

**Oversight and Governance**

Chief Executive's Department

Plymouth City Council

Ballard House

Plymouth PL1 3BJ

T 01752 305155

www.plymouth.gov.uk/democracy

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Delegated Decisions

Delegated Executive/Officer Decisions

Notice of call-in for non-urgent decisions must be given to the Democratic Support Team by 4.30 pm on 20 August 2025. Please note – urgent decisions and non-key Council Officer decisions cannot be called in. Copies of the decisions together with background reports are available for viewing as follows:

- on the Council's Intranet Site at <https://modgov/mgDelegatedDecisions.aspx>
- on the Council's website at <https://tinyurl.com/3hwmppzp>

The decision detailed below may be implemented immediately.

Delegated Decisions

I. Council Officer Decision - Andy Sharp (Interim Service Director for Street Services):

- I.a. COD04 25/26 - Contract Award: Procurement of containers and distribution to households **(Pages 1 - 42)**

EXECUTIVE DECISION

made by a Council Officer



REPORT OF ACTION TAKEN UNDER DELEGATED AUTHORITY BY AN INDIVIDUAL COUNCIL OFFICER

Executive Decision Reference Number – COD04 25/26

Decision	
1	Title of decision: Contract Award: Procurement of containers and distribution to households
2	Decision maker: Andy Sharp (Interim Service Director for Street Services)
3	Report author and contact details: Rachel Hawadi (Senior Project Manager) E: Rachel.hawadi@plymouth.gov.uk T: 01752 307016
4a	Decision to be taken: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> To award the contract for the provision of 126,000 seven litre internal kitchen caddies, with an estimated annual replenishment of 13,000 units, alongside 103,000 twenty-three litre external kerbside caddies, with an annual top-up of 11,000 units, to IPL Plastics (UK), to facilitate the Council's city-wide food waste collection service, set for implementation by 1st April 2026. To award the contract to IPL Plastics (UK) to distribute internal and kerbside caddies to non-flatted properties. <p>The total potential contract value is £932,900.00.</p>
4b	Reference number of original executive decision or date of original committee meeting where delegation was made: Decision - L30 24/25 - Food Waste Collection Service Vehicles and Containers - Modern Council .
5	Reasons for decision: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> The project is delivering what will become a statutory service from 1st of April 2026. The project has spent a significant amount of time in the tendering and evaluation to ensure that the right supplier was selected who could commit to the statutory deadline and that Value for money was secured for the Council. This has created a risk that the estimated delivery time may not align with the statutory deadline. There is a further logistical risk (further down the timeline) due to the fact that an estimated 50% of Waste Collection Authorities are procuring caddies from the same suppliers at the same time. A delay caused by market saturation could impact the Council's delivery schedule. A delay in making the decision could mean missing the deadline which presents a reputational risk for the Council and missing the opportunities to increase the Council's recycling rate and making a tangible and quantitative impact towards the objectives of the Plymouth Net Zero Action Plan.
6	Alternative options considered and rejected: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Procuring containers with other Waste Collection Authorities using WRAP's joint procurement strategy. In order to benefit from the programme the Council and other members of the

scheme would have to take advantage of “economies of scale” which would have meant that the Council and partners would have to agree on the exact same colours and sizes for the caddies. After an exploration period with potential partners this option was rejected because the colour schemes and sizes would have conflicted with existing refuse colour schemes within the Council.

2. Procure existing/unused second-hand containers from other Waste Collection Authorities. This option has been rejected because the potential supplier did not have an adequate supply of caddies to cover the Council’s requirements. There is however, the option to procure these in the future in the event that the Council requires small numbers of replacement bins.

7 Financial implications and risks:

The award of contract is to the supplier IPL Plastics (UK) Ltd as follows:

£ 787,500 - Actual Value, where price is fixed

- £ 138,600 (126,000 7L Kitchen Caddies)-Capital Cost from Phase 1 of the Business Case
- £ 339,900 (103,000 23L Kerbside Caddies)- Capital Cost from Phase 1 of the Business Case
- £ 309,000 (103,000 7L Kitchen, and 23L Kerbside Caddies delivered to Households) Revenue Cost from Transitional Funding FY 2025/26

£ 72,700 – Maximum Variable Value, for Annual Caddy top up’s

- £ 22,100 (up to 11,000 7L Kerbside Caddies for 2027) Capital Cost from Phase 1 of the Business Case
- £ 50,600 (up to 11,000 23L Kerbside Caddies for 2027) Capital Cost from Phase 1 of the Business Case

£ 72,700 – Maximum Variable Value, for Annual Caddy top up’s

- £ 22,100 (up to 11,000 7L Kerbside Caddies for 2028, if option to extend taken) Capital Cost from Phase 1 of the Business Case
- £ 50,600 (up to 11,000 23L Kerbside Caddies for 2028, if option to extend taken) Capital Cost from Phase 1 of the Business Case

£ 932,900 – Potential Total Contract Value

The Contract also includes provision for the supply of spare components (such as handles, lids, and caddy bodies), should the Council require them during the contract term. However, the quantity of these items is currently unquantifiable.

The total capital cost for containers for the award of contract is **£623,900.00**

Defra’s provision for all the containers was as follows:

Kitchen Caddies	£243,062.00
Kerbside Caddies	£491,955.00
Communal bins	£81,257.00
	£816,274.00

The award of contract for the containers is underbudget by **£192,374.00** of the capital costs because of the due diligence taken to obtain Value for Money for the procurement of caddies and additionally by repurposing existing garden waste bins for the Communal bins.

Furthermore the award of contract is for **£309,000** for the supplier to distribute internal and kerbside caddies to non-flatted properties. Defra has made a provision for **£323,013.52** for the distribution of containers in the Transitional (revenue) funding for 2025/26. The Council will distribute some of the remaining internal caddies and communal bins to flats in collaboration with Housing providers who may prefer to take ownership for the delivery to their residents. The distribution saving in revenue costs at this stage is **£14,013.52**.

	<p>There remains additional phase 3 New Burdens funding from Defra to support the running of the new food waste collection service which had not yet been released at the time of requesting the approval of this decision. The New Burdens funding does not directly impact the decision.</p> <p>Financial: Defra has funded £1,941,574.00 Capital in the 2024/25 Financial Year budget and allocated £243,062 for the 7 Litre internal caddies and £491,955 for the 23 Litre kerbside caddies. This funding was approved in L30 24/25 - Food Waste Collection Service Vehicles and Containers - Phase I Business Case for the procurement of vehicles and containers.</p> <p>The £309,000 revenue delivery cost is forecast to be met from within Defra transitional funding, already received by PCC. In a letter to the Chief Executive dated 4 March 2025 (Reference GD No 31 7654) Defra provided £323,013.52 as part of the " Transitional resource grant to support the delivery of weekly food waste collections" revenue fund for the distribution of the caddies to all households.</p> <p>There remains additional phase 3 New Burdens funding from Defra to support the running of the new food waste collection service which had not yet been released at the time of writing this document.</p> <p>Risks:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Missing the deadline: Because of long manufacturing timelines.• Escalating Costs/Availability of Assets: Because a large number of Waste Collection Authorities are also procuring vehicles and caddies at the same time from a limited supply market which is likely to result in price increases over time.• Low public appetite for participation: this will be mitigated in measures set out in the public engagement and behavioural change programme.			
8	Legal Implications and risks: None arising from this report.			
9a	Is the decision a Key Decision? (please contact Democratic Support for further advice)	Yes	No	Per the Constitution, a key decision is one which:
			x	in the case of capital projects and contract awards, results in a new commitment to spend and/or save in excess of £3million in total
			x	in the case of revenue projects when the decision involves entering into new commitments and/or making new savings in excess of £1million , annually
			x	is significant in terms of its effect on communities living or working in an area comprising two or more wards in the area of the local authority.
9b	If yes, date of publication of the notice in the Forward Plan of Key Decisions	N/A		
10	Please specify how this decision is linked to the Council’s corporate plan/Plymouth Plan and/or the policy framework and/or the revenue/capital budget:	The approval will expedite the implementation of a food waste service within the legislative deadline. This helps deliver the Council’s Mission to “Making Plymouth a fairer, greener city where everyone does their bit” by ensuring that Plymouth residents participate in transferring food waste from residual waste. This means minimising potential greenhouse gases from food waste going into the		

		<p>atmosphere.</p> <p>The approval of this decision supports the Council's measurable commitment to the priority to be "Making Plymouth a fairer, greener city, where everyone does their bit" as it will increase the recycling rate. Food waste will be transferred from the Energy for Waste stream to processing in an Anaerobic Digestion facility where bio renewable energy is produced.</p> <p>Food waste contributes to 8-10% of the greenhouse gases in the atmosphere. A food waste collection service will contribute to the Net Zero Action Plan by intentionally sequestering food waste and processing it anaerobically to remove fugitive gases that contribute to climate change. Furthermore, the project will contribute to creating a circular economy by producing bio renewable energy which goes back to the National Grid.</p>
I I	Please specify any direct environmental implications of the decision (carbon impact)	<p>The project has the environmental benefit of reducing the impact of greenhouse gases from the atmosphere and aligning with Plymouth's commitment to the Net Zero Action Plan. At this time there is an unavoidable disbenefit of using fossil fuel dependent vehicles and an increase in the city's "plastic footprint." It will be imperative that a robust public education programme is adopted to increase the number of residents participating in the scheme and to reduce the number of unused caddies.</p>


Urgent decisions

I 2a	Is the decision urgent and to be implemented immediately in the interests of the Council or the public?	Yes		(If yes, please contact Democratic Support for advice)
		No	x	(If no, go to section I 3a)
I 2b	Reason for urgency:			
I 2c	Scrutiny Chair signature:		Date	
	Scrutiny Committee name:			
	Print Name:			

Consultation

I 3a	Which Cabinet Member's portfolio does this decision relate to?	Councillor Tom Briars-Delve (Cabinet Member for Environment and Climate Change)		
I 3b	Date Cabinet Member consulted	05/08/2025		
I 3c	Are any other Cabinet members' portfolios affected by the decision?	Yes		
		No	x	(If no go to section I 4)

I3d	Which other Cabinet member's portfolio is affected by the decision?	N/A		
I3e	Date other Cabinet member(s) consulted	N/A		
I4	Has any Cabinet member declared a conflict of interest in relation to the decision?	Yes		If yes, please discuss with the Monitoring Officer
		No	x	
I5	Which Corporate Management Team member has been consulted?	Name		Glenn Caplin-Grey
		Job title		Strategic Director for Growth
		Date consulted		18 July 2025
Sign-off				
I6	Sign off codes from the relevant departments consulted:	Democratic Support (mandatory)	JS23 25/26	
		Finance (mandatory)	ITG.25.26.046.	
		Legal (mandatory)	LS/00001312/1/AC/25/7/25	
		Human Resources (if applicable)		
		Corporate property (if applicable)		
		Procurement (if applicable)	PW/PS/794/ED/0825	
Appendices				
I7	Ref.	Title of appendix		
	A	Briefing report for publication		
	B	Equalities Impact Assessment		
	C	Climate Impact Assessment		
Confidential/exempt information				
I8a	Do you need to include any confidential/exempt information?	Yes	x	If yes, prepare a second, confidential ('Part II') briefing report and indicate why it is not for publication by virtue of Part I of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 by ticking the relevant box in I8b below.
		No		
		Exemption Paragraph Number		

		1	2	3	4	5	6	7
18b	Confidential/exempt briefing report title: Procurement Decision Record			x				
Background Papers								
19	<p>Please list all unpublished, background papers relevant to the decision in the table below.</p> <p>Background papers are <u>unpublished</u> works, relied on to a material extent in preparing the report, which disclose facts or matters on which the report or an important part of the work is based. If some/all of the information is confidential, you must indicate why it is not for publication by virtue of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 by ticking the relevant box.</p>							
Title of background paper(s)		Exemption Paragraph Number						
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Council Officer Signature								
20	<p>I agree the decision and confirm that it is not contrary to the Council's policy and budget framework, Corporate Plan or Budget. In taking this decision I have given due regard to the Council's duty to promote equality of opportunity, eliminate unlawful discrimination and promote good relations between people who share protected characteristics under the Equalities Act and those who do not. For further details please see the EIA attached.</p>							
Signature				Date of decision		11 August 2025		
Print Name		Andy Sharp, Interim Service Director for Street Services						

BRIEFING REPORT

Food Waste Collection Project

(Award of Contract for the procurement of containers and distribution to households)

**I. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

The purpose of this document and the ancillary attachments is to provide context for the request for the approval to award the contract for the procurement and distribution of containers to the preferred supplier IPL Plastics UK Limited following a comprehensive tendering process. The city-wide weekly food waste collection service is a legislatively driven and mandatory initiative that affects all Waste Collection Authorities in England. The primary legislation is the Environment Act 2021, but the project also interfaces with the Climate Change Act 2008 and the UK's Net Zero targets on reducing greenhouse gases therein. The service must be delivered by 1 April 2026.

The Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs (Defra) provided funding for the project incrementally for the procurement of capital assets only in 2024/25. A decision was made to de-risk the full project by presenting a discrete capital Business Case for the procurement of vehicles and containers whilst awaiting confirmation of phases 2 and 3 revenue funding from Defra.

The budget for all containers (7 litre internal caddies, 23 litre caddies and communal bins and spares) is **£816,274.00** and is funded by the £1,941,574 Capital grant for vehicles and containers which was provided to the Council in the Financial Year 2024/25. The decision to procure containers has previously been approved under [Decision - L30 24/25 - Food Waste Collection Service Vehicles and Containers - Modern Council](#). Extensive Market Intelligence research with peer group local authorities, site visits, demos with suppliers and end user tests have taken place as a pre-cursor to this procurement to ensure that the contract presented Value for Money and that the product profile was "best in class" not only for operatives but residents.

The award of contract for the containers is underbudget by **£192,374.00** of the capital costs because the due diligence taken to obtain Value for Money for the procurement of caddies and additionally by repurposing existing garden waste bins for the Communal bins.

The award of contract also includes the distribution of containers from phase 2 Transitional (revenue) funding from Defra. Defra has made a provision for **£323,013.52** for the distribution of containers. The award of contract is for **£309,000** for the supplier to provide internal and kerbside caddies to non-flatted properties. The Council will have to distribute internal caddies and communal bins to flats in collaboration with Housing providers who may prefer to take ownership for the delivery to their residents with the variance of **£14,013.52**.

A total contract value from Capital and Revenue is for **£932,900** and does not compromise the Council's Medium-Term Financial Planning service borrowing.

The North East Procurement Organisation (NEPO) and The Procurement Partnership (TPPL) framework was selected for the procurement of the containers and distribution tender. The tender was presented in 2 Lots in an open competition procurement exercise in compliance with all public procurement regulations to appoint suppliers to the framework. Lot 1 was for containers only and lot 2 included the distribution. Selection of suppliers was based on the Most Economically Advantageous Tenders and defined in the OJEU Contract Notice with the following award criteria.

- Quality – 40%

- Price – 60%

Suppliers were assessed on their financial, technical, insurance, experience and references, environmental and health and safety procedures, and business continuity plans.

The supplier IPL Plastics UK Limited was awarded for the supply of containers and their distribution to non-flatted properties. An estimated 3–4-month lead time for the contract set up, manufacture and delivery is expected following approval.

The sooner the Council can approve the award of contract processes the greater the likelihood of meeting the April 2026 deadline.

2. BACKGROUND

In October 2023, the government launched 'Simpler recycling', a reformative and legislation driven programme that aims to make recycling easier, consistent throughout the country, to increase stagnant recycling rates and to align with net zero targets. The introduction of a weekly food waste collection service is one of the outcomes of the initiative. The UK currently produces 9.5 million tonnes of food waste annually and 70% of this food waste is deemed avoidable. The estimated costs associated with this food waste are £19 billion and has associated emissions of 36 million tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent.

Defra has provided £295 million to around 50 per cent of all Waste Collection Authorities (WCA) in England who have not already implemented a food waste collection service.

The project has an intrinsic benefit that supports the Council's Corporate Plan, Plymouth's Net Zero Action Plan and financial savings from the cost of food waste being processed with residual waste. The introduction of a food waste collection service will increase the recycling rate by 3-7% depending on the participation rates and the efficacy of the public engagement and behavioural programme.

3. PROPOSAL

As part of this procurement the Council must provide 7 litre internal caddies to all 123,000 households in Plymouth of which approximately 29,000 are flats or Houses in Multiple Occupation (HMOs). Residents are, however, not obligated to present their food waste.

Residents will be asked to place the following into their internal food caddies.

- All uneaten food and plate scrapings
- Tea bags – biodegradable and non-biodegradable accepted
- Coffee grounds
- Out of date or mouldy food
- Raw and cooked meat, including bones
- Raw and cooked fish, including skin and bones
- Shellfish and seafood shells
- Dairy products such as cheese
- Eggs and eggshells
- Rice, pasta and beans
- Baked goods such as bread, cakes and pastries
- Fruit and vegetables, including raw and cooked vegetables and peelings and cut flowers
- Pet food waste

The Council must also provide external kerbside caddies where residents will deposit food waste for collection by the Council on a weekly basis. Communal bins will be provided for blocks of flats, estates and clusters of flats.

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The total cost breakdown is:

£ 787,500 - Actual Value, where price is fixed

- £ 138,600 (126,000 7L Kitchen Caddies)-Capital Cost from Phase 1 of the Business Case
- £ 339,900 (103,000 23L Kerbside Caddies)- Capital Cost from Phase 1 of the Business Case
- £ 309,000 (103,000 7L Kitchen, and 23L Kerbside Caddies delivered to Households) Revenue Cost from Transitional Funding FY 2025/26

£ 72,700 – Maximum Variable Value, for Annual Caddy top up's

- £ 22,100 (up to 11,000 7L Kerbside Caddies for 2027) Capital Cost from Phase 1 of the Business Case
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£ 72,700 – Maximum Variable Value, for Annual Caddy top up's

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- £ 50,600 (up to 11,000 23L Kerbside Caddies for 2028, if option to extend taken) Capital Cost from Phase 1 of the Business Case

£ 932,900 – Potential Total Contract Value

5. RISK

The following key risks have been identified:

- Missing the deadline: because of delay in awarding contract.
- Escalating Costs/Availability of Assets: Because around 50% of Waste Collection Authorities are procuring vehicles and containers at the same time from the same suppliers, there is a risk of escalating costs (market saturation and supply and demand issues).
- Negative media/public attention: Because of lack of information or misinformation.
- Low public appetite for participation due to socio-ideological biases, apathy, lack of information or misinformation.

6. RECOMMENDED DECISION

1. To award the contract to IPL Plastics (UK) for the provision of 126,000 seven litre internal kitchen caddies, with an estimated annual replenishment of 13,000 units, alongside 103,000 twenty-three litre external kerbside caddies, with an annual top-up of 11,000 units, to facilitate the Council's city-wide food waste collection service, set for implementation by 1st April 2026.
2. To award the contract to IPL Plastics (UK) to distribute internal and kerbside caddies to non-flatted properties.

The total potential contract value is £932,900.00.

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EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT – [FOOD WASTE PROJECT]

SECTION ONE: INFORMATION ABOUT THE PROPOSAL

Author(s): This is the person completing the EIA template.	Rachel Hawadi	Department and service:	Street Services	Date of assessment:	21 July 2025
Lead Officer: Head of Service, Service Director, or Strategic Director.	Andy Sharp (Head of Environmental Operations)	Signature:	A. Sharp	Approval date:	25 July 2025
Overview:	This document is the Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) accompanying the contract award for the provision and distribution of food caddies, as part of the implementation of a weekly household Food Waste Collection Service to all residents of Plymouth by 1 April 2026. The project is legislatively driven and funded by the Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs (Defra). The Council is obliged to provide all residents with an internal caddie, a kerbside caddie and a communal bin for flats, Houses in Multiple Occupation, flats, clusters of flat and estates. Residents however have the option to participate in the food waste collection service. The project will overlay existing residual & recycle waste collections and utilize current practices for assisted collections as requested by residents. As part of the public engagement and behavioural change programme that underpins the project there will be deliverables specifically designed with communicating with those that struggle with English.				
Decision required:	<ol style="list-style-type: none">To award the contract to IPL Plastics (UK) for the provision of 126,000 seven litre internal kitchen caddies, with an estimated annual replenishment of 13,000 units, alongside 103,000 twenty-three litre external kerbside caddies, with an annual top-up of 11,000 units, to facilitate the Council’s city-wide food waste collection service, set for implementation by 1st April 2026.To award the contract to IPL Plastics (UK) to distribute internal and kerbside caddies to non-flatted properties. The total potential contract value is £932,900.00.				

SECTION TWO: EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT SCREENING TOOL

Potential external impacts: Does the proposal have the potential to negatively impact service users, communities or residents with protected characteristics?	Yes		No	No
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Potential internal impacts: Does the proposal have the potential to negatively impact Plymouth City Council employees?	Yes		No	No
Is a full Equality Impact Assessment required? (if you have answered yes to either of the questions above then a full impact assessment is required and you must complete section three)	Yes	Yes	No	
If you do not agree that a full equality impact assessment is required, please set out your justification for why not.				

SECTION THREE: FULL EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

Protected characteristics (Equality Act, 2010)	Evidence and information (e.g. data and consultation feedback)	Adverse impact	Mitigation activities	Timescale and responsible department
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Age	Plymouth	Participation in the service will require residents to present a kerbside container for collection. The Council will also provide a kitchen caddy that the resident can use to collect waste and transfer contents into the larger kerbside caddy. Older people may struggle with lifting and transfer of the waste.	Whilst participation in the service will be voluntary the Council clearly want to ensure everyone can use it. Residents who struggle with the presentation of waste will be able to access the Assisted Waste Collection scheme and application process will be amended to accommodate this new service.	In line with roll out of the Service in 2026.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">16.4 per cent of people in Plymouth are children aged under 15.65.1 per cent are adults aged 15 to 64.18.5 percent are adults aged 65 and over.2.4 percent of the resident population are 85 and over.			
	South West			
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">15.9 per cent of people are aged 0 to 14, 61.8 per cent are aged 15 to 64.22.3 per cent are aged 65 and over.			
	England			
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">17.4 per cent of people are aged 0 to 14.64.2 per cent of people are aged 15 to 64.18.4 per cent of people are aged 65 and over.			
	(2021 Census)			

<p>Care experienced individuals</p> <p>(Note that as per the Independent Review of Children’s Social Care recommendations, Plymouth City Council is treating care experience as though it is a protected characteristic).</p>	<p>It is estimated that 26 per cent of the homeless population in the UK have care experience. In Plymouth there are currently 7 per cent of care leavers open to the service (6 per cent aged 18-20 and 12 per cent of those aged 21+) who are in unsuitable accommodation.</p> <p>The Care Review reported that 41 per cent of 19-21 year old care leavers are not in education, employment or training (NEET) compared to 12 per cent of all other young people in the same age group.</p> <p>In Plymouth there are currently 50 per cent of care leavers aged 18-21 Not in Education Training or Employment (54 per cent of all those care leavers aged 18-24 who are open to the service).</p> <p>There are currently 195 care leavers aged 18 to 20 (statutory service) and 58 aged 21 to 24 (extended offer). There are more care leavers aged 21 to 24 who could return for support from services if they wished to.</p>	<p>No adverse impacts are anticipated from this decision.</p>	<p>Not applicable.</p>	<p>Not applicable.</p>
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Disability	<p>9.4 per cent of residents in Plymouth have their activities limited 'a lot' because of a physical or mental health problem.</p> <p>12.2 per cent of residents in Plymouth have their activities limited 'a little' because of a physical or mental health problem (2021 Census)</p>	<p>Participation in the service will require residents to present a kerbside container for collection. The Council will also provide a kitchen caddy that the resident can use to collect waste and transfer contents into the larger kerbside caddy. Those with physical disabilities may struggle with lifting and transfer of the waste.</p>	<p>Whilst participation in the service will be voluntary the Council clearly want to ensure everyone can use it. Residents who struggle with the presentation of waste will be able to access the Assisted Waste Collection scheme and application process will be amended to accommodate this new service.</p>	<p>In line with roll out of the Service in 2026.</p>
Gender reassignment	<p>0.5 per cent of residents in Plymouth have a gender identity that is different from their sex registered at birth. 0.1 per cent of residents identify as a trans man, 0.1 per cent identify as non-binary and, 0.1 per cent identify as a trans women (2021 Census).</p>	<p>No adverse impacts are anticipated from this decision.</p>	<p>Not applicable.</p>	<p>Not applicable.</p>
Marriage and civil partnership	<p>40.1 per cent of residents have never married and never registered a civil partnership. 10 per cent are divorced, 6 percent are widowed, with 2.5 per cent are separated but still married.</p> <p>0.49 per cent of residents are, or were, married or in a civil partnerships of the same sex. 0.06 per cent of residents are in a civil partnerships with the opposite sex (2021 Census).</p>	<p>No adverse impacts are anticipated from this decision.</p>	<p>Not applicable.</p>	<p>Not applicable.</p>

Pregnancy and maternity	The total fertility rate (TFR) for England was 1.62 children per woman in 2021. The total fertility rate (TFR) for Plymouth in 2021 was 1.5.	No adverse impacts are anticipated from this decision.	Not applicable.	Not applicable.
Race	<p>In 2021, 94.9 per cent of Plymouth's population identified their ethnicity as White, 2.3 per cent as Asian and 1.1 per cent as Black (2021 Census)</p> <p>People with a mixed ethnic background comprised 1.8 per cent of the population. 1 per cent of the population use a different term to describe their ethnicity (2021 Census)</p> <p>92.7 per cent of residents speak English as their main language. 2021 Census data shows that after English, Polish, Romanian, Chinese, Portuguese, and Arabic are the most spoken languages in Plymouth (2021 Census).</p>	No adverse impacts are anticipated from this decision. However, the EIA accompanying the full Food Waste business case will address the issue of communicating the changes for residents who struggle with reading English.	Not applicable.	Not applicable.
Religion or belief	<p>48.9 per cent of the Plymouth population stated they had no religion. 42.5 per cent of the population identified as Christian (2021 Census).</p> <p>Those who identified as Muslim account for 1.3 per cent of Plymouth's population while Hindu, Buddhist, Jewish or Sikh combined totalled less than 1 per cent (2021 Census).</p>	No adverse impacts are anticipated from this decision.	Not applicable.	Not applicable.
Sex	51 per cent of our population are women and 49 per cent are men (2021 Census).	No adverse impacts are anticipated from this decision.	Not applicable.	Not applicable.

Sexual orientation	88.95 per cent of residents aged 16 years and over in Plymouth describe their sexual orientation as straight or heterosexual. 2.06 per cent describe their sexuality as bisexual, 1.97 per cent of people describe their sexual orientation as gay or lesbian. 0.42 per cent of residents describe their sexual orientation using a different term (2021 Census).	No adverse impacts are anticipated from this decision.	Not applicable.	Not applicable.
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SECTION FOUR: HUMAN RIGHTS IMPLICATIONS

Human Rights	Implications	Mitigation Actions	Timescale and responsible department
	No adverse impacts are anticipated from this decision.	Not applicable.	Not applicable.

SECTION FIVE: OUR EQUALITY OBJECTIVES

Equality objectives	Implications	Mitigation Actions	Timescale and responsible department
Work together in partnership to: <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ promote equality, diversity and inclusion▪ facilitate community cohesion▪ support people with different backgrounds and lived experiences to get on well together	No adverse impacts are anticipated from this decision.	Not applicable.	Not applicable.
Give specific consideration to care experienced people to improve their life outcomes, including access to training, employment and housing.	No adverse impacts are anticipated from this decision.	Not applicable.	Not applicable.

Build and develop a diverse workforce that represents the community and citizens it serves.	No adverse impacts are anticipated from this decision.	Not applicable.	Not applicable.
Support diverse communities to feel confident to report crime and anti-social behaviour, including hate crime and hate incidents, and work with partners to ensure Plymouth is a city where everybody feels safe and welcome.	No adverse impacts are anticipated from this decision.	Not applicable.	Not applicable.

Plymouth Food Waste Service Collection Service

Project details

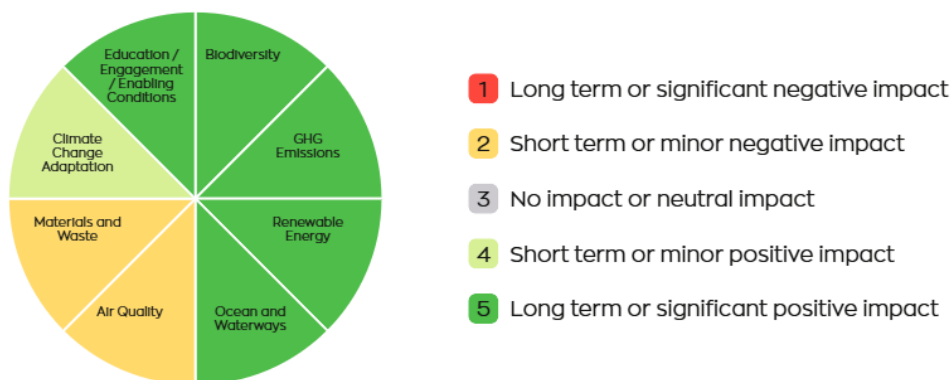
Assessment author

Rachel Hawadi

Project summary

The project is a legislatively driven initiative in accordance with section s45A of the Environment Act 1990 brought into legislation by The Environment Act 2021. The implementation of a city-wide food waste service is mandatory and scheduled to be implemented by 1 April 2026

Summary of assessment



Assessment scores

Biodiversity

Score

(5) Long lasting or extensive positive impact

Score justification

Bio Diversity 5

The project has indirect impact on Biological Diversity in the following ways.

1. Habitat destruction and land use change. Growing and producing food requires a significant amount of land,

water, and other resources. When food is wasted, all those resources go to waste as well. This land use change can lead to the destruction of natural habitats. This project will a) In the long term encourage people to change their consumption which originally leads to food waste but also to recycle food which can then be used for manure, renewable fuel to encourage biodiversity.

2. Water pollution: Food waste can pollute water sources. When food waste is dumped in landfills, it decomposes and produces methane gas, which can seep into nearby water sources and contaminate them. Methane gas is a potent greenhouse gas that contributes to climate change. In addition, food waste can also contain harmful chemicals and pesticides that can pollute water sources and harm aquatic life. By treating food waste in this way there is a greater chance of a flourishing ecosystem that encourages biodiversity.

3. Loss of pollinators: Pollinators such as bees, butterflies, and birds are essential for maintaining plant biodiversity and food production. However, food waste can reduce the number of pollinators by destroying their habitats and reducing the availability of food sources. In addition, food waste can also contain harmful chemicals that can harm pollinators and other beneficial insects. By creating a food waste collection service, the amount of uncontrolled food waste can eliminate this issue.

GHG Emissions

Score

(5) Long lasting or extensive positive impact

Score justification

According to The United Nations Environment Programme (2021) Food Waste Index Report 2021. Food waste alone generates about 8% - 10% of global greenhouse gas emissions. Implementing a food waste recycling service significantly contributes to greenhouse gas emissions reduction by diverting organic waste from landfills, where it would otherwise decompose anaerobically and release methane—a potent greenhouse gas. Instead, recycled food waste can be processed through composting or anaerobic digestion, producing nutrient-rich soil amendments or renewable biogas energy. These practices not only mitigate methane emissions but also reduce reliance on synthetic fertilizers and fossil fuels. Additionally, food waste recycling encourages more sustainable consumption habits, further lowering emissions across the food supply chain. Food waste in landfills contributes to more methane emissions than any other landfilled materials to produce methane. Methane is the most powerful greenhouse gas. An estimated 58 percent of the fugitive methane emissions (those released to the atmosphere) from municipal solid waste landfills are from landfilled food waste. By implementing a food waste service Plymouth will be reducing the amount of food that goes into landfills that produce methane gas.

Renewable Energy

Score

(5) Long lasting or extensive positive impact

Score justification

First, the food is separated from its packaging and to further sort plastic packaging/polymer type. The food is converted to energy using the anaerobic digestion process which generates heat, biogas (biomethane) and electricity. The electricity generated is fed into the national grid. What is left after the anaerobic digestion process is pasteurised into a nutritionally rich slurry and used as organic fertiliser. This process will be critical for producing a closed loop sustainability cycle.

Mitigatory measures applied:

To ensure that there are contractual KPIs to demonstrate sustainability outputs from the Anaerobic Digestion process which will be delivered by a third party. Ocean and Waterways Score:

Ocean and Waterways

Score

(5) Long lasting or extensive positive impact

Score justification

Water Quality: Food waste is a huge contributor to water pollution. When food is discarded, it creates an excess of food waste that has to be disposed of in waterways. This can have a negative effect on the environment. This creates environmental problems such as the build-up of algae, which can cause flooding and contamination of drinking water. Leachate, a toxic liquid that forms when rainwater mixes with decomposing waste, can also contaminate nearby groundwater and surface water sources. In the long-term, awareness of the environmental impact of food waste in the household could lead to lower, more informed purchasing at the retail level which could lead to less food production at agricultural level. Every food item grown, produced, processed, cleaned and transported has its own 'water footprint', using up earth's precious freshwater reserves. Rescuing food from waste also means rescuing water. 2. Marine/aquatic habitats: Food is often treated with pesticides, insecticides, hormones, antibiotics, and preservatives. When human food waste finds its way to waterways and the ocean, it is consumed by marine life. The chemicals in that waste accumulate as they move up the food chain and cause elevated levels of toxicity. The bioaccumulation of pesticide and other chemicals from food waste will be reduced by implementing a food waste service. In addition, nutrients from food waste irresponsibly deposited into the ocean can cause eutrophication, a process in which high nutrient concentration in water causes algal bloom. Algal bloom typically happens as a result of nutrients such as nitrogen or phosphorus entering an aquatic system and causing phytoplankton to grow and reproduce. The algal bloom disrupts the normal marine ecosystem in a number of ways: using all the oxygen in the water, blocking sunlight for photosynthetic marine plants, and producing toxins harmful to the food chain.

Air Quality

Score

(2) Short term or limited negative impact

Score justification

This project is likely to increase the number of diesel-powered waste vehicles on the road which is negative. Emissions of particular concern are NOX and particulates. NOX emissions arise primarily as nitric oxide (NO) which is rapidly oxidised to nitrogen dioxide (NO₂). At high ambient concentration levels, NO₂ has health impacts on sensitive people. Particulates arise from diesel vehicles and contain a mixture of soot, unburned fuel and hydrocarbon compounds produced during incomplete combustion. They are now the major source of grime in towns and cities throughout the UK. Air Quality in Plymouth is monitored and deemed to be overall "good". Adding an additional 10 diesel vehicles will add to the deterioration of air quality but at an incremental and insignificant level. (This could be mitigated by using Electrical Vehicles, however these are double the market price of diesel vehicles and have a lower life span). Air emissions from food waste should lead to an overall decrease in emissions, however this will be negated by the increase in emissions from food waste vehicles and haulage trucks which will be even more if the Anaerobic Digestion site is at a long distance from Plymouth. There will be no particulates produced as the digestate will be converted to slurry, biogas, heat and electricity. During the creation of this Climate Impact Assessment an initial conversation with Tony Norton from Exeter University in partnership with the Net Zero team who estimated based on various assumptions that 5,000 tpa of food waste would mean 38% of organics being removed from the landfill and therefore the corresponding greenhouse gas emissions which is overall positive.

Mitigatory measures applied:

1. Procuring an Anaerobic Digestion Site within close proximity to reduce the impact of using Diesel vehicles.
2. Procuring some or all electrical waste vehicles in the future when the market matures and infrastructure technology is competitive.
3. Cost v Benefit Analysis on procurement of hydrogen vehicles.

Materials and Waste

Score

(2) Short term or limited negative impact

Score justification

Indicative food waste studies conducted in 2022 by a "Local Partnerships" study estimates a yield of a little over 10,000 tonnes per annum of food waste for Plymouth in 2026/2027. Frith RM Consultants working with the project estimated in 2024 food waste for Plymouth to be around between 4,483 tonnes (FRM 'top down') to 6,736 tonnes (WRAP yield). The food waste project would mean that in due time (depending on participation rates) the tonnage of food waste going to landfill/recycling/incineration or to the Energy for Waste plant will be taken to an Anaerobic Digestion site which will produce slurry that goes back to the earth as fertilizer for plants and for renewable energy to be produced. There is however a plastic footprint disbenefit of providing more than 200,000 plastic containers where potentially 60-80% may not be used for food waste recycling.

Mitigatory measures applied:

1. A robust public Education and Engagement from the start.
2. Engagement with Green Communities and CICs
3. A robust Schools programme to educate children who could be powerful messengers to adults at home.
4. To undertake roadshows
5. To have councillors actively engage with residents in their jurisdiction
5. To have a robust interactive Social Media campaign across all platforms.
6. To pilot the service and gain a deep understanding of potential issues before rolling out.

Climate Change Adaptation

Score

(4) Short term or limited positive impact

Score justification

1. Will an assessment be conducted of the vulnerability of this project to climate change impacts?

Yes

The Net Zero Delivery team have been engaged at the discovery stage of this project and will form critical Stakeholders and form part of an Advisory Group who will be engaged throughout the delivery of this project and will assist and advise on all impact assessments to include vehicle procurement decisions, selection of an Anaerobic Digestion site and an overview of processes and public education and engagement to assess the vulnerability and also resilience of this project to climate change impact.

2. Will this project contribute to making Plymouth more or less resilient to the anticipated effects of climate change?

Yes

The intention of this project is not only to implement food waste (therefore reducing GHG) but to undertake a robust public engagement programme to include all green communities and CICs, a schools programme, roadshows and to encourage Councillors to participate within their jurisdictions in order to increase higher participation rates which will be the true success of the project.

3. Will an assessment be conducted of the vulnerability of this project to climate change impacts?

Yes

The Net Zero Delivery team have been engaged at the discovery stage of this project and will form critical stakeholders and form part of the Advisory Group who will be engaged throughout the delivery of this project and will assist and advise on all impact assessments to include vehicle procurement decisions, selection of an Anaerobic Digestion site and an overview of processes and public education and engagement. These impact assessments will be built into the project plan.

4. Will this project contribute to making Plymouth more or less resilient to the anticipated effects of climate change?

Yes

The intention of this project is not only to implement food waste but engage in a robust public engagement programme to include all green communities and CICs, a school's programme, roadshows and to encourage Councillors to participate within their jurisdictions.

5. Will this project lead to changes in the risk of flooding?

No

6. Will this project lead to increased urban heat islands?

No

Since Urban heat islands" occur when cities replace natural land cover with dense concentrations of pavement, buildings, and other surfaces that absorb and retain heat. This effect increases energy costs (e.g., for air conditioning), air pollution levels, and heat-related illness and mortality. It can therefore be concluded that this project will not be producing any heat islands.

Mitigatory measures applied:

By continuously consulting with the Net
Zero Delivery Team throughout the life cycle of the project.

Education / Engagement / Enabling Conditions

Score

Long lasting or extensive positive impact

Score justification

This project is not just a technical delivery to meet legislative requirements. At the heart of the success of the project is winning the hearts and minds of the public through a robust, well managed, consistent, informed educational campaign. The message will likely need to be novel, innovative and collaborative and have long term climate awareness beyond food waste. Public engagement will begin with learning lessons from other local authorities on what has and has not worked well in the past. This will be followed by a steady messaging vehicle to include.

1. Roadshows
2. Engagement and collaboration with Green communities
3. A school's programme
4. Videos
5. Targeting all social Media platforms
6. Leaflets
7. Press articles

The overarching achievement of the education programme is to raise awareness of climate change and to change personal behaviour and personal responsibility towards climate change.

Mitigatory measures applied:

1. Research what has worked.
2. Collaboration.
3. To have champions in problem areas.
4. To have recycling officers.
5. To undertake a through stakeholder Analysis.
6. To understand stakeholder needs thoroughly.

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