

Agenda item: **Title of meeting:** Environment & Community Safety Decision meeting**Date of meeting:** 8th July 2015**Subject:** Project Integra**Report by:** Director of Housing & Property**Wards affected:** All**Key decision:** No**Full Council decision:** No**1. Purpose of report**

- 1.1. This report concerns the Project Integra Action Plan for 2015-18 and its revised constitution, and sets out a timetable for determining the city council's long-term membership of the partnership.

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) for 2015/16.
- 2.2. For the city council to accept the Project Integra Action Plan 2015-18 (Appendix 1) for the current year (2015/16) but with the stated reservations and withdraw from any item for which it has not provided financial support.
- 2.3. For the city council to accept the proposed changes to the Project Integra constitution (Appendix 2).
- 2.4. That the Project Integra subscription for 2015/16 be funded from existing cash limits with the balance being funded from the carry-forward of underspend from the portfolio's 2014/15 revenue budget.
- 2.4. For officers to assess the long-term value of the Action Plan to Portsmouth and develop a decision report on continued membership of Project Integra beyond 2015/16, to be brought to the next decision meeting of the portfolio.

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. The current membership subscription costs (2015/16) for the city council are identified in the Action Plan 2015-18. This is to be funded from underspend within the portfolio's revenue budget carried over from 2014/15.
- 3.4. The Project Integra constitution requires that notice to not pay this subscription, and effectively leave the Strategic Board, requires 5 months' notice before the start of the financial year.
- 3.5. During 2014, PI undertook valuable work to assess new materials for recycling, and the TEEP regulations. As this work had not been completed by 30th October 2014 city council officers decided that a notice of withdrawal at that time would not be appropriate. Withdrawal was not given to PI, and therefore the city council remains a member, with commitments to subscriptions, for 2015/16.
- 3.6. Funding for the work undertaken by the MAF remains within the revenue budget and it is not proposed that this is removed as the MAF helps to ensure the city council obtains the maximum financial benefit from recycling.

4. PI Action Plan

- 4.1. The PISB, on 5th February 2015, agreed that the Project Integra Action Plan 2015-18 be finalised by strategy officers. It was then for each partner authority to accept, partial or wholly reject, or to accept with reservations.
- 4.2. The final draft of the Project Integra Action Plan 2015-18 is in Appendix 1.
- 4.3. It is proposed that this action plan is accepted, with the reservations that:
 - 4.3.1. 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.
 - 4.3.2. The city council reserves the ability, subject to a future decision by the city council, to withdraw from the action plan, and subsequently the Strategic Board, from April 2016, by giving notice in line with the revised constitution.

5. Constitution

- 5.1. The PISB, on 5th February 2015, agreed a revised constitution. This is shown in Appendix 2.

- 5.2. It is proposed that the revised constitution is accepted, taking note of section 13.6 and its implication on the city council's decision on continued involvement.

6. Reasons for recommendations

- 6.1. It is a current commitment of the city council to accept or reject the Action Plan and remain a member of the PISB until notice is given. Therefore the recommendation is to accept the plan until a formal review of future membership is made.
- 6.2. Funding has been built into the budget for 2015/16, using underspend from 2014/15 revenue budgets.
- 6.3. The revision to the constitution was agreed by the PISB and the changes do not impact upon the city council's fundamental decision-making abilities. The changes focus on the membership of the partnership, and this will be taken into account in a future report.

7. Equality Impact Assessment (EIA)

- 7.1. 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 group.

8. Legal Implications

- 8.1. Project Integra is a partnership of the 14 waste disposal/collection authorities in Hampshire together with the main waste disposal contractor.
- 8.2. 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.
- 8.3. It is considered that the proposal for the City Council's approval of the 2015/18 Action Plan as outlined in paragraph 4 is capable of implementation within the terms of the proposed revised Project Integra Constitution.
- 8.4. As noted in paragraph 6.3 of the report, the proposed changes to the Project Integra Constitution are not considered detrimental to the City Council's position generally within Project Integra nor, specifically, to the Council's ability to consider and determine its membership of the PISB from 2016/17.
- 8.5. 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

9. Head of Finance’s comments

9.1. The subscription payment to continue the Council's membership to Project Integra for 2015/16 is £29,166, compared to £28,423 in 2014/15, as stated in the Project Integra Action Plan 2015-2018, and presented in Appendix 1. This subscription payment is broken down across two areas within Project Integra:

Project Integra Executive	£13,385
Materials Analysis Facility	£15,781

9.2. It is anticipated that these costs will be met from within existing cash limits, with any shortfall being funded from existing Portfolio Reserves.

9.3. It is recommended that an assessment into the long-term benefits of Project Integra membership is carried out in order to ensure that:

- 9.3.1.1. the action plan's outcomes continue to be in line with Council's priorities,
- 9.3.1.2. that membership continues to represent best value; and
- 9.3.1.3. Project Integra continues to work towards becoming a self-funding entity in the future.

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Signed by:

Appendices:

- Appendix 1 - Project Integra Action Plan 2015-18
- Appendix 2 - Revised Constitution of Project Integra

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
Report to Portfolio 10 th July 2014	http://democracy.portsmouth.gov.uk/documents/s4040/ECS9July14-%20Project%20Integra%202014-07-10%20final.pdf

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

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Signed by: