

THIS ITEM IS FOR INFORMATION ONLY
(Please note that "Information Only" reports do not require Equality Impact Assessments, Legal or Finance Comments as no decision is being taken)

Title of meeting: Environment and Climate Change decision meeting

Subject: Provision of food waste disposal facilities

Date of meeting: 19 March 2020

Report by: James Hill, Director for Housing, Neighbourhood and Building Services

Wards affected: All

1. Requested by Cllr Dave Ashmore, Cabinet Member for Environment and Climate Change

2. Purpose To update the cabinet member on the provision of food waste disposal facilities

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. This means PCC are responsible for the provision of disposal facilities for household waste. Current provision is made through the waste service disposal contract which is a joint contract with Hampshire County Council and Southampton City Council. This contract runs until 31 December 2030.

3.2. Current provision for black bag waste is via the provision of 3 Energy Recovery Facilities (ERFs) across Hampshire at Portsmouth, Chineham and Marchwood.

3.3. The government's environment bill looks set to introduce mandatory separate food waste collections for local authorities' household waste collection services from 2023.

3.4. Portsmouth is currently trialling separate food waste collections to approximately 9000 homes, with a further 9000 households to get separate food waste collections from September 2020. Portsmouth's food waste is currently being delivered to the ERF and then transferred to an anaerobic digestion (AD) plant in Hurn, Bournemouth, where it is recycled into bio-methane and digestate.

3.5. There is a lack of local provision for food waste treatment and this has a financial and environmental impact on the disposal of separately collected food waste.

3.6. For food waste collections to be delivered on a citywide basis, PCC will need to identify and secure a disposal point for the material collected. At this time, this is unlikely to be secured locally because of the lack AD provision in the area.

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- 3.7. The administration has asked officers to investigate the possibility of providing an anaerobic digestion facility to address the issue of where we can process the food waste collected.
- 3.8. The administration has set aside funding to carry out a feasibility study and business case for AD provision. Provision has also been made for funding for planning and development.
- 3.9. The feasibility work will establish options for the size and location of the plant.
- 3.10. The City Council will need to work with partners (other local authorities) and contractors to establish a business plan - this will include identifying a suitable site.
- 3.11. A project board has been established and its first task is to complete the business case.
- 3.12. Additionally, officers will also begin engagement with partners to the waste disposal contract.

4. Finance Comments

- 4.1. The City Council have approved an overall budget of £22.2m to deliver the Anaerobic Digestion Plant. This is a split of £200,000 of Corporate Reserves and £22m Unsupported borrowing.
- 4.2. The initial £200,000 will be used to gain more understanding of the market in order to finalise a business case for the development of the plant. The complexity of this project means that the Council will need to understand the risks associated with building a plant so that we have a robust financial and viable financial business case before we proceed to investing in a plant.

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Signed by (Director)

Appendices: None

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