

**Motion to Midlothian Council
Tuesday 22nd March 2016**

Midlothian Council notes:

- that considerable efforts have been made both by this Council and others across Scotland to tackle litter, to improve recycling, and to reduce waste, but that there is still significant room for improvement in these areas;
- that the Scottish Government has recently consulted on the introduction of a deposit return system for single-use drinks containers;
- that well-designed deposit return systems have achieved return rates of around 95% in places such as Norway, the Netherlands, and Michigan, and between 84% and 99% in Sweden;
- that use of these systems is spreading around the world, with Lithuania's system starting on 1st February 2016, and New South Wales set to join in July 2017;
- that Local Government New South Wales supported deposit return, in part because it would reduce their recycling costs by 40%;
- that a recent report commissioned by Zero Waste Scotland indicated that a deposit return system for Scotland could save local authorities £13m annually on litter and waste costs;
- that the same report noted that additional work should be done to determine how a deposit return system could work most effectively in Scotland alongside the services provided by local authorities.

Council thus agrees:

- to send a letter from the Council Leader to the Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs, Food and Environment, supporting the principle of a deposit return system for Scotland, and urging him to involve local authorities in the design of a system which works efficiently alongside local authority waste management services;
- to work with other Scottish local authorities where possible to support a well-designed deposit return system, prioritising a reduction in littering, improvements to recycling rates, ease of use for consumers and small businesses, reductions in the volume of household waste and waste collected from public bins, and the delivery of cost savings to local taxpayers.

Proposed:

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Councillor Ian Baxter

Seconded:

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Councillor Andrew Coventry