

THIS ITEM IS FOR INFORMATION ONLY

(Please note that "Information Only" reports do not require Integrated Impact Assessments, Legal or Finance Comments as no decision is being taken)

Title of meeting:	Cabinet Member for Housing and Preventing Homelessness
Subject:	Environment Bill and landlord preparation
Date of meeting:	28 th July 2022
Report by:	James Hill - Director of Housing, Neighbourhood & Building Services
Report Author:	Ashleigh Moore, Project Manager - Waste Management
Wards affected:	All

1. Requested by

- 1.1. The report has been requested by Cllr Sanders, Cabinet Member for Housing and Preventing Homelessness

2. Purpose

- 2.1. The purpose of the report is to update the Cabinet Member on:
- the upcoming waste changes as a result of the Environment Act 2021
 - the administration's ambitions to increase recycling rates to support the city in meeting its net zero carbon commitments by 2030
 - how PCC, as a social housing landlord, is preparing for these changes

3. Information Requested

3.1. The Environment Act

- 3.1.1. Under the terms of the Environmental Protection Act 1990, Portsmouth City Council (the 'Council') is classed as a Waste Collection and Disposal Authority. Section 45(1) states "it shall be the duty of each waste collection authority -

- (a) to arrange for the collection of household waste in its area except waste -
- i. which is situated at a place which in the opinion of the authority is so isolated or inaccessible that the cost of collecting it would be unreasonably high, and
 - ii. as to which the authority is satisfied that adequate arrangements for its disposal have been or can reasonably be expected to be made by a person who controls the waste

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- 3.1.2. The Environment Act 2021 will introduce compulsory separation of more recycling streams and increase the recyclable materials to be collected kerbside.
- 3.1.3. In July 2021, the Cabinet noted the Environment Act 2021 (previously the Environment Bill 2020) and agreed to the principle of providing a twin stream recycling collection service in the future - this is the collection of fibre and dry mixed recycling (DMR) separately, with separate food waste and refuse collections. Future DMR is likely to include glass, plastic pots, tubs and trays, flexible plastics, foil trays and cartons as well as plastic bottles, tins, cans and aerosols currently recycled in Portsmouth. A new materials recovery facility (MRF) is being developed to enable twin stream recycling collection service.
- 3.1.4. At the Environment and Climate Change decision meeting in December 2021, the Cabinet Member for Environment and Community Safety took a decision to adopt the Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy which aligns the direction of travel of Hampshire authorities and highlights a twin stream collection system being the preferred option for PCC.
- 3.1.5. Secondary legislation is due in 2022 following consultation responses from DEFRA. This should set out more details on how and when we will need to collect separate food waste and additional recyclable materials.

3.2. Waste Provision at Portsmouth City Council Housing Blocks

- 3.2.1. The Council is a social housing landlord of around 1,223 housing blocks and has responsibility for approximately 570 housing blocks as both a landlord and waste collection & disposal authority. This is around 8,543 dwellings. Approximately 500 blocks are located in Leigh Park & Wecock Farm and waste is collected from these by Havant Borough Council.
- 3.2.2. An audit of waste provision at our housing blocks highlighted an inadequate provision of recycling facilities and to compensate, an over provision of refuse capacity.
- 3.2.3. Historically, waste management and housing have always had a good relationship and waste have provided housing with more bins or additional refuse collections when requested to help with issues being experienced at housing blocks - these could be overflowing bins, bulk in bins taking up capacity, bins being used by non-residents of the block.
- 3.2.4. As a landlord, the Council is responsible for ensuring tenants have the correct information, and suitable waste storage facilities to manage their waste in the right way, and to contact tenants if concerns are raised regarding their waste storage or prestaton of their waste.

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3.3. Project and Trial

3.3.1. Waste Management, Housing and Building Services have set up a joint project that is looking at all of the PCC housing blocks as we have a landlord responsibility to ensure waste storage facilities are adequate for the waste allowance needed now and in the future - with more waste streams to be collected separately there is a need to ensure we can accommodate these changes at our housing blocks.

3.3.2. The project aims to:

- provide correct bin provision and capacity for weekly refuse collections
- provide sufficient recycling and capacity for weekly recycling collections
- understand and remove barriers to recycling whilst empowering and educating residents to recycle fully and correctly
- and reduce ASB associated with and around bin stores

3.3.3. The project will trial the 'twin stream' collection system at 5 of our housing blocks - this will mean each block in the trial will have a refuse collection, a food waste collection, a dry mixed recycling collection of items currently recyclable in Hampshire (tins, cans, aerosols, plastic bottles) and a fibre collection (card and paper).

3.3.4. Blocks included in the project trial are Berry House (Buckland), Picton House (Somerstown), Leominster House (Paulsgrove), Gerard House (Hilsea) and Millgate House (Portsea). These were selected as they are a range of sizes, styles and flat sizes.

3.3.5. In addition to the 4 different waste streams mentioned above, each block will have a glass bin and small electrical items bin.

3.3.6. Minor improvement works will be carried out at the 5 trial blocks to ensure the additional bins can be accommodated safely at the block. Lighting, paintwork and flooring will be improved where needed and new signage and stickers has been designed to clearly explain what waste can be placed in the bins.

3.3.7. Planned communications for the trial include attending the Residents' Consortium; letter drop and door knocking exercises; new stickers and signage designed; information packs; and a resident's survey for later in the year

3.3.8. Key dates for the trial are listed below

- July 7th - Residents' Consortium
- Week commencing July 11th - letter drop and door knocking at blocks in the trial, alterations to bin stores/areas to begin
- Week commencing July 25th - info packs and resources drop

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- Week commencing 1st August - bins swapped over at trial blocks, trial live once new bins are in place. Food waste caddies to be delivered this week once food waste bin at blocks
- September/October - Resident survey
- January 2023 - review of learning and planned expansion

3.3.9. By trialling these changes, we will learn more about the volumes of each waste stream produced by our housing blocks and how we can best support our residents to recycle fully. We will be able to understand more about changes needed to waste storage facilities to accommodate additional bins and the effectiveness of communication and engagement methods before rolling the changes out to all our housing blocks in a phased way.

3.3.10. Although residents will be asked to separate their recycling into two streams, DMR and fibre will be collected the same Refuse Collection Vehicle (RCV) for the trial until the 'twin stream' collection service is implemented across the city and a larger fleet is procured in order for the service to meet the requirements of the Environment Act 2021.

3.3.11. Preparing our housing blocks in this way means once the waste infrastructure is operations and Environment Act 2021 enacted, we will only need to ask residents to put the additional recyclable items in their green recycling bins.

3.3.12. The outcomes and learning from the trial will be used to form the guidance that will be shared with private landlords and housing associations when 'twin stream' collections are implemented.

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

Appendices:

1. Environment Act and housing block preparation - June 22 .ppt

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
Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy - December 2021	Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy.pdf (portsmouth.gov.uk)

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Future of Waste Collection Services - July 2021	Future of Waste Collection Services.pdf (portsmouth.gov.uk)
The Environment Act 2021	Environment Act 2021 (legislation.gov.uk)