COMMUNITY LITTER PICK
ADVICE SHEET

INTRODUCTION
Firstly, thank you so much for getting involved with a community litter pick. We welcome your support to keep this beautiful city free from litter.

We want people to love where they live and make it possible for everyone to do their bit. We know that there are a lots of people and groups who take pride in their communities and want to carry out litter pick events for the benefit of their local area.

To support these groups Plymouth City Council has litter pick equipment available on loan and can arrange for disposal of the resulting bags of litter. This service is free of charge for litter clearance from public land such as streets, parks and beaches.

WHAT WE CAN PROVIDE
- Litter pick packs consist of grabbers, bag hoops and bags.
- Bags are black and purple so that recyclables can be separated from non-recyclables.
- Requests for litter pick packs can be made online at any time of the year
- The number of packs available will depend on availability due to other planned events
- All packs needs to be booked in advance (at least a week’s notice or longer for larger events)
- All packs will need to be collected on a pre-arranged date from an agreed location
- We can support larger events or events tackling other clearance, such as vegetation, if early contact is made

LITTER PICK PROCESS
- Litter picks should be booked online at www.plymouth.gov.uk/litterpick
- This digital process will collect contact information, details of the event and any equipment or bags required.
- You will confirm acceptance of the disclaimer on use through that process.
- We will contact you to agree collection of litter pick packs and/or bags as well as discussing an appropriate location for bags to be sited after the event.
- Litter pick packs are designed for general litter collection from public land and should not be used for any other purpose.
- Black and purple bags are provided so that waste can be sorted into non-recyclables and recyclables.
- Use of these bags avoids the potential for public perception of littering or fly-tipping from community litter picks awaiting collection.
- If you find large or hazardous materials (such as needles or condoms) report this online and it will be cleared separately www.plymouth.gov.uk/streetcareandcleaning

WHAT WE NEED FROM YOU
Be responsible for making sure you and your group are aware of safety issues as every clean-up will be different.

Carry out a risk assessment prior to starting your litter pick. Templates are available and other advice and information online at www.keepbritaintidy.org
It is a good idea to have a safety briefing before you start.

As a minimum you need to ensure that people taking part at all times are wearing;

- Reflective hi-visibility waistcoats to clearly highlight them to pedestrians and traffic
- Heavy duty protective gloves
- Stout shoes and appropriate clothing

Look out for the following hazards;

- Unidentified cans or canisters, oil drums, poisons, insecticides, clinical waste, etc
- Broken glass and drug and sex litter such as condoms and syringes, etc. DO NOT PICK UP.
- Busy roads, deep or fast flowing water, tides, steep/slippery/unstable banks, sharp rocks, mud holes, derelict buildings, electric fences and so on

Avoid illness from poor hygiene by;

- Wearing heavy duty protective gloves
- Covering any cuts, even minor ones
- Keeping hands away from mouth and eyes
- Washing hands and forearms before eating, drinking, smoking or going to the toilet

Think about physical limitations of you and your volunteers. Avoid lifting heavy items as these may be more practical to be removed by the Council as a follow up activity. You can make a note of the location and let us know after the event at www.plymouth.gov.uk/envirocrime. If you decide a bulky item can be lifted do this as a co-ordinated effort.

Thank you again for your help in the fight against litter!