

Ards Borough Council

Dear Sir/Madam,

Thank you for consulting with Ards Borough Council on the proposed Carrier Bags Bill.

The proposed Bill was considered at a recent meeting of the Council's External Affairs & Planning Committee where it was agreed to respond making the following comments:-

- * The Council, while not opposing the levy imposed on single use carrier bags, expresses concern that the levy is to be extended to become a tax on all carrier bags.
- * The Council acknowledges that single use carrier bags have for long been recognised as a blight on the environment and the landscape and that a levy, which serves to reduce their use and their disposal rate, is justifiable and is an environmental incentive to reuse and recycle carrier bags.
- * The Council believes that it would not be justifiable to extend the levy to include reusable bags and that this proposal amounts to the introduction by stealth of an unfair "backdoor tax".
- * The Council believes that the proposals confuse the original environmental message and make it unclear what is and what is not covered by the Bill.

I hope that this is of assistance to you.