

Agenda item:**Title of meeting:** Environment & Community Safety Decision meeting**Date of meeting:** 9th July 2014**Subject:** Project Integra**Report by:** Head of Transport & Environment**Wards affected:** All**Key decision:** No**Full Council decision:** No

1. Purpose of report

- 1.1. This report concerns the city council's membership with Project Integra, and the proposed Action Plan for 2014-17.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1. For the city council portfolio holder for Environment & Community Safety to remain a member of the Project Integra Strategic Board (PISB).
- 2.2. For the city council to accept the 2014-17 Action Plan (Appendix 2) but with the stated reservations and withdraw from any item for which it has not provided financial support. This would include the Recycle for Hampshire campaign, although it should be recognised that this does not lessen the council's commitment to recycling and positive resource management.
- 2.3. That the annual subscription be funded from existing cash limits with the balance of £13,465 being funded from the carry-forward of underspend from the portfolio's 2013/14 revenue budget.

3. Background

- 3.1. Previous reports have identified the historic importance of Project Integra (PI) and the city council's place within it. These are highlighted as background documents.
- 3.2. It should be recognised that whilst the term 'Project Integra' covers the whole waste partnership in Hampshire, there is a distinction between the contractual issues and relationships surrounding the waste disposal contract; and the functions and benefits provided by the PI Executive, Recycle for Hampshire and Materials Analysis Facility (MAF) and its focus on waste collection and partnerships. This paper does not propose a change in how we work regarding the waste disposal contract or our related interaction with Hampshire County Council (HCC) and

Southampton City Council (SCC). This report focusses on the PI Executive and related functions.

- 3.3. Previous reports have also identified the cessation of on-going revenue payments for the executive and the communications campaign (Recycle for Hampshire). In the report of 10th April 2013 it was stated that PI be asked to demonstrate value for money of the partnership. Information to this effect was received in November 2013 and is attached as Appendix 1.
- 3.4. The current membership subscription costs (2014/15) for the city council are identified in the Action Plan 2014-17. This is to be funded from underspend within the portfolio's revenue budget carried over from 2013/14. Officers believe that this represents value for money when compared to the work which would be required if not part of PI.
- 3.5. Funding for the work undertaken by the MAF remains within the revenue budget.

4. PI Action Plan

- 4.1. The PISB, in January 2014, agreed that the Action Plan for 2014-17 be finalised by strategy officers. This is then for each partner authority to accept, partial or wholly reject, or to accept with reservations.
- 4.2. The final draft of the Action Plan is in Appendix 2.
- 4.3. It is proposed that this action plan is accepted, with the reservation that the city council does not take part in the Recycle for Hampshire campaign, and does not vote at the strategic board on issues relating to it.

5. Reasons for recommendations

- 5.1. Officers reviewed the value for money statement, and the Action Plan for 2014-17, and recommend that membership of the partnership is retained for 2014/15 as it offers the best value for money for the city council for the following reasons:
 - 5.1.1. There is a requirement for local authorities to have a waste prevention plan which details how they are going to support a reduction in the amount of waste being produced. PI is producing a county-wide plan which the city council can use and buy-in to as it requires.
 - 5.1.2. To raise recycling rates, and offer better customer satisfaction, it is recognised that there is a need to be able to recycle more materials in the kerbside recycling bins. PI is undertaking an in-depth review of what more can be recycled.
 - 5.1.3. Waste Regulations require that authorities are compliant with how waste is collected and disposed of and need to show how its operations meet the demands of being Technically, Economically and Environmentally Practical (TEEP). This work is being progressed by PI.

- 5.2. These are all tasks that the city council would be required to undertake, and therefore being part of PI enables that work to be undertaken at a lower cost. All of these benefits can only be achieved if part of Project Integra.

6. Equality Impact Assessment (EIA)

- 6.1. This report does not require an equalities impact assessment as the recommendations proposed in the report will not have a disproportionately negative impact on any specific equality groups.

7. Head of legal, licensing & registrars' comments

- 7.1. Project Integra is a partnership of the 14 waste disposal/collection authorities in Hampshire together with the main waste disposal contractor.
- 7.2. The partnership is embodied in the Project Integra Strategic Board, which has legal status as a joint committee constituted by the partner authorities and operates in accordance with an agreed formal written Constitution.
- 7.3. It is considered that the proposal for the City Council's approval of the 2014/17 Action Plan as outlined in paragraph 4 and for the reasons set out in paragraph 5 of this report is capable of implementation within the existing terms of the Project Integra Constitution.
- 7.4. Under Part 2, Section 3 of the City Council's Constitution (responsibilities of the Cabinet) and further in accordance with the Scheme of Delegations at Appendix A to the Executive Procedure Rules in Part 3 of the Constitution, the Portfolio Holder for Environment and Community Safety has the authority to approve the recommendations set out in this report

8. Head of Finance's comments

- 8.1. The subscription payment to maintain membership to PI for 2014/15 is £28,423 (2013/14 was £29,058). This payment supports two areas within PI being the MAF for £15,233 and the PI Executive for £13,190 and will be met from within existing cash limits and the balance of £13,465 being proposed to be funded from the carry-forward of underspend from the portfolio's 2013/14 revenue budget.
- 8.2. The recommendation for the city council to continue to contribute to the PI Executive follows review of the Summary of key benefits of PI membership document (appendix 1) which details plans to increase material sales, reduce procurement costs and achieve further savings within the PI Executive.
- 8.3. It is noted within the Project Integra Action Plan 2014 - 2017 paragraph 5.4 "During 14-15, work will begin on designing a model for PI that will enable it to become self-funding in the future."

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Signed by:

Appendices:

Appendix 1 - Demonstration of the value for money of project Integra from the Head of Project Integra

Appendix 2 - Project Integra Action Plan 2014-17

Background list of documents: Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972

The following documents disclose facts or matters, which have been relied upon to a material extent by the author in preparing this report:

Title of document	Location
Report to portfolio 28 th September 2011	http://democracy.portsmouth.gov.uk/Data/Environment/20110928/Agenda/e20110928r5.pdf
Report to Portfolio 4 th July 2012	http://democracy.portsmouth.gov.uk/Data/Environment/20120704/Agenda/env20120704_A14.pdf
Report to Portfolio 10 th April 2013	http://democracy.portsmouth.gov.uk/Data/Cabinet%20Member%20for%20Environment%20&%20Community%20Safety%20Decision%20Meeting/20130410/Agenda/ecs20130410r3.pdf

The recommendation(s) set out above were approved/ approved as amended/ deferred/ rejected by on

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Signed by: