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Title of meeting: Full Cabinet

Subject: Waste Collections and Disposal Infrastructure

Date of meeting: 14 July 2020

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

Wards affected: All

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

2. Purpose To update the cabinet on the future of waste collections and the disposal infrastructure.

3. Information Requested

3.1. Background Portsmouth is responsible for both waste collection and 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 provided 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. The administration declared a climate emergency in March 2019. A key element of the strategy to tackle this is linked to waste management - and in particular increasing the opportunities for residents to recycle more. Already action has been taken to provide a number of carton bring banks across the City and a weekly food waste collection trial is underway with a further trial planned for September 2020. The administration are asking the waste team to develop plans to:

- Provide more food waste collections and increase the amount of food waste collected
- Deliver waste collections in a 'green' collection fleet - electric, or hydrogen
- Provide an anaerobic digestion plant to treat food waste from Portsmouth and Hampshire generating green energy

This needs to be delivered whilst working within the constraints of the Council's finances.

3.3. Provision of further food waste collections - An initial trial of food waste collection began in September 2019 and has seen almost 50% of food waste removed from the black bag waste in the areas where it is being trialled. More trials

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are scheduled to begin in September 2020. The aim is to roll out further separate weekly food waste collections across the City from October 2021. The Council is also keen to increase the range of materials collected at the kerbside as well as continue to provide a weekly collection service.

- 3.4. Green Collection Vehicle Fleet** - The Waste Collection Contract is due to end on 30 September 2021. Consideration is currently being given to the re-provision of this service with an option for extending the term of the contract. A full procurement exercise will be undertaken with consideration also given to an in house provision as part of this work.
- 3.4.1.** The future service provision will aim to deliver a 'green' waste collection fleet. The waste management team have been asked by the administration to consider the opportunities for both electric and hydrogen powered refuse collection vehicles for any new fleet.
- 3.5. Infrastructure - Anaerobic Digestion Provision** - To deliver more food waste collections we need a secure disposal route for the waste collected. Food waste is processed at an Anaerobic Digestion Plant (AD) and is recycled into biogas and digestate. Portsmouth is currently trialling food waste collections. Further trials are planned for the Autumn, working towards increasing collections from October 2021. An information report was presented to Cabinet on 19 March 2020.
- 3.5.1.** The disposal authorities have not provided anaerobic digestion (AD) facilities and currently food waste is taken to a plant in Hurn, Bournemouth. There is limited AD provision in Hampshire, and the waste team are preparing a business case for provision of an AD facility which is due to be considered in July. This disposal facility could provide a food waste route for Portsmouth and the other local authorities in Hampshire.
- 3.6. Infrastructure - Materials Recovery Facility** - The administration is keen to increase the range of materials that residents can recycle but the current MRFs cannot be retrofitted to accommodate the sorting equipment. PCC is working with HCC and SCC on a business case to provide a container MRF which would replace the existing MRFs at Portsmouth and Alton. This would enable us to collect additional materials at the kerbside which could include plastic pots, tubs and trays, cartons and glass - supplementary to the current items collected.
- 3.7. Environment Bill** - In addition to the administration's ambitions to improve waste and recycling services and tackle the Climate emergency, the Government is also progressing the Environment Bill through Parliament. This Bill proposes a number of changes to waste services. These include:
- Consistent collections (so that all LA's collect the same materials for recycling, frequency of collection)

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- Deposit Return Scheme (DRS) - could apply to glass and plastic bottles and steel and aluminium drinks cans.
- Extended producer responsibility (EPR) - 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.

DEFRA have stated that further consultations will be issued in Spring 2021 with many of the initiatives expected to begin from 2023 onwards - although there may be some delays due to the impacts of COVID-19

4. Timelines

4.1. There are a number of pieces of work currently underway that will impact upon the final future of waste collections and disposal infrastructure, these are;

- AD business case July 2020
- Twin stream MRF business case Sep - Dec 2020
- Collection service modelling and business case Nov - Dec 2020
- New waste collection contract procurement to begin - Sep 2020
- Environment Bill actions to be implemented TBC. 2023

4.1.1. Over the coming months, the business cases should be complete, and the administration will be in a position to agree the future of waste collections and what infrastructure we need to deliver. We should also have a clearer idea of when and how the legislative changes from the Environment Bill will impact on waste management services.

4.2. It is worth noting that the work in these area is progressing, but may be impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic.

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 Signed by James Hill, Director Housing, Neighbourhoods and Building Services

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 |
|-------------------|----------|
| None | None |
| | |

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