

Agenda item: **Decision maker :** Environment and Community Safety Decision meeting**Date of meeting:** 14 November 2014**Subject:** Portsmouth's Waste Prevention Plan**Report by:** Head of Transport and Environment**Wards affected:** All**Key decision:** No**Full Council decision:** No

1 Purpose of report

- 1.1 The development of a Waste Prevention Programme is a requirement of the revised Waste Framework Directive (2008/98/EC). Through their Waste Prevention Programme launched in December 2013, DEFRA have recommended that all Local Authorities should have a local waste prevention plan which details how they are going to support a reduction in the amount of waste being produced. This report presents Portsmouth City Council's draft waste prevention plan (WPP) for approval.

2 Recommendations

- 2.1 That the Cabinet Member for Environment and Community Safety notes the benefits of working on waste prevention (see 3.1)
- 2.2 That the Cabinet Member for Environment and Community Safety agrees the adoption of Project Integra's waste prevention plan (see 3.2)
- 2.3 That the Cabinet Member for Environment and Community Safety approves the draft Portsmouth waste prevention plan (see 3.3)
- 2.4 That the Cabinet Member for Environment and Community Safety notes that an update report will be provided for Members on an annual basis (see 5.2)

3 Background

Waste prevention is defined by Article 3(12) Waste Framework Directive as follows:

'Measures taken before a substance, material or product has become waste that reduce:

- the quantity of waste, including through the re-use of products or the extension of the life span of products;*

- *the adverse impacts of the generated waste on the environment and human health;*
- *the content of harmful substances in materials and products'*

The aim of the national Waste Prevention Programme is to improve the environment and protect human health by supporting a resource efficient economy, reducing the quantity and impact of waste produced whilst promoting sustainable economic growth.

As a general message waste prevention is a hard one to communicate as it can be seen as a restriction on people's lifestyles. In simple terms there are two areas that can be focused on:

1. reducing the amount of waste that residents bring into their homes in the first place
2. residents managing their waste once it is in their home to ensure that as little of it as possible is put out as black bag waste

Portsmouth City Council (the city council) can only influence these areas and it is much harder to influence point 1 than point 2.

3.1 The benefits of Waste Prevention

- 3.1.1 The Waste Hierarchy, as set out in the EU Waste Framework Directive, has been set in UK law through the Waste (England and Wales) Regulations 2011. This means that legally the city council is bound to consider the waste hierarchy in all our waste activities. Waste prevention is viewed as the top of the waste hierarchy (fig. 1), meaning it is the least environmentally harmful and therefore most preferred method of managing waste.



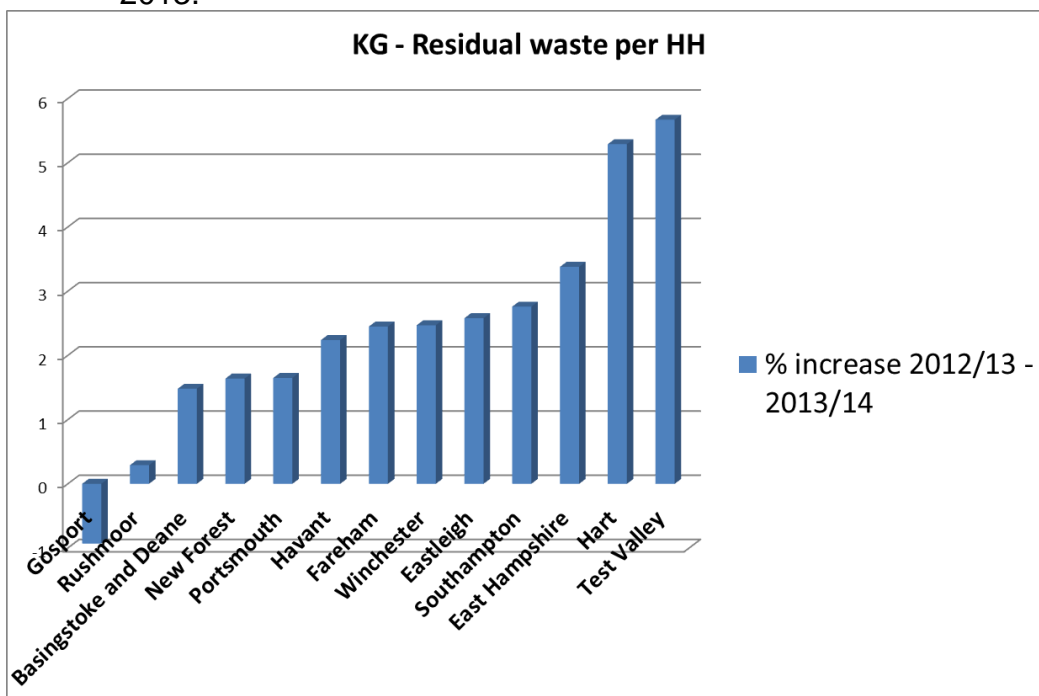
Figure 1: Waste hierarchy (from Defra)

- 3.1.2 Outlined in section 1 of Portsmouth's Waste Prevention Plan (WPP) (appendix 1) there are a multitude of benefits from focusing on waste prevention. In summary:

- Performance - a focus on waste prevention can increase recycling rates and reduce residual waste

- Financial - reducing the amount of waste generated and increasing reuse activities will help to save money through avoided disposal costs and could lead to an increase in Dry Mixed Recycling (DMR) recycled, increasing income for collection authorities.
- Legislative - a WPP ensures compliance with the Waste (England and Wales) Regulations 2011
- Social - opportunities for job creation and training from furniture reuse and repair schemes delivered by the third sector
- Economic - engaging local businesses in waste prevention and resource efficiency can help them to reduce costs and to become more competitive.

3.1.3 Portsmouth's residual waste tonnage gradually started increasing in 2012-13 after reducing annually for 4 years (a result of the economic downturn). Data shows that Portsmouth's increase in residual waste from 2012/13 to 2013/14 has been significantly lower than more than half of the other Hampshire local authorities (shown in graph below). This could be due to the impact of Portsmouth's Big Recycle, a recycling incentive scheme which has been running since September 2013.



3.2 Project Integra Waste Prevention Plan

3.2.1 Project Integra (PI) is the waste partnership for Hampshire of which the city council is a member.

3.2.2 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.

3.2.3 On 9th July 2014 the Environment and Community Safety Portfolio agreed for the city council to remain a member of Project Integra Strategic Board and to adopt the Project Integra action plan for 2014-17.

- 3.2.4 Project Integra Action Plan for 2014-17 commits the city council to aiming for no more than a 0.5% annual increase in residual waste per household and to produce a local waste prevention plan.
- 3.2.5 PI has produced a county-wide waste prevention plan which the city council is able to use and buy-in to as required (attached as appendix 2). This is a benefit of remaining a member of Project Integra. This has meant that the task of producing a local waste prevention plan has been much less resource intensive.
- 3.2.6 Work has been done to review PI's waste prevention plan and it is recommended that the city council adopt it in order to ensure efficiency.

3.3 Portsmouth Waste Prevention Plan

- 3.3.1 Portsmouth's Waste Prevention Plan (attached as appendix 1) will adopt Project Integra's Waste Prevention Plan (attached as appendix 2) by taking direction and recommendations from it and focussing on what is realistic, necessary and achievable for Portsmouth. The Portsmouth WPP will also follow the guidance of the Waste Prevention Programme for England.
- 3.3.3 Whilst being a high achiever in landfill diversion, Portsmouth still has work to do on reducing waste as well as improving recycling rates.
- 3.3.4 An action plan is included in Portsmouth's WPP which sets out how we will help to deliver the work identified in the PI WPP which will provide benefits for Portsmouth. Along with actions that have been identified specifically for Portsmouth.

4. Funding

- 4.1 The majority of waste prevention work is being carried out within existing resources. A summary of current work is included in section 5 of Portsmouth's WPP (attached as appendix 1).
- 4.2 There is funding available through WRAP for partnership waste prevention projects. Work is currently being completed to progress suitable bids.
- 4.3 There is a further DCLG Recycling Reward funding scheme available (an extension of the original fund which is being used to deliver the Portsmouth Big Recycle scheme). The bid being developed will include elements focused on waste prevention.

5. Monitoring

- 5.1 Portsmouth's WPP will be monitored by reviewing progress against the action plan. Project Integra will review their plan annually and the city council will feed into this in order to monitor progress.
- 5.2 For Portsmouth specific actions these will be reviewed through the Environment Service business plan monitoring and an update will be provided for Members annually.

6. Reasons for Recommendations

- 6.1 Focusing on waste prevention can have a financial benefit for the city council. Black bag waste in Portsmouth increased by 1.65% between 2012/13 and 2013/14. This is low compared to the rates for other councils in Hampshire, however, it still increased the costs for disposal by £54,765. If this increase in black bag waste was also made up of items that could be recycled the city council will have lost income as well seeing increased costs. If this increase in black bag waste continues at the same level it could lead to additional costs of over £700,000 by 2025/6.
- 6.2 As a member of Project Integra it makes sense for the city council to adopt their waste prevention plan and link in with the wider work that is happening across Hampshire on waste prevention. It also ensures efficiency and reduces the duplication of work.
- 6.3 There are some specific opportunities for Portsmouth around waste prevention therefore it is recommended to have a Portsmouth specific plan.

7 Equality impact assessment (EIA)

- 7.1 An equality impact assessment is not required as the recommendations do not have a negative impact on any of the protected characteristics as described in the Equality Act 2010.

8 Head of Legal comments

The adoption of the proposed waste prevention strategy will improve compliance with the city council's obligations to reduce non-recyclable waste. This will lessen the potential for any adverse consequences for such non compliance.

9 Head of Finance comments

- 9.1 Costs incurred in preparing the Portsmouth Waste Prevention Plan are officers' time and will be met from existing revenue budget.
- 9.2 The value of the bid applying for further DCLG Recycling Reward funding mentioned in 4.3 is circa £180,000.
- 9.3 Upon the Portsmouth Waste Prevention Plan being approved there will need to be further cost/benefit analysis prepared on specific recommendations, and costs will be met from existing revenue budget or sourced from external funding.

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Signed by:
Simon Moon
Head of Transport and Environment Service

Appendices:

Appendix 1: Portsmouth Waste Prevention Plan

Appendix 2: Project Integra Waste Prevention Plan

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_AI4.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
Report to Portfolio 9 th July 2014	http://democracy.portsmouth.gov.uk/documents/g2479/Public%20reports%20pack%2009th-Jul-2014%2010.00%20Cabinet%20Member%20for%20Environment%20Community%20Safety%20Decision.pdf?T=10

The recommendation(s) set out above were approved/ approved as amended/ deferred/ rejected by Cabinet Member for Environment and Community Safety on the 14th November 2014