

Equality Impact Assessment

Service Area: Waste & Recycling Services

Head of Service: Mark Kentell

Lead Officer: Paul Burton

Date of Assessment: 16/04/2026

Name of policy/function/project/service area to be assessed:

Introduction of Soft Plastics Collections under the Governments Simpler Recycling Programme

Brief description of proposal to be assessed: from April 2027 Residents will be required to separate the soft plastics from other recycling materials for kerbside collection.

Proposed implementation date of project/proposal: Trial June 2026 – Full Implementation April 2027

Brief description of the anticipated outcomes of the proposal:

Proposal	Current Arrangement	Proposed Arrangement	Comment
Soft plastics to be collected kerbside on recycling rounds	Soft plastics currently go in the black wheelie bin or bag	Service provided to all NDC residents.	All residents / Demographics treated equally.

Consultation:

Brief description of any consultation undertaken with stakeholders and summarise the results and how it has influenced the proposal. Please attach a summary of consultation results or other relevant reports:

No Consultation necessary

Demographic Data by protected characteristic:

Please detail the Census 2021 data for protected characteristics for North Devon (as detailed in the EIA Guidance for Managers and on NDC website):

NA

Equality Data by protected characteristic from consultation:

Please detail the equality data obtained as part of the consultation and compare this data to the Census 2021 data (as detailed in the EIA Guidance for Managers and on NDC website) and identify where this data does not reflect the demographics for North Devon and any disparities in outcomes by characteristic:

NA

Other Data:

Please detail any other data that has been obtained and taken into consideration (for example, other Census 2021 data which is not related to protected characteristics such as no household members having English as main language, vulnerable groups, education, economy, housing, access to transport etc, Public Health and NHS data, deprived neighbourhoods, workforce profile data):

NA

Impact:

Summarise any positive impacts or benefits, any negative impacts (i.e. potential for discrimination, disadvantage or disproportionate treatment) and any neutral impacts and the evidence/data you have taken into account to reach this conclusion. Be aware that there may be positive, negative and neutral impacts within each characteristic. (NOTE: please refer to the EIA Guidance for Managers or Equality Strategy for the characteristics) Where an impact is unknown, state so, and identify what steps will be taken to address any gaps in data:

Characteristic	Impact (what information was used to assess impact? Data/feedback etc. Describe whether this is positive or negative)	Scale of Impact (High/Med/Low)	Mitigation Required (what needs to be done to reduce/remove the impact? Have service users been involved in providing this insight?)
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Consideration of Alternatives:

Describe what alternatives have been considered and/or what actions will be taken to remove or minimise any potential negative effect identified above (attach evidence to appropriate data, reports, etc):

New government legislation, alternatives exist already for residents to take soft plastics to Supermarkets.

Funding Considerations:

See Soft Plastics report for various financial options applicable to NDC.

Monitoring Arrangements:

Briefly describe the monitoring arrangements/systems that will be put in place to monitor the effects of this proposal.

New service to be monitored by crews and Depot staff.

Date on which you will be re-considering the project/report and submitting a further EIA if applicable.

May 2026

The completion of an Equality Impact Assessment is an ongoing process. Impacts will be continually reviewed during projects and the decision making process and the Assessment will be updated accordingly and published.

A further assessment will also be required between 6 to 12 months following the implementation of the policy, project, decision or service change which has been implemented.

Reporting and Publication:

Equality Impact Assessments will be published on North Devon Council's website with committee reports as part of the democratic decision making process.

For Equality Impact Assessments that are produced which are not part of the democratic decision making process, please forward to equality@northdevongov.uk for publication.

Corporate and Community Services Use Only: Date of publication to NDC
Website: 28/04/2026