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**Title of meeting:** Full Cabinet

**Subject:** Waste Disposal Infrastructure and future of collections

**Date of meeting:** 26 March 2020

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

**Wards affected:** All

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**1. Requested by** Cllr Gerald Vernon-Jackson, Leader of the Council

**2. Purpose** To update the cabinet on the future of waste collections and disposal infrastructure, and the Project Integra partnership.

### **3. Information Requested**

**3.1. Background** - As a Unitary authority, Portsmouth is responsible for both waste collections and waste disposal. Portsmouth is in a joint contract for waste disposal with Hampshire County Council (HCC) and Southampton City Council (SCC). The waste disposal authorities have made provision for waste disposal facilities across the County. This includes three Energy Recovery Facilities (ERFs), two Material Recovery Facilities (MRFs), a network of 26 Household Waste and Recycling Centres (HWRCs), two composting sites, along with a number of waste transfer stations. The infrastructure is jointly owned by PCC, HCC and SCC.

**3.2. Environment Bill** - The Government is currently progressing the Environment Bill through Parliament. This bill establishes a number of changes to waste services. These include:

- Consistent collections (for materials - recycling and separate food waste, frequency etc)
- Deposit Return Scheme (DRS)
- Extended producer responsibility (EPR)

Consistent Collections - All local authorities will be required to collect the same materials. This is likely to include:

- (a) glass;
- (b) metal;

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- (c) plastic;
  - (d) paper and card;
  - (e) food waste;
  - (f) garden waste.
- (Recyclable household waste (a) to (d) may not be collected together with recyclable household waste within (e) or (f).)

Deposit Return Scheme - A deposit return scheme is being considered and could apply to glass bottles, plastic bottles, steel and aluminium cans.

Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) is expected to be the mechanism by which funding is provided for additional burdens - services not currently provided - although it is anticipated that this will be linked to compliance with consistent collections, and improved performance.

This means that we need to consider the provision of waste infrastructure to deliver these requirements.

The current MRF provision will not meet the requirement to collect fibres (paper/cardboard) separately from other materials.

We also need to consider provision of disposal infrastructure for food waste.

### **3.3. Infrastructure**

**3.3.1. MRF provision** - The current MRF provision means that we can only collect paper/card, cans/tins, plastic bottles, and aerosols in the kerbside recycling. This will not meet the requirements to collect paper/card separately from other materials. Retrofitting of the existing MRF infrastructure is not possible. Options are being explored which include a 'twin stream' MRF. This would mean that we would collect recycling differently to the current system providing 2 separate containers for:

- Paper/card
- Plastics, Aerosols, tins/cans, cartons, glass

A twin stream MRF would be an alternative to the previously proposed Single MRF which is not viable and will not meet the requirements of the Environment bill. The proposed new twin stream MRF would also be able to process a wider range of materials, so it is proposed that pots, tubs and trays (PTT), cartons and glass will be collected at the kerbside to meet the requirements of the Environment Bill.

**3.3.2.** HCC are working with the contractor on a proposal for a twin stream MRF at an HCC owned site.

**3.3.3. Anaerobic Digestion Provision** - A requirement of the Environment Bill is to provide separate food waste collections. Food waste is processed at an Anaerobic Digestion Plant (AD) and is recycled into digestate and biogas. Currently, only

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Eastleigh have a food waste collection service although Portsmouth is trialling food waste collections with further trials planned for the Autumn. PCC is working towards the ambitious target of a City wide rollout from October 2021. An information report was presented to Cabinet on 19 March 2020.

- 3.3.4.** The disposal authorities have not provided anaerobic digestion facilities and currently food waste is hauled to a plant in Hurn, Bournemouth. There is limited AD provision in Hampshire and Portsmouth is currently working on a business case for AD provision. This work will consider a provision for all local authorities in Hampshire.

**3.4. Collection**

- 3.4.1.** The Waste Collection Contract is due to end on 30 September 2021. Consideration is currently being given to the re-provision of this service. It is an aim of the Council to roll out food waste collections from 1 October 2021 onwards and the end date of the contract needs to be considered in relation to the other changes that are upcoming.
- 3.4.2.** Vehicle procurement will have a considerable lead time and there are a number of options to explore regarding vehicles which will be dependent on the disposal infrastructure, collection vehicle depot size and infrastructure at the depot.
- 3.4.3.** Additionally with the city council declaring a climate emergency in March 2019 there could be an opportunity to consider procurement of a 'greener' vehicle fleet that could make a difference to the city in terms of air quality.

**3.5. The future of Project Integra**

Project Integra consists of the 13 Hampshire district, county and unitary councils and the waste disposal contractor Veolia Environmental Services. As a partnership it works to provide an integrated approach to waste disposal in Hampshire.

It is fair to say that delivering improvements to waste services has stalled and there are some challenging issues that impact on working together.

Additionally, the partnership is underpinned by a memorandum of understanding (MOU) between the County and the Districts which sets out how a number of financial mechanisms will operate. HCC have recently given notice to the districts that they will end the MOU on 31 March 2021.

From 1 April 2021, HCC will:

- No longer pay the districts income from recycling (circa £3.5million)
- Recharge the districts for contamination costs

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There has been some work done to come up with an alternative model for the districts.

(NB: this does not impact PCC/SCC directly- as Unitaries, we are disposal and collection authorities and pay our own contamination costs and retain recycling income. Therefore, we are already incentivised to reduce contamination)

HCC, the districts and UAs have been meeting for a couple of years to discuss how all could work together to improve waste management in Hampshire. It is recognised that since the delivery of the waste infrastructure, there has been limited change/progression to waste services.

As a unitary authority, PCC is able to make changes to the collection system that can impact on what is going into the disposal system. All of these costs and impacts are under the control of PCC.

As a party to the waste disposal contract, the future of PI, and the relationship between the County and the districts is still of interest and could impact on PCC as it could impact on the disposal infrastructure.

#### **4. Timelines**

There are a number of pieces of work currently underway, contract end dates, and legislative change that will impact upon the final future of waste collections and disposal infrastructure, these are;

- AD business case
- Twin stream MRF business case
- Collection service modelling and business case
- New waste collection contract
- Enacting of the Environment Bill

Over the coming months, the business cases should be complete, and we should have a clearer idea of when and how the legislative changes from the Environment Bill will impact on waste management services.

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Signed by (Director)

#### **Appendices:**

**Background list of documents: Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972**

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The following documents disclose facts or matters, which have been relied upon to a material extent by the author in preparing this report:

<b>Title of document</b>	<b>Location</b>