

Plymouth Active Contract Extension

Project details

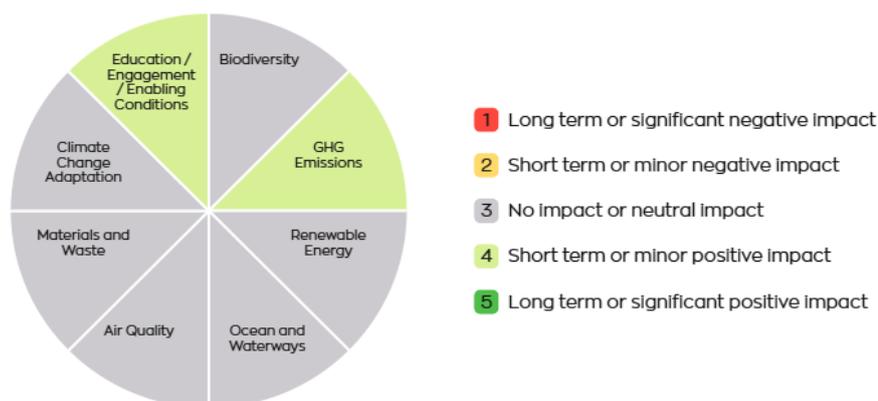
Assessment author

Liz Slater

Project summary

Extension of the existing contract to enable long term planning to enable contact to become profitable

Summary of assessment



The outputs of this assessment indicate that the contract extension will have minimal direct environmental impacts. There are no anticipated increases in greenhouse gas emissions, waste, water use, air pollution, or flood risk, and no changes to habitats, biodiversity, or urban heat islands. Renewable energy and green infrastructure impacts are limited, though the project supports future opportunities for energy efficiency and active travel.

The positive outcomes—such as encouraging walking, cycling, and healthy habits—depend on the continued engagement of residents and facility users. No significant environmental consequences are expected beyond 2030, and ongoing benefits will be realised through routine operations and adherence to existing environmental management practices, including waste reduction, energy monitoring, and support for council initiatives.

Assessment scores

Biodiversity

Score

(3) No impact or neutral impact

Score justification

There is no change to facilities that will effect the the biodiversity. The project will not lead to degradation, removal or improvement of existing habitats as there are no changes in the levels of noise, pollution, proximity to people or other factors that might cause problems

GHG Emissions

Score

(4) Short term or limited positive impact

Score justification

The project is not anticipated to create a one-off increase or decrease in greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. No construction activities, soil disturbance, or temporary changes to traffic patterns are proposed as part of this contract, and therefore no short-term emissions impacts are expected.

The project is also not expected to result in an ongoing increase or decrease in GHG emissions. The facilities within the scope of the contract will not undergo changes that would increase emissions, such as the creation of new homes, premises, roads, or significant changes in resource use. Existing operations will continue as currently managed. However, utility consumption will continue to be monitored, and opportunities to improve resource efficiency and reduce GHG emissions will be identified and implemented where feasible through the adoption of new technologies and changes to customs and practices.

The project will not actively sequester carbon from the atmosphere, nor will it remove existing carbon sinks. There will be no changes to land use, vegetation, or canopy cover, and no removal of mature trees or other carbon-sequestering assets is proposed.

Renewable Energy

Score

(3) No impact or neutral impact

Score justification

The project will not result in an immediate increase or decrease in the provision of renewable energy or the use of waste energy in Plymouth. No new renewable energy or waste energy infrastructure will be installed as part of the current scope of works.

However, the contract extension will support and facilitate future investment in renewable energy and energy efficiency measures. In particular, it will allow for the potential extension of photovoltaic (PV) installations across the Plymouth Life Centre site. It will also support measures aimed at reducing overall energy demand and lowering reliance on electricity supplied from the national grid through improved energy efficiency, changes in operational practices, and the adoption of new technologies where feasible

Ocean and Waterways

Score

(3) No impact or neutral impact

Score justification

The contract extension will not have a direct impact on water quality. No construction works, changes to land use, or

alterations to drainage or wastewater systems are proposed, and therefore no changes to surface water, groundwater, or coastal water quality are anticipated.

The project will not create new marine or aquatic habitats, nor will it remove, damage, or otherwise affect existing habitats. There are no activities within the scope of the contract that would impact coastal, marine, or freshwater environments.

The project will not affect the volume of water requiring treatment as sewage. There will be no increase in water consumption or wastewater generation beyond existing levels, and current wastewater infrastructure is sufficient to manage ongoing demand. As no new drainage or development is proposed, no additional mitigation measures such as sustainable drainage systems are required.

The contract extension will not lead to an increase in pollutants such as litter, plastics, or chemicals in the environment. Instead, it will continue to support reductions in waste generation and increases in recycling rates through engagement with both staff and facility users. The project will also support existing council initiatives aimed at protecting Plymouth's coastal and marine waters.

Air Quality

Score

(3) No impact or neutral impact

Score justification

Proposed revised response

The project will not lead to any temporary or permanent changes in the amount or length of vehicle journeys, including car, van, bus, or HGV movements. As no changes to access, transport arrangements, or site operations are proposed, there will be no impacts on travel patterns. The project does not introduce new transport infrastructure but continues to support existing arrangements for pedestrians, cyclists, and public transport.

The project will not result in an increase in air emissions or particulate matter from plant or operational activities. There will be no changes to heating systems, no installation of new plant, and no activities such as construction, manufacturing, or demolition that could generate additional air emissions.

The project will not improve or degrade indoor air quality within homes or workplaces. There are no changes proposed to the facilities, building fabric, ventilation systems, or operational practices that would affect indoor air quality.

The project does not incorporate new green infrastructure, as there is limited available land surrounding the facilities where additional vegetation could be implemented. As a result, there will be no change to local air quality arising from green infrastructure measures.

Materials and Waste

Score

(3) No impact or neutral impact

Score justification

The project will not create or reduce waste volumes in the city in either the short or long term. As the project is a contract extension with no construction works or changes to service delivery, no one-off or ongoing increases in waste generation are anticipated. Waste volumes associated with the facilities will remain consistent with existing operations, and there will be no impact on the public realm through increased littering or pollution.

The project will continue to make use of existing resources, infrastructure, and equipment, thereby avoiding unnecessary waste. Where consumables or materials are required as part of normal operations, existing procurement practices will be followed, which prioritise waste reduction, reuse, and recycling where possible. Opportunities to source recycled or lower-carbon materials will continue to be considered in line with council policies and best practice.

Whole-life waste management impacts have been considered and are not expected to change as a result of this project. Current waste management arrangements, including segregation, recycling, and responsible disposal, will remain in place, and ongoing efforts to reduce waste and improve recycling performance will continue through staff and user engagement.

Climate Change Adaptation

Score

(3) No impact or neutral impact

Score justification

No formal assessment of climate change vulnerability will be conducted for this project, as the contract extension does not involve works or activities that would be affected by climate-related hazards.

The project will not contribute to making Plymouth more or less resilient to the anticipated effects of climate change. Existing operations and infrastructure will continue without changes that would influence climate resilience.

The project will not lead to any changes in flood risk, as there are no alterations to land use, drainage, or built structures.

The project will not contribute to the formation of urban heat islands. There are no new developments, materials, or infrastructure that would increase local temperatures.

Education / Engagement / Enabling Conditions

Score

(4) Short term or limited positive impact

Score justification

The contract extension will help engage and encourage residents and users of the facilities to adopt healthier lifestyles, which includes increased participation in physical activity such as walking and cycling. By promoting these activities, the project indirectly supports climate-friendly behaviours by encouraging active travel and reducing reliance on motorised transport.

While the project does not directly provide education on the climate or biodiversity emergencies, or fund climate adaptation measures such as green infrastructure or flood prevention, it contributes to building capacity for climate-friendly behaviours through increased opportunities for active travel and healthy habits.

Overall, the project supports the long-term adoption of low-carbon behaviours by helping more people incorporate walking, cycling, and physical activity into their daily routines.