

14 August 2013

Ms Sheila Mawhinney  
Clerk, Environment Committee  
Room 247, Parliament Buildings  
Stormont Estate  
Belfast  
BT4 3XX

Dear Ms Mawhinney

**Re: Response to Carrier Bags Bill**

Further to your letter dated 14 June 2013, I enclose the response by Carrickfergus Borough Council in response to the above Consultation.

If you have any queries on this response, please do not hesitate to contact me at [grace.peacock@carrickfergus.org](mailto:grace.peacock@carrickfergus.org) or 028 933 58004

Yours sincerely

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Grace Peacock  
**Policy Officer**

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# Carrickfergus Borough

## **CARRICKFERGUS BOROUGH COUNCIL' S RESPONSE TO CARRIER BAGS BILL (NORTHERN IRELAND) 2013**

Carrickfergus Borough Council welcomes the opportunity by the Committee for the Environment to respond to the Consultation on the proposed Carrier Bags Bill (Northern Ireland) 2013. The Council's response is as follows:

### **Extension of the 2008 Act to carrier bags**

Carrickfergus Borough Council recognises that within the short period in which the initial levy on carrier bags has been introduced, there has been a substantial reduction in the usage of carrier bags. However, the Council does not believe that an increase in the levy on carrier bags would achieve additional environmental benefits.

### **Regulations under Schedule 6 to the 2008 Act**

Carrickfergus Borough Council does not support proposals to increase the levy charged on carrier bags. The levy of 5p per bag is regarded as being adequate to encourage re-use of said carrier bags whilst not adding to inflation. Council is of the view that an increase in the levy would be regarded by local consumers as a back door taxation which would not be beneficial to the people living in Carrickfergus Borough Council or the wider Northern Ireland population.

### **Carrier bags defined by price**

Following reports of a disparity in costs of single use carrier bags on the criteria of their weight ranging from 15 pence for lighter single use carrier bags to £1 for heavier single use carrier bags; Carrickfergus Borough Council welcomes the recommendation that a uniform levy be applied across all businesses for single use carrier bag types of 5p.