

EXECUTIVE DECISION

made by a Cabinet Member




REPORT OF ACTION TAKEN UNDER DELEGATED AUTHORITY BY AN INDIVIDUAL CABINET MEMBER

Executive Decision Reference Number – ECC02 25/26

Decision	
1	Title of decision: Wood Waste Disposal Charge Increase, October 2025
2	Decision maker: Councillor Tom Briars-Delve (Cabinet Member for Environment and Climate Change)
3	Report author and contact details: Sarah Easton, Sarah.Easton@plymouth.gov.uk
4	Decision to be taken: 1. To approve the increase of £7 per tonne for disposal of wood waste for commercial customers
5	Reasons for decision: Plymouth City Council provides a commercial waste collection and disposal service to businesses across the city. Wood is brought to the Chelson Meadow facility and the disposal element of this service is outsourced. The contractor has recently increased their disposal rate by £7 per tonne. Without an increase of customer charges, the Council would be required to absorb the cost increase, creating an unsustainable budget pressure.
6	Alternative options considered and rejected: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Not to increase the charge to customers. Rejected as this would result in an increased and unsustainable cost to PCC of £62k for the next 12 months. 2. Increase the charge by a lower amount. Rejected as the Council's fees and charges policy sets out a requirement to ensure cost recovery for commercial services. Partial recovery would result in an ongoing deficit.
7	Financial implications and risks: The disposal contractor has increased their rates by £7 per tonne for the processing of commercial wood waste. If the additional cost were to be absorbed by the local authority, it would result in an unfunded pressure of approximately £62k a year, equating to £5k per month. By passing this cost directly on to commercial customers through a corresponding increase in disposal charge, the Council will ensure that the service avoids creating a budget shortfall. If not implemented at the current processing volumes this would create an ongoing budget pressure of over £62k. Customer Retention: Although an increase to pricing would introduce a risk of customers seeking alternative providers, this is mitigated by the increase being proportionate and this has been assessed as reflecting external market conditions.
8	Legal Implications: Section 51(3) of the Environment Protection Act (EPA) gives us powers to accept and charge for the

	disposal of waste.			
9	Is the decision a Key Decision? (please contact Democratic Support for further advice) Please type an X into the relevant boxes	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 £1 million 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.
	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 decision supports the aim of the Council to be responsible and sustainable by demonstrating sound financial management and protecting core budgets from unavoidable pressures. The decision also helps maintain a green, sustainable City by ensuring commercial waste services continued operation of a controlled and environmentally compliant waste disposal service.		
11	Please specify any direct environmental implications of the decision (carbon impact)	The direct carbon impact of this decision is expected to be neutral as the change related solely to the pricing of an existing commercial waste disposal service rather than a change in operations, infrastructure or transport.		
Urgent decisions				
12a	Is the decision urgent and to be implemented immediately in the interests of the Council or the public? Please type an X into the relevant box	Yes		(If yes, please contact Democratic Support (democraticsupport@plymouth.gov.uk) for advice)
		No	X	(If no, go to section 13a)
12b	Reason for urgency:			
12c	Scrutiny Chair Signature:		Date	
	Scrutiny Committee name:			
	Print Name:			

Consultation				
13a	Are any other Cabinet members' portfolios affected by the decision? Please type an X into the relevant box	Yes		
		No	X	(If no go to section 14)
13b	Which other Cabinet member's portfolio is affected by the decision?	N/A		
13c	Date Cabinet member consulted	N/A		
14	Has any Cabinet member declared a conflict of interest in relation to the decision? Please type an X into the relevant box	Yes		If yes, please discuss with the Monitoring Officer
		No	X	
15	Which Corporate Management Team member has been consulted?	Name	Glenn Caplin-Grey	
		Job title	Strategic Director for Growth	
		Date consulted	1st October 2025	
Sign-off				
16	Sign off codes from the relevant departments consulted:	Democratic Support (mandatory)	JS36 25/26	
		Finance (mandatory)	ITG.25.26.069	
		Legal (mandatory)	LS/00001312/1/AC/8/10/25	
		Procurement (if applicable)		
		Corporate property (decisions involving Council owned land or facilities) (if applicable)		
		Human Resources (if applicable)		
Appendices				
17	Ref.	Title of appendix		
	A	Briefing report		
	B	EIA		
Confidential/exempt information				
18a	Do you need to include any confidential/exempt information?	Yes		If yes, prepare a second, confidential ('Part II') briefing report and indicate why it is not for

	Please type an X into the relevant box	No	X	publication by virtue of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 by ticking the relevant box in 18b below. (Keep as much information as possible in the briefing report that will be in the public domain)				
		Exemption Paragraph Number						
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7
18b	Confidential/exempt briefing report title:							
Background Papers								
19	Please list all unpublished, background papers relevant to the decision in the table below. 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.							
Title of background paper(s)		Exemption Paragraph Number						
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Cabinet Member Signature								
20	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 (2010) and those who do not. For further details please see the EIA attached.							
Signature				Date of decision		9 th October 2025		
Print Name		Councillor Tom Briars-Delve (Cabinet Member for Environment and Climate Change)						