



# The Tidy Britain All-Party Parliamentary Group

## Cup Charge: Introducing a 25p charge on single-use cups

15<sup>th</sup> October 2019, 17:00-18:00  
Meeting Room M, Portcullis House

## Minutes

### Present

Jim Fitzpatrick MP (Chair)  
Victoria Prentis MP (Vice-Chair)  
Kevin Hollinrake MP (Vice-Chair)  
Sandy Martin MP (APPG Member)  
Liz Twist MP (APPG Member)  
Lord Curry of Kirkdale (APPG Member)  
Craig MacKinlay MP  
Jim Shannon MP (APPG Member)

17:00	<b>Welcome and introduction/Tidy Britain AGM</b> Jim Fitzpatrick MP, Chair of the Tidy Britain APPG
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The Chair welcomed everyone to the Tidy Britain AGM.</li><li>• All officers were re-elected for another term, these included:</li><li>• Jim Fitzpatrick MP - Chair</li><li>• Sharon Hodgson MP - Vice-Chair</li><li>• Kevin Hollinrake MP - Vice-Chair</li><li>• The Lord Judd - Vice-Chair</li><li>• Peter Kyle MP - Vice-Chair</li><li>• Mark Pawsey MP - Vice-Chair</li></ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Baroness Pinnock – Vice-Chair</li> <li>• Victoria Prentis MP – Vice-Chair</li> <li>• Steve Reed MP – Vice-Chair</li> </ul>
17:10	<p><b>Labour support for the Cup Charge</b> Sandy Martin MP, Shadow Minister (Waste and Recycling), Member - Environment, Food and Rural Affairs Committee</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sandy Martin MP gave an overview of Labour’s thinking on waste policy.</li> <li>• He highlighted the issue of UK waste being shipped out to developing countries without adequate waste management infrastructure and the need for much more rigorous control.</li> <li>• Mr Martin MP also emphasised the value of introducing a Deposit Return Scheme (DRS) as part of a wider strategy to resolve waste – emphasizing the average 97% return rate.</li> <li>• Mr Martin MP concluded by voicing support for charges on single use items, suggesting stricter financing measures in general could be applied to tackle the litter and resource crisis.</li> </ul>
17:15	<p><b>The success of the Cup Charge in Parliament</b> David Burrows, Footprint</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• David Burrows elaborated on the recent Footprint report which revealed that a single use cup charge had been implemented on the Parliamentary estate, leading to a 75% drop in use of single-use cups.</li> <li>• Furthermore, and crucially the evidence showed no negative impact on sales.</li> <li>• David suggested that a better monitored supply chain is necessary for effective change.</li> <li>• He ended by re-iterating the compelling evidence uncovered by Footprint which suggests a cup charge could dramatically reduce the public’s use of single-use plastic cups.</li> </ul>

<p><b>17:20</b></p>	<p><b>Impact of the Cup Charge on business - myths</b>  Dominic Hogg PhD, Chair of Eunomia</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dominic Hogg estimated 4 to 6 billion single use cups are used in a year, indicating our collective addiction to convenience and wasteful habits with require urgent resolution.</li> <li>• He went on to review the analysis by the Paper Cup Alliance which suggests that the cup charge would have a negative impact on the coffee industry on the high street.</li> <li>• He explained that following a shift to more consumers using reusable cups, coffee shops could in fact benefit financially as they would no longer have to buy the associated single use cup, lid and sleeve. A charge on disposable cups could, therefore, reduce the actual price of the drink, and therefore increase demand.</li> <li>• Furthermore, Dominic confirmed that there are positive financial gains to be made through these progressive taxes, which raise money for Treasury and which could be directed to fund projects that positively impact the environment.</li> </ul>
<p><b>17:25</b></p>	<p><b>Behaviour change and why it matters to KBT</b>  Allison Ogden-Newton, Chief Executive, KBT</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Allison summarised the arguments made by the previous speakers and clear views expressed on the overall positive impact of a potential cup charge.</li> <li>• Allison touched on why Keep Britain Tidy prefers the term ‘cup charge’ to ‘latte levy’, emphasising the charge applied to the cup not the drink. Allison summarised the environmental impact of the production process for cups, using virgin paper, with plastic liners, making them challenging to recycle widely, without additional investment in infrastructure, as reflected by the current reported rate of 4%.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Allison ended by highlighting the public's support for the charge, with over 150,000 people having signed online petitions</li> </ul>
<b>17:30</b>	<p><b>Discussion</b> Jim Fitzpatrick MP, Chair</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Chair opened the floor to discussion.</li> <li>Kevin Hollinrake MP - highlighted future problems as being a battle with the Treasury, not Defra.</li> <li>A suggestion was made that exploring holistic solutions around health and environment, may be more successful in addressing the gap between awareness and action.</li> <li>Chris Baker, GM of Keep Cup enquired about business use licences and the potential need for new washing facilities as a concern for industry. Dominic Hogg suggested that it was better to employ someone to wash up ceramic cups, rather than use this money to invest in paper cups and the floor space required for storage.</li> <li>David Burrows affirmed that cost, hygiene and convenience are the three main cited reasons by manufacturers when opposing a charge</li> <li>Sam Chetham-Walsh from Greenpeace suggested that emphasis also needed to be placed on greater use of reusable packaging more generally and scaling up nationally could ensure wide scale behaviour change.</li> <li>Dhruv Borav enquired into the potential of reusables becoming statutory.</li> <li>David Burrows clarified that 80 percent of the public wanted single use plastics banned - but were not as focused on 'single use' items in general, an important distinction - given that other materials could have higher embedded carbon emissions.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dominic Hogg - suggested that the combination of a charge and greater use of refillables and cup share schemes could overcome objections based on maintaining convenience for consumers</li> </ul>
17:55	<p><b>Summary and close</b> Jim Fitzpatrick MP, Chair</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Chair thanked everyone for attending, the speakers for their informative presentations, and for all the questions asked leading to a valuable discussion on such a pressing issue.</li> </ul>



**Keep Britain Tidy provides the secretariat for the Tidy Britain APPG**

