

Recommendation.	Action By.	Progress.
<p>1. The City Council seek to exceed the Government's targets to become a lead authority for recycling.</p>	<p>Julian Lomas, Strategic Director for Environment & Transport.</p>	<p>Very little progress made here. PCC's statutory recycling target is 30% for 2007/8. Actual performance in 07/08 is anticipated to be no better than 24%. Members have been provided with a raft of options for consideration (see links to the various papers below) but the only substantive service change to have been instigated since Panel A's report was published is the Garden Waste ban. All other options for enhancing recycling performance have been rejected or shelved.</p> <p>Reports:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Garden Waste Ban report to Env Exec (March 06) - http://www.portsmouth.gov.uk/media/e20060316r.pdf • Report to Exec on Panel A recommendations (March 06) - http://www.portsmouth.gov.uk/media/exec20060313r14.pdf • Report to Env Exec Dec 2006 on Integra Sub Strategy http://www.portsmouth.gov.uk/media/et20061219r7.pdf • One other more recent report (July 2007) to the Env Exec Briefing meeting looking at options to enhance the recycling rate was rejected by the Leader on the grounds that reference was made to the practice of Alternate Weekly Collections. A new version of this report is expected to be put before the Env Exec's next Briefing meeting in Sept 07.

		<p>Waste Liaison Officers (WLO) work on flats recycling, crew feedback cards and garden waste ban are all helping but other measures to encourage more recycling are still required over and above this good work.</p> <p>It is worth noting that government (DEFRA) recognition of the benefits of recycling materials recovered from ERF and through home composting would help PCC's KPIs, but we have no reason to expect an immediate shift in perspective. The most likely possibility at the moment is that DEFRA may recognise waste displaced by home composting as being part of the recycling total.</p>
<p>2. The crucial role played by Waste Liaison Officers be recognised and that the City Council investigate how the funding for these positions to could be provided in the future.</p>	<p>Julian Lomas, Strategic Director for Environment & Transport.</p>	<p>The WLO team have been retained. This resource has proven to be essential for a number of reasons:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • WLOs provide excellent, timely and focussed customer service. In 2006/ 7, over 9,000 separate liaison visits were made and 1,500 "Mayrise jobs" were attended to. • They have been invaluable in reducing the level of contamination found in materials set out for the recycling collection. Portsmouth now has the lowest contamination rate in Hampshire, despite being heavily urbanised. • They have helped to increase recycling participation levels – particularly in flats where great progress has been made. • They have undertaken a huge range and number of promotional events. They were an essential resource in this respect when the garden waste ban was rolled out and over 23,000 home composters were

		<p>distributed.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Through the above they contribute substantially to excellent (and improving) customer satisfaction ratings for the recycling service (80% satisfaction in 2005). • Without the resource it seems inevitable that recycling rates and levels of quality of material collected would fall dramatically. Customer satisfaction would also presumably suffer. • It should be noted that the WLO's funding has been secured as a consequence of the savings that have been achieved in waste disposal costs through their activities.
3. Promotion of all the recycling facilities available in the city be increased.	Julian Lomas, Strategic Director for Environment & Transport.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Largely through the instrument of the WLO team, in 2006/7 the Waste Management Section have produced and distributed almost 1 million items of PR material (about 10 items per household). • 89 promotional events were held in 2006/7 during which WLOs spoke with over 11,000 residents. • The Waste Management Section provides recycling and waste guidance in every issue of Flagship. • Initiatives such as Feedback Cards, The Flats "Kick Start" project and Crew Liaison (so that they provide the best possible service) have all gone a long way to improving communication with customers so that they understand how the service works and what materials should be put out.
4. Staff be encouraged to make full use of the range of recycling facilities throughout	David Read, Facilities Manager.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Business Improvement Officers have been working with the housing offices on how they can make a difference. Increasing awareness of recycling comes under the

Council buildings.		<p>internal communications strategy. Green Champions have been recruited (volunteers who want to help PCC be more environmentally friendly) and have found out what recycling facilities they have in their area and encouraged them to encourage their colleagues to use them effectively.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is a plan to change the bin system in the Civic Offices; hopefully this will be completed by the end of the year. This will entail individual bins being taken away and each desk or pair of desks getting a recycling bin and then the being one main central waste bin. This will be combined with a communication campaign about what can and can't be recycled and the importance of doing this at work. • The budget for this is coming out of the budget that was approved for sustainability and climate change issues in March.
5. Recycling facilities be provided at Council-run events in the city.	Barbara Thompson, Strategic Director for Economy, Culture & Community Safety.	Recycling bins were place at the Race for Life event but there is always the issue of contamination in the bins and it is not possible to monitor successful at events. Therefore, all waste goes to the Energy from Waste incinerator which is fed back into the national grid. This is the most efficient way of managing it at the moment. (Drusilla Moody, Visitor Services Manager).
6. The City Council seek to minimise the amount of household residual waste.	Julian Lomas, Strategic Director for Environment & Transport.	This, with the greatest of respect to the Panel was never a realistic proposition. It is an idea, which is consistently (and correctly) argued as being fundamental to sustainable

		<p>waste practice – but waste reduction is not something that can be brought about by Local Authorities. Waste growth can only realistically be countered by nationally implemented policy instruments.</p> <p>It is the case nationally that for the last two years, waste arisings have been flat and have even in some cases reduced slightly. We don't know why this is for sure. Locally, we reduced our arisings in 2006 as a result of the garden waste ban and this limit continues to keep a lid on what arisings would otherwise be.</p> <p>We do not foresee any possibility of fundamentally influencing waste growth. What we could do is limit the ability of households to produce residual refuse. This could well reduce the amount of waste collected and would no doubt encourage more recycling – but it seems unlikely that overall production of waste would reduce – it would simply be re-directed down alternative routes – some within PCC's control (e.g. the HWRC) and some external.</p>
<p>7. The City Council investigate the practicalities of making kerbside recycling mandatory and a programme of measures to encourage all householders to participate.</p>	<p>Julian Lomas, Strategic Director for Environment & Transport.</p>	<p>Section 46 of the EPA empowers the Authority to take enforcement action with non-complying households facing the potential of a court-imposed penalty. Members opted not to follow this route without further evaluation. It was recommended to the Executive in March 2006 that “the enforcement of the mandatory recycling policy be reviewed in more depth by an appropriate scrutiny panel prior to consideration by the Executive”. No such evaluation has taken place and no request has been made by Members to evaluate the option.</p>

<p>8. The City Council demonstrate its commitment to raising recycling levels by offering a kerbside collection of recyclable materials to all Portsmouth residents regardless of what type of property they live in.</p>	<p>Julian Lomas, Strategic Director for Environment & Transport.</p>	<p>All houses have automatically received the kerbside recycling service for some time. We have never serviced all of our communal blocks however. In 2005 as part of the round of savings cuts, the Waste Management Service was instructed to remove the recycling collection from a number of poorly performing flats. Since then, we've been re-instating services on a rolling programme (as a result of a contract re-negotiation which enabled this to be done at no extra cost) as well as adding in new flats and flats that have never been serviced as part of the "Flats Kick Start" project. Just over 5,000 flats now remain without a recycling collection (or to put it another way, 80% of communal blocks have a collection). Funding for containers has all been used up. It is hoped that more containers can be introduced this year using a combination of funds from the Housing service, grant aid and compelling private landlords to purchase facilities.</p>
<p>9. A glass kerbside collection be introduced at the earliest opportunity.</p>	<p>Julian Lomas, Strategic Director for Environment & Transport.</p>	<p>In January 2007 a report on kerbside glass collection was prepared for the consideration of the Env Exec. The report was not formally brought forward to a briefing meeting as it was decided by the Leader that the cost of the proposed collection was prohibitive.</p> <p>Despite earlier, un-researched views that a glass collection could be provided on a near cost neutral basis, thorough examination of the economics / practicalities demonstrated that costs in the region of £300 per tonne would be experienced. This is due to the modest amount of glass in the residual waste stream, the expense of its effective recovery and the reduced expectations in terms of disposal</p>

		<p>cost savings.</p> <p>An alternative to kerbside collection is high density mixed glass banks. Such a service would be cheap to run and although not as convenient as a kerbside collection, banks could theoretically be placed throughout the city so that they were a short walk away from the majority of households (mixed banks would have a greatly reduced footprint because you only need one 1100 litre bank, rather than 3 and therefore many more could be accommodated throughout the city). This and other service enhancement options will be brought to the Env Exec Briefing Meeting in Sept 2007.</p>
<p>10. The potential for Alternate Weekly Collection be explored. An appropriate infrastructure to increase the diversion of green garden waste for recycling be introduced earliest opportunity.</p>	<p>Julian Lomas, Strategic Director for Environment & Transport.</p>	<p>In the autumn of 2006, a ROTATE funded study was commissioned into the viability of introducing an “AWC” style collection in Portsmouth. This study stated that AWC would be hard, but not impossible to instigate because of spatial limitations. The study went on to say that savings would be modest, based upon limited options for reducing the number of collection vehicles needed. The overall conclusion was that only about a third of the city was really suited to an AWC style collection.</p> <p>It has been made eminently clear on a number of occasions that Members do not favour AWC as a delivery solution for Portsmouth. Hence, no further developments in respect of AWC evaluation have taken place.</p> <p>As previously mentioned, rather than a kerbside collection of garden waste, after evaluation, a garden waste ban was</p>

		<p>instead instigated. 23,000 + home composters were provided to residents and the ban has yielded a reduction in waste arisings of approximately 3,000 tonnes per annum. A very small proportion of garden waste is still collected from the kerbside (and disposed of) via green sacks, issued through a means testing process. Residents now either compost at home or take their garden waste to the HWRC, or to newly arranged monthly drop off points for composting.</p> <p>This arrangement, even with the expense of the new drop off points has saved approximately £100k per annum. Instigating a kerbside collection of garden waste (even if chargeable) would have come at a considerable cost and would not have greatly enhanced the recycling rate because of the relatively small amounts of glass waste in the waste stream.</p>
<p>11. The Council continue to address the extraction process of recyclables from the residual waste stream in line with new developments in technology.</p>	<p>Julian Lomas, Strategic Director for Environment & Transport.</p>	<p>There have not been any significant technological developments, which would enable PCC to collect any more streams of recyclables than we currently do.</p> <p>The material that most people get animated about is plastic. Whilst it is indeed an option to collect a wider range of plastics (e.g. yoghurt pots and plastic convenience food trays etc), the only solution is to export to China. With the existing Energy From Waste infrastructure it is felt that retaining the existing UK market based re-processing route (which only accepts bottles) is the best environmental option. If we were landfill dependent, maybe exporting to China could be justified, but we're happy that the current</p>

	<p>situation is the best solution.</p> <p>It's been suggested that the Hampshire authorities should collect other materials such as Tetrapak. Such a scheme would involve expensive MRF retrofitting and export to Scandinavia whereupon only the paper and aluminium fraction would be recycled anyway. Again, we're happy to continue to incinerate Tetrapak.</p> <p>It should be borne in mind that a sustainable waste management strategy is not based solely on recycling. PCC landfills just 15% of its waste arisings – a major achievement, which is unfortunately not recognised via the current Performance Indicator regime.</p> <p>We continue to look at ways in which we can find “higher” uses for our waste stream though. Recent “WEEE” legislation has enabled us to begin collecting all varieties of electronic waste at the HWRC for recycling. This will reduce waste bills and aid recycling levels. We also think there may be opportunities in textiles collection (a growing sector of the waste stream) and that potentially, food waste might become an economically recoverable material (it would be anaerobically digested), provided the collection could be achieved in collaboration with other authorities and commercial establishments producing food waste.</p> <p>Further to the above points, it is worth noting that detailed residual waste analysis (using our new “MAF”) demonstrates that 28% of this waste is composed of recyclables that we presently collect via the Pompey</p>
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		<p>Recycling Scheme. Continued work to ensure that we maximise our recovery of these known recyclables is just as worthwhile – if not more than looking at new streams! Our WLO liaison work has shown that great improvements can be made, but ultimately we have a 30% (approx) proportion of the population that simply will not recycle. In the absence of a policy on enforcement / curtailment of residual capacity, it is difficult to see how we can make much more progress in this respect. Finally, market developments will soon (Jan 2008 onwards) enable the council to recycle just over 12,000 tonnes of incinerator bottom ash (IBA) into aggregate. At present, IBA is landfilled.</p>
<p>12. A progress update on recycling in schools be given to the Executive Member for Education, Children and Families every six months.</p>	<p>Linda Fisher, Strategic Director for Children, Families and Learning.</p>	<p>The Children, Families and Learning Directorate has continued to develop its work on sustainability since this report. The following is a summary of the sustainability work of the directorate as captured in the Children Families and Learning Business Plan 2007-10.</p> <p>In support of this agenda the directorate is working to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support schools in developing school transport plans and walking buses for pupils. • Encourage Extended Schools to provide locally based facilities and services to the community within walking distance through the development of Community Improvement Partnerships. • Support the school crossing patrols across the city to provide pupils with safe walking routes to schools. • Encourage environmental education resources provided

		<p>to all schools via the Portsmouth Learning.net infrastructure to promote the education of all pupils in this area.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop Adult centred and family learning and neighbourhood based learning programmes supporting residents in learning locally and reducing journey length. • Contribute to and supporting the Local Transport Plan. • Be proactive and bidding for government funds to build and refurbish schools in line with sustainability principles such as building schools for future and targeted capital fund opportunities. • Work in partnership with the voluntary and community sector to support the development and maintenance of school grounds and environmental curriculum opportunities as resources permit. • Encourage green champions within the directorate. • Continue to encourage schools to participate in environmental initiatives and activities and celebrating success and progress in this area. <p>The Directorate is also fully committed to supporting the work of the City Council Corporate Sustainability Group and supporting the development and implementation of the corporate sustainability action plan.</p> <p>In addition, the directorate has also supported colleagues in waste management by promoting recycling schemes via the school bulletin.</p>
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13.The City Council seek partnerships to increase the opportunities for recycling in the city.	Julian Lomas, Strategic Director for Environment Transport.	<p>We remain open to working in partnership with any organisation in order to bring about more sustainable outcomes for our waste. This includes the commercial waste stream.</p> <p>For the past year we have been working with a company called Dove Recycling with the aim of encouraging more recycling of commercial wastes in Portsmouth. In partnership with HCC and Dove, we secured £50k of funding in order to pump prime a recycling collection for SMEs in the city. We additionally allocated one of our WLOs to this project and have visited over 500 SMEs in the city. The results have unfortunately been mixed, with few SMEs wanting to sign up for a commercial recycling collection (less than 100). This is a reflection of the current market. As waste disposal costs rise, we see that SME recycling will increase.</p>