

# EXECUTIVE DECISION

made by a Cabinet Member




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

Executive Decision Reference Number – ECC03 25/26

Decision	
1	<b>Title of decision:</b> Increase in household bulky waste charges
2	<b>Decision maker:</b> Councillor Tom Briars-Delve (Cabinet Member for Environment and Climate Change)
3	<b>Report author and contact details:</b> Sarah Easton, <a href="mailto:Sarah.Easton@plymouth.gov.uk">Sarah.Easton@plymouth.gov.uk</a> 01752 308869
4	<b>Decision to be taken:</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To approve the increase of household bulky waste charges as set out in the briefing paper.</li> </ol>
5	<b>Reasons for decision:</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To improve service accessibility and reduce waiting times.</li> <li>To move the service closer to cost recovery for collection activities.</li> <li>To restore a five day a week collection service for residents.</li> </ol>
6	<b>Alternative options considered and rejected:</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Adopt a per item charging structure - rejected could discourage residents from consolidating items, potentially increasing collection trips and reducing efficiency.</li> <li>Maintain current pricing - rejected as existing charge does not cover operational costs.</li> <li>Apply a higher increase immediately - rejected as an incremental approach is preferred to minimise the impact on residents.</li> </ol>
7	<b>Financial implications and risks:</b> <p>Annual increased income from the proposed increase is approximately £52k if the service returns to a five day a week operation, which will contribute towards a 5 day week crew.</p> <p>Risks include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>An income shortfall from estimate if price increase reduces take-up, mitigated by applying a 20% contingency margin.</li> <li>Negative public perception managed through clear communication emphasising the charges reflect operational costs.</li> <li>Low risk of fly-tipping if charges are seen as too high. Mitigated by benchmarking prices against other local authorities and currently no evidence that bulky waste charge is linked to fly tipping.</li> </ul>
8	<b>Legal Implications:</b> <p>The Council has a statutory duty under Section 45(1)(a) of the Environmental Protection Act 1990 (EPA 1990) to arrange for the collection of household waste in its area. Under Section 45(3), the Council may</p>

	<p>make a reasonable charge for the collection of <i>certain types</i> of household waste, including bulky waste, provided that such waste is classified as “household waste” under the Controlled Waste (England and Wales) Regulations 2012.</p> <p>However, charges must not include the cost of disposal — only the costs of <i>collection, transport, and administration</i> can be recovered through fees. This is consistent with statutory guidance and long-standing case law under the EPA 1990.</p> <p>The proposed charge increase is therefore lawful, provided the charge remains a reasonable reflection of the cost of collection only, excluding disposal.</p> <p>Concessionary arrangements for residents receiving Council Tax Support are discretionary but demonstrate compliance with the Council’s equality duties under the Equality Act 2010, by helping to mitigate any disproportionate impact on lower-income households.</p>												
<b>9</b>	<p><b>Is the decision a Key Decision?</b> (please contact <a href="#">Democratic Support</a> for further advice) Please type an X into the relevant boxes</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Yes</th><th>No</th><th>Per the Constitution, a key decision is one which:</th></tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td></td><td><b>X</b></td><td>in the case of <b>capital</b> projects and contract awards, results in a new commitment to spend and/or save in excess of <b>£3million</b> in total</td></tr> <tr> <td></td><td><b>X</b></td><td>in the case of <b>revenue</b> projects when the decision involves entering into new commitments and/or making new savings in excess of <b>£1 million</b> annually</td></tr> <tr> <td></td><td><b>X</b></td><td>is <b>significant</b> in terms of its effect on communities living or working in an area comprising <b>two or more</b> wards in the area of the local authority.</td></tr> </tbody> </table> <p>If yes, date of publication of the notice in the <a href="#">Forward Plan of Key Decisions</a></p>	Yes	No	Per the Constitution, a key decision is one which:		<b>X</b>	in the case of <b>capital</b> projects and contract awards, results in a new commitment to spend and/or save in excess of <b>£3million</b> in total		<b>X</b>	in the case of <b>revenue</b> projects when the decision involves entering into new commitments and/or making new savings in excess of <b>£1 million</b> annually		<b>X</b>	is <b>significant</b> in terms of its effect on communities living or working in an area comprising <b>two or more</b> wards in the area of the local authority.
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<b>10</b>	<p><b>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:</b></p> <p>The decision to increase household bulky waste charges aligns with the Corporate Plan priorities of ‘Providing Quality Public Services’ and ‘Cleaner, Greener Streets’ by improving environmental outcomes, service responsiveness and operational efficiency. It also strengthens the financial stability of the service, directly contributing to the Council’s budget management and reducing reliance on subsidy.</p>												
<b>11</b>	<p><b>Please specify any direct environmental implications of the decision (carbon impact)</b></p> <p>Potential reduction in fly tipping, supporting cleaner safer communities. Continuing to encourage reduction in collection journeys by maintaining a pricing structure of multiple items.</p>												
<b>Urgent decisions</b>													
<b>12a</b>	<table border="1"> <tr> <td><b>Is the decision urgent and to be implemented immediately in the interests of the Council or the public?</b> Please type an X into the relevant box</td><td><b>Yes</b></td><td></td><td>(If yes, please contact Democratic Support (<a href="mailto:democraticsupport@plymouth.gov.uk">democraticsupport@plymouth.gov.uk</a>) for advice)</td></tr> <tr> <td></td><td><b>No</b></td><td><b>X</b></td><td><b>(If no, go to section 13a)</b></td></tr> </table>	<b>Is the decision urgent and to be implemented immediately in the interests of the Council or the public?</b> Please type an X into the relevant box	<b>Yes</b>		(If yes, please contact Democratic Support ( <a href="mailto:democraticsupport@plymouth.gov.uk">democraticsupport@plymouth.gov.uk</a> ) for advice)		<b>No</b>	<b>X</b>	<b>(If no, go to section 13a)</b>				
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<b>12b</b>	<b>Reason for urgency:</b>												

I2c	Scrutiny Chair Signature:		Date	
	Scrutiny Committee name:			
	Print Name:			
<b>Consultation</b>				
I3a	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 I4)
I3b	Which other Cabinet member's portfolio is affected by the decision?	N/A		
I3c	Date Cabinet member consulted	N/A		
I4	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	
I5	Which Corporate Management Team member has been consulted?	Name	Glenn Caplin-Grey	
		Job title	Strategic Director of Growth	
		Date consulted	16 <sup>th</sup> December 2025	
<b>Sign-off</b>				
I6	Sign off codes from the relevant departments consulted:	Democratic Support (mandatory)	JS59 25/26	
		Finance (mandatory)	DN.25.26.004	
		Legal (mandatory)	LS/00003 I2/I/AC/23/ I2/25	
		Procurement (if applicable)		
		Corporate property (decisions involving Council owned land or facilities) (if applicable)		
		Human Resources (if applicable)		
<b>Appendices</b>				
I7	Ref.	Title of appendix		
	A	Bulky Waste Briefing November 2025		

	B	Equalities Impact Assessment						
<b>Confidential/exempt information</b>								
18a	Do you need to include any confidential/exempt information? Please type an X into the relevant box	Yes		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 18b below.  (Keep as much information as possible in the briefing report that will be in the public domain)				
		No	X					
		<b>Exemption Paragraph Number</b>						
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7
18b	Confidential/exempt briefing report title:							
<b>Background Papers</b>								
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 I of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 by ticking the relevant box.							
<b>Title of background paper(s)</b>		<b>Exemption Paragraph Number</b>						
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7
<b>Cabinet Member Signature</b>								
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.							
<b>Signature</b>				<b>Date of decision</b>		06 <sup>th</sup> January 2026		
<b>Print Name</b>		Tom Briars-Delve (Cabinet Member for Environment and Climate Change)						

