

## Project Integra – briefing

Report for	Portsmouth City Council
Date	June 2014
Title of report	<b>Appendix 1 - Summary of key benefits of PI membership</b>

### Introduction

Project Integra (PI) is a partnership of all 14 local authorities in Hampshire, plus Veolia Environmental Services. The partnership works to reduce costs across the whole waste system by, among other things, reducing waste, decreasing waste to landfill, increasing recycling, and partner collaboration and joint procurement. Partners contribute financially to a maximum of three areas – Recycle for Hampshire (R4H), the PI Executive, and the Materials Analysis Facility (MAF). Several authorities, including PCC, have recently withdrawn from the R4H programme. The MAF provides data to all partners on the composition of waste, contamination, and the success of recycling schemes. PCC have stated their intention to continue funding for the MAF, but early in 2013 announced a decision to withdraw funding for the PI Executive unless PI can demonstrate a value for money mode of operation.

### The PI Executive

The PI Executive consists of the Head of PI and a Project Assistant. The officers support the running of the PI constitution, committee meetings and officer meetings that comprise the decision making elements of the partnership. The Executive also project manages the PI Action Plan, and carries out other activity as described in this document. The Executive's costs comprise officer salaries and on costs, a SLA with HCC which provides data and financial support to the Executive, and support costs including printing and IT. In 12/13, PCC's contribution to the PI Executive was £22,500. As a result of a reorganisation within the Executive during 2012, and further savings identified by the Head of PI this will be reduced to £13,190 in 14/15 (41% reduction).

### Glass Recycling

The PI contract (managed by HCC on behalf of the partnership) for recycling of glass collected from bring sites is currently delivering significant income for PCC. Market reports show that PI is earning an income above the top end of the price range evident nationally. If PCC were not part of the PI glass contract and were earning an average income as reported by the Waste and Resources Action Programme (WRAP), income for PCC in 13-14 would have been down by £12,919. This contract is due for renewal or extension in 2016. Future glass contracts will be available to PI member authorities only, who will benefit from the increased income available to such a large consortium, as well as the reduced procurement costs.

### Dry Mixed Recycling (DMR), new materials and MRF upgrades

PCC income from DMR in 13/14 was £358,331. In 2014, the PI Executive will be leading and project managing work to review the potential for adding to the materials collected via DMR. This will for example include consideration of business cases for collection of cartons and additional plastics. If collection of additional materials is agreed, this could lead to increased income and reduced disposal costs for PCC. In the case of PCC, a 70% capture rate of cartons would yield an additional income of £2,000.

Being a member of PI allows partners to benefit from initiatives to increase DMR income by making changes at the MRFs. An example of this is a current proposal to install a baler at Alton MRF, to enable access to higher income for mixed paper. It is estimated that the investment will lead to additional income for PCC of £13,500 in 15-16 and beyond.

### Waste Prevention

In 2014/15, PI will be implementing a Waste Prevention Plan. As well as identifying ways to positively affect consumer behaviour, the plan will also include cross-departmental activities within PI local authorities and regional bodies to make waste prevention a far reaching principle. Waste prevention leads to savings via avoided disposal costs – a modest 0.5% reduction in PCC residual waste would lead to a disposal saving of £8,250.

## **Procurement**

The framework contract for textile bank collections which is in the 2013-16 PI Action Plan will lead to an income of £100k for PCC. Future framework contracts are planned for 2014, including collection banks for small items of WEEE. Procurement exercises will be managed by the PI Executive and frameworks may only be available to PI authorities. The small WEEE collection banks may lead to a small income but will be accompanied by a saving on waste disposal – reasonable estimates of tonnage would lead to savings of around £850, but there may be added benefits of increased use of other material banks and reductions in contamination at MRFs. Other procurement exercises for bins, bags, boxes and vehicles are also planned.

## **MAF funding**

PCC funding for the MAF contributes to the operational cost of running the facility. It does not cover the following:

- Project management of MAF programme
- Contract management of MAF
- Methodology testing

## **Waste Regulations and TEEP**

The revised Waste Framework Directive (2008/98/EC) places particular emphasis on need to move materials up the waste hierarchy, and to maximise “high quality” recycling. *"Member States shall take measures to encourage the options that deliver the best overall environmental outcome. This may require specific waste streams departing from the hierarchy where this is justified by life-cycle thinking on the overall impacts of the generation and management of such waste. Member States shall take into account the general environmental protection principles of precaution and sustainability, technical feasibility and economic viability, protection of resources as well as the overall environmental, human health, economic and social impacts."*

Following legal challenge by a group who believe that this can only be achieved by kerbside separation of recyclables, local authorities are advised that they review their operations to ensure that justify that their practices are technically, economically, environmentally practicable.

This work is being led by Project Integra.

## **Additional Benefits**

The following are more difficult to quantify financially but they do provide support to PCC officers and consideration needs to be given to PCC officer time that may be needed if PCC withdraw from PI:

- Officer time available to develop and manage joint projects
- Technical advice on waste issues, central source of expertise on waste issues, legislation etc.
- External representation for the partnership with government & agencies, industry bodies, partners etc.
- Response to consultations, FOI requests & technical issues
- Officer time available to develop appropriate & consistent approaches to issues.
- Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy development.