**Product / Service:** Plastics & Glass (Plastic & Glass Products)

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|  | **Negative Impacts / Risks** |  | **Positive Opportunities** |
| **Environmental** | * Conventional plastic production (incl. extraction) uses petroleum (scarce natural resource) and creates chemical waste & air pollution from waste gases * Glass production involves high energy (carbon impact) – however the raw material (sand) is abundant * Vehicle fuel & emissions (carbon impact) – high order frequency * May be delivered in excessive packaging * Disposal - potential of adding to landfill (loss of natural habitats / biodiversity) – materials have low decomposition rates | * Consider biodegradable & ‘compostable’ plastics (c.f. oil-based plastics) * Consolidated orders * Low CO2 vehicles for delivery * Reduce levels of packaging / use recycled packaging * Recycle plastics or consider as a source of thermal ‘energy from waste’ (via incineration) * Recycle glass (closed loop possible) |
| **Social** | * International supply chains (potential for issues such as child labour / poor pay & working conditions / health and safety breaches) * Frequency & timing of deliveries – congestion & noise impacting residents | * Job creation in the UK (both plastics & glass are manufactured in the UK) * Apprenticeship opportunities * Consolidated orders & deliveries |
| **Economic** | * Recycled products may be more expensive * Waste disposal costs | * Many UK manufacturers & distributors – opportunity to support local economy * Invest in robust and durable products – whole life cost |

**RELATED PROC HE:** ML