

Title of Report:	Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) for Packaging Scheme
Committee Report Submitted To:	Environmental Services
Date of Meeting:	13th January 2026
For Decision or For Information	For Information
To be discussed In Committee YES/NO	No

Linkage to Council Strategy (2021-25)	
Strategic Theme	Climate Change and our Environment
Outcome	Increasing proportion of domestic and commercial waste recycled
Lead Officer	Head of Operations

Estimated Timescale for Completion	
Date to be Completed	N/A

Budgetary Considerations	
Cost of Proposal	N/A
Included in Current Year Estimates	
Capital/Revenue	
Code	
Staffing Costs	

Legal Considerations	
Input of Legal Services Required	NO
Legal Opinion Obtained	NO

Screening Requirements	Required for new or revised Policies, Plans, Strategies or Service Delivery Proposals.		
Section 75 Screening	Screening Completed:	Yes/No	Date:
	EQIA Required and Completed:	Yes/No	Date:
Rural Needs Assessment (RNA)	Screening Completed	Yes/No	Date:
	RNA Required and Completed:	Yes/No	Date:
Data Protection Impact Assessment (DPIA)	Screening Completed:	Yes/No	Date:
	DPIA Required and Completed:	Yes/No	Date:

1.0 Purpose of Report

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to advise/update members on Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) under the Producer Responsibility Obligations (Packaging and Packaging Waste) Regulations 2024.

2.0 Background

- 2.1 Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) is a policy approach that makes producers responsible for their products along the entire lifecycle. This environmental policy approach shifts the burden of managing certain end-of-life products from local authorities and taxpayers to the producers who place those products in the market.
- 2.2 The regulations require businesses to minimise waste arising from their products and promote their reuse.
- 2.3 The UK EPR scheme will move the cost of dealing with packaging waste away from the taxpayer and on to packaging producers (applying the Polluter Pays principle), who will pay for the full cost of managing packaging waste from households. Through the fees they pay to councils, producers will be incentivised to use less packaging, to use packaging that can be recycled, and to meet higher recycling targets.
- 2.4 The EPR regulations play a part in the UK government's strategy in meeting net zero carbon emissions by 2050. The EPR regime aims to deliver a more circular economy and achieve a reduction in the environmental impact of packaging through its life cycle.

3.0 Steering Group

- 3.1 A national Steering Group has been established with representatives from local government across the UK invited to participate so as to ensure that the views and considerations of local authorities are fully reflected in the design and implementation of the scheme.
- 3.2 Local authorities in Northern Ireland are represented on the national Steering Group by a dedicated resource from the Strategic Investment Board (SIB).

4.0 Remuneration

- 4.1 The impact of the regulations for council(s) will result in a net gain as producers make payments for the costs of managing household waste. In the UK, it is estimated there will £1.2 billion of funding to local authorities each year.

- 4.2 The calculation and distribution of funding awards is made via the Scheme Administrator (PackUK).
- 4.3 The Scheme Administrator has issued Notice of Assessment(s) to council for financial years 2025-26 and 2026-27.
- 4.4 Anticipated total EPR for packaging payment for financial year 2025-26 is £4,824,546.82.
- Anticipated total EPR for packaging payment for financial year 2026-27 is £5,086,860.00.
- 4.5 The legal purpose of the funding is to cover 'chargeable disposal costs' as defined in the Producer Responsibility Obligations (Packaging and Packaging Waste) Regulations 2024 i.e. net efficient costs incurred in the efficient management of household packaging waste.
- 4.6 Under regulation 80 of the Regulations, PackUK may recalculate 'chargeable disposal costs' and may take into account information relating to the efficient disposal costs of the local authority for each assessment year.
- 4.7 Payment received by council covers the net efficient costs associated with collection and disposal of household packaging waste from kerbside collections and waste brought to Household Waste and Recycling Centre/bring sites only.

5.0 Funding Opportunities

- 5.1 Further to the closure of Craigahulliar Landfill Site on 31st December 2024, council's contribution to the Landfill Communities Fund (LCF) has greatly reduced. This scheme enables Landfill Operators to contribute funds to local community and environmental projects.
- 5.2 A percentage of funding received via the EPR scheme could in future be allocated to make up the shortfall in loss of contributions to the Landfill Communities Fund.
- 5.3 Funding from the EPR scheme may also be considered for future infrastructure and waste collection/disposal improvements.

6.0 Recommendation

- 6.1 It is recommended that Committee notes the advice/update on Extended Producer Responsibility and considers the possible opportunities for future funding in enhancing the delivery of in-house waste collection/disposal services and supporting community environmental projects.