

**Title of meeting:** Environment and Community Safety Cabinet

**Date of meeting:** 28 February 2019

**Subject:** Separate food waste collection trial

**Report by:** Director of Housing, Neighbourhoods and Building Services

**Wards affected:** All

**Key decision:** No

**Full Council decision:** No

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**1. Purpose of report**

1.1. To propose a separate food waste collection trial across the City.

**2. Recommendations**

2.1. That the Cabinet Member approves the proposal for food waste collection trial.

**3. Background**

3.1. Under the terms of the Environmental Protection Act, 1990, Portsmouth City Council (the 'Council') is classed as a Waste Collection and Disposal Authority, and as such, under section 45 (1), has a statutory duty to collect household waste from all domestic properties in the city. Under Section 46(4) of the Act, the Council has specific powers to stipulate:

- The size and type of the collection receptacle(s)
- Where the receptacle(s) must be placed for the purpose of collecting and emptying
- The materials or items which may or may not be placed within the receptacle(s)

3.2. Currently rubbish is collected weekly and recycling is collected fortnightly.

3.3. Supporting this is a network of bring banks for glass, textiles and cartons.

3.4. Portsmouth has a recycling rate of 24.8% although recent changes to the waste collection system should deliver an improvement to this as the amount of waste produced reduces and the amount of recycling increases.

3.5. Food waste is currently collected as part of the black bag collection and is disposed of at the Energy Recovery Facility. A recent waste composition analysis (Autumn 2018) showed that just under 40% of black bag waste is food waste - 10% unavoidable - vegetable peelings, chicken carcasses, etc. 30% avoidable - excess food that is not eaten.

- 3.6. The government has recently published a Resources and Waste Strategy which indicates the Government will introduce mandatory separate food waste collection services by 2023 although this is subject to consultation.
- 3.7. The administration is keen to introduce a separate food waste collection service to residents - industry estimates that a separate food waste collection could improve the recycling rate by approx. 4-8%.

#### **4. Proposal**

- 4.1. The proposal is to carry out the trial of a separate food waste collection in 5 different areas of the City.
- 4.2. Food waste containers would be distributed to those households in the trials and food waste would be collected weekly. This would be in addition to the existing collection frequency of refuse and recycling.
- 4.3. This trial would be for 6 months, the first 3 months would be the main part of the trial, followed by a period of evaluation after which a decision would be made about a wider roll out of a food waste collection scheme.
- 4.4. Evaluation will include monitoring of refuse and food waste tonnage along with 'put out' rates and incorporate feedback from residents participating in the trial
- 4.5. Trials would be carried out in part of Drayton, Somerstown, Old Portsmouth, Portsea, Southsea, Eastney and Baffins (for a full list of the proposed roads in the trial see appendix1).

#### **5. Reasons for recommendations**

- 5.1. The administration is keen to provide additional opportunities for residents to recycle their waste.
- 5.2. The trial will provide useful information that would help us understand the viability of a City wide roll out. This is especially important in light of the proposal by the Government to introduce mandatory separate food waste collections by 2023 (subject to consultation).
- 5.3. A move to wider food waste collection would potentially achieve significant improvements in the overall recycling rate.

#### **6. Equality impact assessment**

- 6.1. There is a full EIA for the current waste collection service. This has been amended to reflect separate food waste collection trials. Whilst it does highlight that some equality groups may be impacted, there are provisions in place to ensure that these impacts are mitigated. (appendix 2)

#### **7. Legal implications**

- 7.1. As stated in 3.1. 'Under the terms of the Environmental Protection Act, 1990, Portsmouth City Council (the 'Council') is classed as a Waste Collection and Disposal Authority, and as such, under section 45 (1), has a statutory duty to collect household waste from all domestic properties in the city. Under Section 46(4) of the Act, the Council has specific powers to stipulate:

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7.2 In addition the proposed policy does outline the basis upon which enforcement of the PCC imposed obligations can be dealt with. The obligations set out above are reasonable and unlikely to be challengeable or reviewable in a legal sense.

7.3 The policy outlines what steps can be taken to assist those who have a protected characteristic (principally a disability) to comply by way of seeking to register with PCC for assisted collection.

## **8. Director of Finance's comments**

8.1. The cost of this six month trial is estimated to be £189,000 and will be funded from the Environment and Community Safety Portfolio Reserve.

8.2 There is an initial capital cost of £44,000 to supply up to 10,000 households with a small caddy to be placed in their kitchen and a larger bin that is used to collect the food waste.

8.3 The cost of the pilot also includes the cost of employing an additional crew and hire a specialist vehicle at a cost of £63,000 for the six month trial. If we wanted to continue beyond the trial this could not be funded from the current waste collection cash limit.

8.4 A further £71,000 is required to employ a project manager and waste officers to evaluate the scheme along with promotional material to launch the scheme and to educate residents participating in the trial.

8.5 Currently the nearest anaerobic digestive plant that can be used to dispose of this food waste is based in Dorset. The additional disposal costs are estimated to be £11,000 during the trial period. If we wanted to continue beyond the trial period, we would need to identify an additional funding source.

8.6 If the scheme were to be rolled out the Council would need to find alternative budget savings elsewhere to fund this on a citywide ongoing basis.

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Signed by:  
James Hill - Director of Housing, Neighbourhood and Building Services

**Appendices:**

- 1 List of roads in proposed trials
- 2 Equality Impact Assessment

**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

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

.....  
Signed by: