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(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 Tackling Homelessness
Subject:	Update on roll out of waste provision to Housing Revenue Account (HRA) residents
Cabinet Member:	Cllr. Darren Sanders - Cabinet Member for Housing and Tackling Homelessness
Date of meeting:	13 th November 2024
Report by:	Phil Bentley - Head of Estate Services
Wards affected:	All

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- 1. Requested by** Cllr Darren Sanders, Cabinet member for Housing and Tackling Homelessness
 - 2. Purpose** - To update the Cabinet Member on the progress of the roll out of updated waste provisions at HRA blocks in Portsea, and to provide an update on the next stages of the project.
 - 3. Background** - The council has been keen to ensure a greener future for its residents since declaring a climate emergency in 2020. The Environment Act 2021 set out a requirement for all local authorities (as collection authorities) to collect a consistent set of materials including: glass, paper, card, plastic pots, tubs and tray, plastic bottles, tins, cans, cartons and foil. Under the Environment Act 1990, Portsmouth City Council has a statutory responsibility as both a collection and disposal authority.
 - 3.1.** In order to deliver this, Hampshire local authorities carried out round modelling and a whole system cost exercise to understand how they might meet the requirement. Whilst it was agreed that twin stream collections would be the direction of travel - card and paper would be collected separately to other recyclables. This is set out in the Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy - signed up to by all local authorities in Hampshire (December 2021). New infrastructure would be required to deliver this and planning permission for a new Materials Recovery Facility (MRF) was granted in September 2022.
 - 3.2.** In late 2023, then Government announced 'Simpler Recycling' - an initiative that is likely to impact the type of MRF required. Hampshire local authorities await the secondary legislation regarding Simpler Recycling in order to fully understand what

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is required and the impacts of decision making on future funding, round modelling and infrastructure requirement. A decision can then be made to determine the future recycling services. The work carried out to date will not be wasted as bins could be repurposed for the correct waste stream.

3.3. In preparation for a change, a bin survey was conducted and bin capacity requirement calculated for a new system. A number of issues with bin shed in Local Authority housing blocks were identified - these included:

- lack of recycling facilities
- poor condition
- accessibility issues
- capacity issues
- misuse and fly tipping etc.

It was acknowledged that the bin shed areas would require improvements to prepare for the change to recycling collections and trials were carried out at 5 sites across the City. The learning informed the pilot project in Portsea to make changes to bin provision and bin sheds including some re-siting.

4. Portsea Bin improvements project

4.1. The building, waste and estates teams worked together to understand the requirements for improvements to bin stores. These included:

- Ensure recycling and refuse bins for weekly collections could be accommodated
- Ensure facilities are secure and accessible to residents
- Provide adequate lighting and signage
- Enable safe collections by collection crews

4.2. The project aim was to:

- Improve recycling opportunities
- Provide improved facilities - with more recycling stream (subject to whole system change in waste collections)
- Reduce misuse and deter fly tipping
- Improve environmental outcomes - reduction in collection frequency can save 0.8 tonnes of cO2 annually
- Improve resident engagement with recycling
- Meet the requirements of the Environment Act 2021

4.3. Implementation - the project was delivered following a programme of consultation with residents which included door knocking, letters, and meetings. Feedback was used to amend plans where possible.



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- 4.4. Approximately 50 sites were included in the project.
- 4.5. Work began to communal sites on 30th October 2023 and was completed on 16th February 2024(Appendix 1)
- 4.6. Benefits from the project included:
- Project was completed ahead of schedule
 - Weekly collections now in place
 - Clearer signage on recycling bins for residents
 - Majority of residents have adapted to the new bins and bin stores
 - Bins are more secure where this was possible
- 4.7. Learning points included:
- Transfer of waste collection services in-house coincided with project meaning changes to collections were more challenging - this should not be an issue in future roll outs
 - There was a gap of 5 months between consultation and implementation and the whole estate was changed in one go in terms of bin provision and collections and this stretched the Estate Warden team as they were dealing with a number of issue all at once - future changes will be carried out in phases to enable a quicker implementation following the engagement work and this will make it easier for the estate Services and Waste team to deal with any issues that arise. It will mean the teams can work with smaller resident groups and reinforce key messages on bin usage and reporting procedures which should enhance longer term sustainability
 - There were some initial side waste issues - in a couple of cases a further bin was provided, but in others where this was not appropriate, work has been carried out with residents to ensure they are using the correct bins - the estate service teams will be able to work with residents more effectively as the work will be phased
 - There was some learning about the quality of some of the materials used. Whilst these were resolved this will be taken account of in future rollouts
- 4.8. Resident Feedback:
- Residents did feedback where there were issues, and these were acted upon at the time.
 - A resident's survey was conducted, feedback and associated actions included:
 - 8 blocks required various monitoring put in place via Estate Services, adaptations to bin sizes and adjustment to bin locations based on user feedback. 1-1 feedback / engagement - resulting in improved use of provided bins.



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- Future suggestions by residents included:
 - Providing a recycling bag to take items to the communal bins, leaflets to help encourage residents to report associated issues eg, cleaning around bins, being very clear about why the project is necessary and impact on resident, as well as resident responsibility once bin provisions have been updated.

4.9. Next Steps - Communal housing blocks in the Buckland area have been identified as the next area for roll in. A PCC stakeholder group will incorporate learning from the Portsea project into the Buckland implementation plan, specifically this will include:

- A phased approach to the implementation of new bin provisions
- Better resident engagement pre and post implementation directly linked to phased roll in, reducing the gap between resident engagement and resident use of new bin provision

4.10. This is likely to begin in early 2025 following engagement and tendering processes. It should be noted that changes to twin stream or simpler recycling will not take place until the wider changes to waste collection are implemented. This is still subject to secondary government legislation.

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Signed by James Hill, Director of Housing, Neighbourhoods & Building Services

Appendices:

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 Member for Housing and Tackling Homelessness - 15 th September 2023	Environment Bill and landlord preparation.pdf (portsmouth.gov.uk)
Cabinet Member for Housing and Tackling Homelessness - 28 th July 2022	https://democracy.portsmouth.gov.uk/documents/s47686/Local%20Authority%20Housing%20communal%20bin%20store%20improvement%20project%20Final.pdf



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