councillor Di Keal and seconded by Councillor Elizabeth Shields**

This council has a proud history of being at the forefront of recycling over many years, but is now falling behind many other authorities in the national league tables.

We have fallen from a position of 16<sup>th</sup> in these national tables in 2005/6 to 132 in 2015/16 and even though our recycling rates are comparable with other councils in North Yorkshire, we are dropping behind many local authorities around the country because of the limited recycling that we do.

In the current climate we need to strive to ensure that everything that is recyclable is recycled – for the benefit of residents, the environment and ultimately the planet on which we live. There is real commitment amongst the public to recycle as many waste items as possible and this council should be responding to that demand.

After much campaigning by the green lobby, supermarkets are finally listening and slowly starting to take steps to reduce single use plastic and packaging – although there is still a very long way to go – and this council also needs to up its game.

While applauding our recent ‘Don’t be a Waster’ campaign, we believe that as a council we can do more. The North Yorkshire Minerals and Waste plan is currently being revised and will be informed by new government directives on waste and recycling, so it is timely to address these important issues now.

We therefore call on the council to:

1. work with neighbouring authorities through the North Yorkshire Minerals and Waste Plan to increase the materials that we recycle to include a wider range of household plastics  
  
and
2. to expand our doorstep collections to include these additional materials within a two year period  
  
and
3. in the interim introduce a resident awareness programme to encourage more recycling, both on the doorstep and at household recycling centres, to reduce levels of waste going to landfill.