

Title of meeting: Cabinet

Date of meeting: 2nd February 2021

Subject: Extension of food waste trials

Report by: James Hill - Director of Housing, Neighbourhood & Building Services

Report Author: Colette Hill - Assistant Director, Neighbourhood Services

Wards affected: All

Key decision: No

Full Council decision: No

1. Purpose of report

- 1.1. To update the Cabinet on the progress, and propose further extensions to the separate food waste collection trials.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1. That the Cabinet:

- i) Note the progress and outcomes of the existing two food waste collection round trials and agree to continue these for a further 12 months from September 2021
- ii) Approve an extension of a further two rounds for a 12 month period from September 2021 at a cost of £300,000 and that this be funded from the Cabinet Reserve but subject to the following:
 - a. Full Council approval on 9th February 2021 of the mainstreaming of the current 2 Food Waste Recycling rounds into base budgets at a cost of £300,000 (including the associated necessary savings to fund it)
 - b. Full Council approval on 9th February 2021 of the Capital Scheme to fund the associated Capital Costs of £340,000 which includes 2 additional waste vehicles, additional bins and receptacles plus project costs

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. There is also a network of bring banks for glass, textiles and cartons.
- 3.4. Portsmouth has a recycling rate of 25.5% (2018/19) 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. Portsmouth does have one of the lowest landfill use rates in the Country at just 4.2% of waste.
- 3.6. Food waste is currently collected as part of the black bag collection and is disposed of at the Energy Recovery Facility. The Energy Recovery Facility processes non-recyclable household waste and supplies up to 14MWs of electricity to the National Grid, which is enough power for around 20,600 local homes.
- 3.7. A recent waste composition analysis (Autumn 2018) showed that in Portsmouth just under 40% of black bag waste is food waste - 10% unavoidable, 30% avoidable.
- 3.8. The administration was keen to improve opportunities for resident to recycle more items and recognised that city wide separate food waste collection could improve the recycling rate by 5-8%
- 3.9. In September 2019, the first food waste round trial was launched. A further trial round was added from September 2020.
- 3.10. Food waste collected in these trials is taken to an anaerobic digestion facility at Hurn, Dorset to be recycled into biogas and digestate.
- 3.11. The two rounds initially covered 18051 properties but were extended and now cover 23995 properties. There is room for some further expansion which is reviewed constantly.(see appendix A for roads in existing trial areas)
- 3.12. Households were provided with a 5litre kitchen caddy and a 25litre caddy to place out for collection.
- 3.13. Both trials were well received by residents and participation rates were good.

	Food waste 1	Food waste 2
Participation by households	61%	42%
% of black bag waste diverted to recycling	19%	16%



Average tonnes of food waste collected per week	15.67 tonnes	15.20 Tonnes
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- 3.14. In the first full year of food waste collection 812 tonnes of food waste has been recycled. Once we roll out the food waste collections across the whole city, we expect to collect and recycle almost 5,000 tonnes per year. This should reduce black bag tonnage by just over 10%.
- 3.15. The recycling of food waste in the first two food waste trials has led to a reduction in CO₂e of 12 tonnes per year. City wide food waste could reduce CO₂e by around 36 tonnes per year.

4. Reasons for recommendations

- 4.1. Residents have responded well to the separate food waste collections and participation levels have been good. The WRAP Household food waste collection guide suggests participation rates >55% are good and between 35 - 55% are average.
- 4.2. Over 50% of residents who responded to the survey said that they had changed their food shopping habits once they had seen how much food waste they produced. This type of change has a number of benefit and will help to reduce overall waste tonnages. Additionally, the Council will benefit from the sales of the capacity this creates at the Energy Recovery Facility.
- 4.3. Further expansion of the food waste trials will contribute to an increase in the recycling rate. If 10% of all black bag waste is diverted to recycling we could see an increase in the recycling rate of up to 6% (up to 4% for four trial areas)
- 4.4. In a survey of food waste trial 1 residents, 93.19% of residents were satisfied or very satisfied, with the main reason for dissatisfaction being the smell of the caddy when full. A further 63.11% of respondents reported improvements to street cleanliness and just under 50% reported that they had changed their shopping habits to reduce waste.
- 4.5. Expansion of the trials could further reduce the CO₂e in the City.
- 4.6. The city wide rollout of separate food waste was due to coincide with the new waste collection contract which was scheduled to begin on 1 October 2021. However, the waste collection contract has now been extended until 30 September 2023 in order that changes arising from the Environment Bill can be delivered as part of that contract. The COVID-19 pandemic has also impacted on delivering city wide food waste. However, with this planned expansion of a further 2 rounds, up to two thirds of households in the city will benefit from a separate food waste collection service.
- 4.7. The Council is currently developing its plan for provision of an anaerobic digestion facility which would recycle food waste produced by the City and beyond.

- 4.8. It should be noted that the September 2021 start date has a number of dependencies including securing a disposal point, lead times for caddies and availability of vehicles.
- 4.9. The trial for Food Waste 3 and Food Waste 4 will run for 12 months, with participation and tonnage data monitored.
- 4.10. Customer feedback will also be sought once the trial is embedded.

5. Integrated impact assessment

- 5.1. No significant impact. Whilst some issues have been identified, mitigations are in place to address these. - see attached IIA (appendix b)

6. Legal implications

- 6.1. Please note the responsibilities and powers of the Council described in para.3.1.
- 6.2. The waste collection 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.
- 6.3. The Environment Bill 2019/2020 is currently going through Parliament. Part 3 of the Bill makes provisions for the managing of waste and producer responsibility. The provisions introduce amongst other matters amendments to the responsibilities and powers for separating and recycling waste. This will further impact the Local Authority's need to make effective waste management arrangements.

7. Director of Finance's comments

- 7.1 The cost of the current food waste collection service is intended to be met from the general fund cash limit, although this is subject to approval as part of the Council's Budget (Revenue Budget & Capital Programme 2021 22) on 9th February 2021
- 7.2 The extension of the food waste collection service by two additional rounds will cost in the region of £300,000, the cost of this 12 month pilot can be met from the Cabinet Reserve. This covers the increased cost of collection and disposal.
- 7.3 The capital cost associated with the introduction of a further 2 Food Waste collection rounds is estimated to be £340,000 and will require onward approval at Full Council on the 9th February 2021. This costs includes the purchase of two vehicles, additional bins and receptacles and project costs.

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

Appendices:

Appendix a - roads in trial areas Food Waste 1 and Food Waste 2

Appendix b - Integrated 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
Cabinet Report (2020) - Enhanced recycling options	Enhanced Recycling Options report.pdf (portsmouth.gov.uk)
Environment & Community Safety Cabinet Report (2019) - Separate food waste collection trial	Member report - Separate food waste collection trial final.pdf (portsmouth.gov.uk)

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

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Signed by: