

**Preventing Plastic Pollutions Project**

Briefing Note –Waste Sculpture

June 2021

**A. Introduction**

Building on work already carried out by Britain's Ocean City: Plastics Task Force, Plymouth City Council (PCC) has secured external funding to deliver specific elements of a complimentary project - *Preventing Plastic Pollution* (see Background below), which will, in turn, deliver citywide initiatives that will reduce the amount of plastic entering the marine environment.

Work specified within this tender will be carried out within the Tamar Catchment Area with a focus on the city of Plymouth (see Background below).

We are seeking to appoint external artists to help deliver this work.

**B. Background**

Working in partnership with 18 organisations from across France and England, *Preventing Plastic Pollution* seeks to understand and reduce the impacts of plastic pollution in the marine environment. By looking at the catchment from source to sea, the project will identify and target hotspots for plastic, embed behaviour change in local communities and businesses, and implement effective solutions and alternatives.

*Preventing Plastic Pollution* is a €14million funded EU INTERREG VA France (Channel) England Programme project co-financed by the European Regional Development Fund that will work across seven pilot sites: Brest Harbour, Bay of Douarnenez, Bay of Veys, Poole Harbour, and the Medway, Tamar, and Great Ouse estuaries.

The information gathered from research in these areas will allow the cross-Channel partnerships to tackle some of the four million tonnes of plastic waste that enter the sea via rivers every year.

*Aims and Results of the project:*

**Project objectives:**

*Preventing Plastic Pollution* will improve the quality of Transitional Waters across the France (Channel) England area (SO 3.2) by:

- Developing a scalable and transferable mapping tool to provide quantifiable evidence of sources and quantities of plastic pollution in catchments.
- Developing an effective portfolio of innovative interventions to reduce plastic waste in or entering catchments.
- Transforming the behaviour of target groups and demonstrating best practice.

**Expected project results:**

Overall, *Preventing Plastic Pollution* will improve water quality with

- a) A 10 % improvement in good ecological status (Water Framework Directive Descriptor 10) in transitional waters.
- b) A reduction in the harm caused by plastic pollution in rivers and the sea equivalent to €38.8M-€126M (150 km river/coast cleared, 200 t plastic removed).
- c) A plastic-free charter implemented by 650 businesses & 50 supply chains modified.
- d) Projected uptake to include+10 more catchments 2 yrs. post project, and 100 catchments after 5 years.

*Partners involved in the Tamar Catchment Area are:*

- *Plymouth City Council*
- *Environment Agency*
- *Westcountry Rivers Trust*
- *University of Plymouth*

The aims of the project directly align with the Britain's Ocean City: Plastics Task Force. This group includes partners from a range of public, private and voluntary sector organisations, who have joined to maximise impact through collaborative working. The Task Force has produced the Plymouth's Plan for Plastics, detailing the broader commitment of Plymouth as a city to reducing single use plastics. The *Preventing Plastic Pollution Project* will directly deliver many of the targets set out within the Plymouth's Plan for Plastics.

The *Preventing Plastic Pollution Project* is due to end in March 2023.

### **C. Brief**

We are looking for an external artist to lead on developing, creating and installing one waste sculptures for the *Preventing Plastic Pollution Project*. This work will need to be carried out with a target installation date being the end of August 2021 latest.

All activities will need to be monitored, evaluated and reported on, within an agreed format.

### **Waste Sculptures**

The *Preventing Plastic Pollution Project* has awarded the City of Plymouth funding to develop, design, manufacture and install one waste sculpture. This sculpture will be made from recycled plastic collected within the local area.

To achieve this, it is expected that the external artists will:

1. Develop a work plan to outline the timescale and scope of the project. This will need to be agreed with PCC.
2. Work with PCC to consult members of the public for opinions and recommendations to support the location, development and design of the waste sculpture, including what will happen to it in the long-term.
3. Complete a full design for the waste sculpture based on the findings of the public engagement. This will need to be signed off by PCC before any further work can begin.

4. Source the plastic waste to construct the waste sculpture from within the local area. This could be via litter picks/beach cleans, waste collection facilities, engagement with business etc.
5. Construction of the waste sculpture. We would encourage the external artists to work with members of the public to do this.
6. Work with PCC to arrange and install the waste sculpture in a key location in Plymouth.
7. Work with PCC to consider the long-term residency of the sculpture. After the period of the project (March 2023), PCC will be donating the sculpture. We are keen that the artists' work with us to find a home for them.

Specifications for the sculpture:

- It will be large and eye-catching – we are hoping the sculpture will be emotive and start conversations within the City.
- Robust and sustainable – it will be outside and therefore will be strong enough to combat the elements for at least three years.
- Marine-focused – the sculpture will raise awareness of plastic pollution specifically within the marine environment.
- Innovative – we are hoping that the sculpture will be different to what people have seen before. Will they be collectors of waste?
- Health and Safety – the artists will conduct a health and safety assessment to ensure the sculpture is safe for members of the public.
- SailGP – is coming to Plymouth on 15<sup>th</sup>-17<sup>th</sup> July. We would like the sculpture to be on show at this event in some form (whether this include consultation, collection of materials, construction, community engagement etc.).

#### **D. Budget**

A maximum of £10,000 has been secured for this work. The funding is part of the *Preventing Plastic Pollution Project*, EU INTERREG VA France (Channel) England Programme. It is up to the external experts/consortium to detail how much of this money they will require to deliver the outputs, and how they will divide the money within Submission Task 3.

#### **Appendices**

Please view links below:

[www.plymouth.gov.uk/plastics](http://www.plymouth.gov.uk/plastics)

[www.preventingplasticpollution.com/](http://www.preventingplasticpollution.com/)

[www.channelmanche.com/en/projects/approved-projects/preventing-plastic-pollution/](http://www.channelmanche.com/en/projects/approved-projects/preventing-plastic-pollution/)