

FAREHAM

BOROUGH COUNCIL

AGENDA

STREETSCENE SCRUTINY PANEL

Date: Thursday, 25 January 2024

Time: 6.00 pm

Venue: Collingwood Room - Civic Offices

Members:

Councillor Miss T G Harper (Chairman)

Councillor Mrs P Hayre (Vice-Chairman)

Councillors Ms C Bainbridge
Mrs L E Clubley
J M Englefield
Mrs C L A Hockley
Mrs K Mandry

Deputies: R Bird
P Nother
Ms S Pankhurst



1. Apologies for Absence

2. Minutes (Pages 5 - 8)

To confirm as a correct record the minutes of the meeting of the Streetscene Scrutiny Panel held on 16 November 2023.

3. Chairman's Announcements

4. Declarations of Interest and Disclosures of Advice or Directions

To receive any declarations of interest from members in accordance with Standing Orders and the Council's Code of Conduct and disclosures of advice or directions received from Group Leaders or Political Groups, in accordance with the Council's Constitution.

5. Deputations

To receive any deputations of which notice has been received.

6. Executive Business (Pages 9 - 10)

To consider any item of business dealt with by the Executive since the last meeting of the Panel, that falls under the remit of the Streetscene Portfolio. This will include any decisions taken by individual members during the same time period.

7. Refuse and Recycling Performance (Pages 11 - 18)

To consider a report by the Director of Neighbourhoods which provides an opportunity for the Panel to scrutinise the performance of the refuse and recycling services delivered by the Council.

8. Streetscene Scrutiny Panel Priorities

To provide an opportunity for Members to consider the scrutiny priorities for the Streetscene Panel.



A WANNELL
Chief Executive Officer

Civic Offices
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17 January 2024

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FAREHAM

BOROUGH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Streetscene Scrutiny Panel (to be confirmed at the next meeting)

Date: Thursday, 16 November 2023

Venue: Collingwood Room - Civic Offices

PRESENT:

Councillor Miss T G Harper (Chairman)

Councillor Mrs P Hayre (Vice-Chairman)

Councillors: Ms C Bainbridge, Mrs L E Clubley, J M Englefield and
Mrs K Mandry

**Also
Present:**



1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

An apology for absence was received from Councillor Mrs C L A Hockley.

2. MINUTES

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting of the Streetscene Scrutiny Panel held on 05 July 2023 be confirmed and signed as a correct record.

3. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chairman announced that a response has been received from DEFRA to the long-awaited May 2021 consistency consultation, which forms part of the Environment Act 2021. The announcement was as follows:

Summary

All local authorities in England must collect the same recyclable waste streams for recycling or composting from households. The recyclable waste streams include paper and card, plastic, glass, metal, food waste and garden waste.

All non-household municipal premises in England (such as businesses, schools and hospitals) must make arrangements to have the same set of recyclable waste streams (with the exception of garden waste) collected for recycling or composting and must present their waste in accordance with the arrangements.

Key Implications for Waste Collection Authorities

The materials to be collected in dry recyclable waste streams are glass, metal (tins, cans, aerosols, foil, foil trays), plastic (bottles, pots, tubs and trays), paper/card and cartons for food and drinks by 31 March 2026.

Collection of recyclable plastic film is required by 31 March 2027

An exemption to the Environment Act 2021 is being proposed to allow all dry recyclables (paper, plastic, glass, metal) to be collected in one recycling bin (co-mingled) pending consultation and regulation confirmation.

Waste collection authorities in England must introduce weekly food waste collections for all households, including flats, by 31 March 2026.

Non-household municipal premises must also separately collect food waste, but they are not required to have weekly collections by 31 March 2025.

The government will provide reasonable new burdens funding to local authorities for household food waste collections. This funding will cover capital, transitional, and initial operational costs.

Waste collection authorities must collect garden waste by 31 March 2026, but they can charge for this service.

The Statutory Guidance on the amended regulations is currently out for consultation with a deadline of 20 November 2023.

4. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND DISCLOSURES OF ADVICE OR DIRECTIONS

There were no declarations of interest made at this meeting.

5. DEPUTATIONS

There were no deputations made at this meeting.

6. EXECUTIVE BUSINESS

There were no items of Executive Business for consideration at this meeting.

7. DRAFT STREETSCENE SUSTAINABLE PESTICIDE USE POLICY

Councillor Mrs L E Clubley left the meeting during this item.

The Panel received a report by the Head of Streetscene which presented the draft Streetscene Sustainable Pesticide Use Policy for consideration.

During the debate on this item it was accepted by the Panel that reducing the use of glyphosate in controlling weeds is a significant challenge facing not just Fareham but other Councils as well.

The Panel was supportive of the policy but suggested that it should include targets and benchmarks so that progress and success can be measured. It was suggested that trials could be held in some areas to assess what is achievable through the proposals outlined in the policy and that this could then be used to inform the inclusion of benchmarks and targets and to help formulate a media campaign to raise awareness.

The Panel discussed the need for, and the different ways to, communicate information about dates and times when spraying will take place across the Borough so that residents can chose to avoid a particular area. It was noted however that this is sometimes operationally challenging as timetables can be affected by adverse weather conditions and resource shortages. It can also result in negative responses on social media.

In discussing the significant resources required to deliver grounds maintenance services without the use of pesticides it was suggested that local volunteer groups could be encouraged to work with the Council to help deliver this non-statutory service. Members enquired whether help and support can be made available to volunteer groups and were assured that guidance and information can be provided.

It was noted that improving, alternative options to glyphosate are likely to come onto the market over time and agreed that the Council needs to ensure that there is a continued awareness of new, sustainable treatments that become available.

RESOLVED that the Streetscene Scrutiny Panel makes the comments outlined above in respect of the draft Streetscene Sustainable Use of Pesticides Policy in preparation for the adoption of the policy as a working document for the Streetscene Public Spaces Team.

8. STREETSCENE SCRUTINY PANEL PRIORITIES

Members discussed the Scrutiny Priorities for the Streetscene Panel.

It was requested and agreed that an update on Allotment Associations be added to the Scrutiny Priorities Plan.

RESOLVED that the Streetscene Scrutiny Panel considered the Scrutiny Priorities.

(The meeting started at 6.01 pm
and ended at 7.10 pm).

..... Chairman

..... Date

FAREHAM

BOROUGH COUNCIL

Report to Streetscene Scrutiny Panel

Date **25 January 2024**

Report of: **Head of Streetscene**

Subject: **EXECUTIVE BUSINESS**

SUMMARY

One of the key functions of this Scrutiny Panel is to hold the Executive Portfolio Holder and Senior Officers to account in the delivery of the service and the Improvement Actions identified in the Council's Corporate Priorities and Corporate Vision.

Members are therefore invited to consider the items of business which fall under the remit of the Streetscene portfolio and have been dealt with by the Executive since the last meeting of the Panel. This also includes any decisions taken by individual Executive Members.

The relevant notices for decisions taken are attached for consideration.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that Members consider the items of Business discharged by the Executive since the last meeting of the Panel and make any comments or raise any questions for clarification.

FAREHAM

BOROUGH COUNCIL

Report to Streetscene Scrutiny Panel

Date **25 January 2024**

Report of: **Director of Neighbourhoods**

Subject: **REFUSE & RECYCLING PERFORMANCE**

SUMMARY

The purpose of this report is to provide information on the performance of the refuse and recycling services delivered by the Council to residents of the Borough.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Streetscene Scrutiny Panel scrutinises the performance of the refuse and recycling service and notes the content of the report.

INTRODUCTION

1. Fareham Borough Council collects refuse, recycling and garden waste at the kerbside, and textiles and glass through a network of bring bank sites.
2. The waste disposal and recycling facilities are managed in accordance with the Project Integra partnership, comprising Hampshire County Council (HCC), all the waste collection and unitary authorities in Hampshire, together with Veolia Environmental Services who hold the waste disposal contract from HCC. This contract expires in 2030.
3. The anticipated change to collection services, as outlined in the Government's Waste & Resources Strategy 2018, has been delayed and the report contains a summary of the current position.

ENVIRONMENT BILL

4. The Environment Bill was published in January 2020. The Bill sets out four priority areas: Air quality, Water, Biodiversity and Resource efficiency and waste reduction.
5. The main areas relating to waste collection authorities contained within the bill are:
 - (a) Extended Producer Responsibility - producers to cover the full net costs of collection & disposal for in scope packaging or materials.
 - (b) Deposit Return Scheme - in scope items, plastic bottles, steel, and aluminium cans 50ml to 3 litres.
 - (c) Digital Waste Tracking - Waste carriers required to track waste electronically using a designated IT system. This relates to waste transfer note type activity.
 - (d) Separation of Waste – Now referred to as Simpler Recycling and detailed below.

SIMPLER RECYCLING

6. The Government published its response to the consistency in collections consultation in October 2023. The now renamed `Simpler Recycling` proposes to mandate for the introduction of:
 - (a) Weekly food waste collections to every domestic property.
 - (b) Additional items for inclusion in kerbside dry-mixed recycling collections, namely:
 - i. Glass, plastic pots tubs & trays cartons, foil (including aluminium trays and foil tubes) and soft flexible plastics and films.
 - (c) Fortnightly garden waste collections (for which a charge can be made).
 - (d) Minimum fortnightly frequency of residual waste collections.
 - (e) Similar requirements for separate collections to be undertaken for business and commercial waste – referred to as Non-Household Municipal Waste, namely
 - i. Businesses – Micro, Small, Medium & Large - size of business is determined by number of full-time equivalent employees.
 - ii. Residential homes, Education establishments & Hospitals or nursing homes.

- iii. Places of worship, Penal institutes, Charity shops, Hostels & Public meeting places (all subject to consultation).
7. Waste collection authorities are required to commence collections of weekly food waste and the additional dry recyclates by 31 March 2026. The inclusion of soft flexible plastic and films has a deadline of 31 March 2027.
8. Non-Household municipal premises are required to separate their waste by 31 March 2025.
9. The Government released two further consultations in October 2023 on Simpler Recycling Exemptions and Statutory Guidance. The Government response to both consultations is expected in early 2024.
10. Local Authorities will receive capital transitional funding for introduction of food waste collections in financial year 23/24 and transitional resource funding for food waste collections in financial years 24/25 and 25/26. Commencing 1 April 2026, local authorities start receiving ongoing resource funding for food waste collections, subject to approval by Treasury.
11. Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) local authority payments for packaging (dry mixed recycling) collections commence in financial year 25/26. Under the EPR scheme, producers of packaging should only have to pay for local authority packaging waste management services which are:
 - (a) operated efficiently and effectively and
 - (b) effective at enabling packaging to be recycled
12. An improvement plan process to use when a local authority is deemed inefficient and ineffective to support service improvement is being developed by Government. The supporting guidance for efficient & effective collections is not expected to be released until Summer 2024 at the earliest.
13. The Deposit Return Scheme (DRS) is due to commence on 1 October 2025, although there is not at present a UK-wide agreement for the exclusion of glass from the scheme.
14. Hampshire County Council, through the Project Integra Partnership, have commissioned a study on a dry-mixed comingled kerbside collection service. The modelling exercise will centre on the collection of all recyclables required for inclusion in Simpler Recycling, with a glass in or out option also included. The cost benefit analysis will assist in informing partners of a preferred collection service for Hampshire to meet the Government's target of implementation in April 2026.

GARDEN WASTE

15. The Clip and Collect Garden waste service has now been in place for nearly two years and has in excess of 21,000 subscribers. The move to wheeled bins has seen an increase in weights collected and a subsequent improvement in the Council's overall recycling rate.
16. An illustration of the increased tonnages collected since the introduction of Clip and Collect in 2022 is shown in appendix 1.

TEXTILE RECYCLING BANKS

17. The Council operates a contract with the Salvation Army for the collection of textiles for bring banks sited on Council land. The monthly income the Council receives is subject to material market fluctuations and dropped considerably during the pandemic. The contract with Salvation Army expires in June 2024 and the re-tendering process will commence in the New Year.

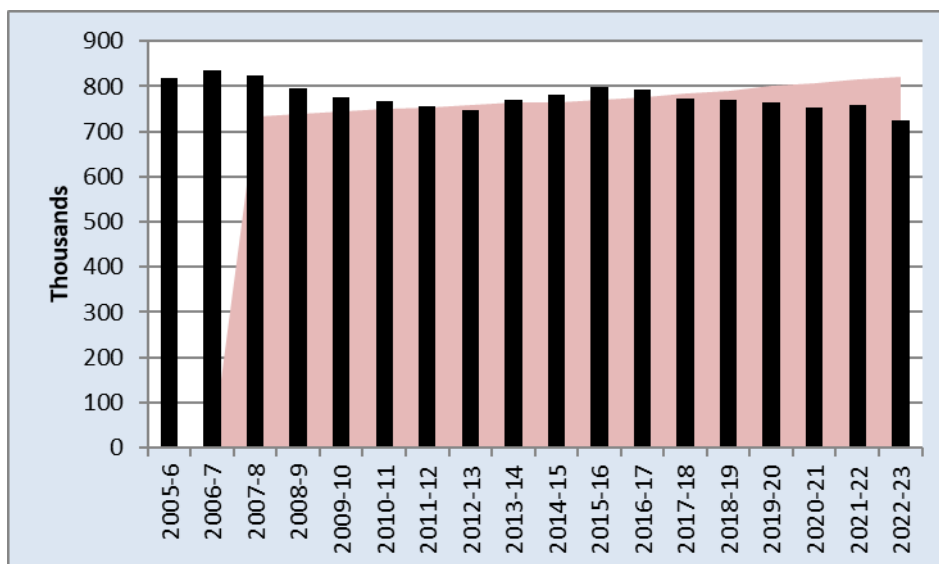
RECYCLING AND RESIDUAL WASTE STATISTICS

18. The tables below show a comparison of recycling & residual figures from the last 4 years.

| Statistic (total tonnage) | Apr-Mar 19/20 | Apr-Mar 20/21 | Apr-Mar 21/22 | Apr-Mar 22/23 |
|---------------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|
| Overall Recycling % | 32.3% | 34.3% | 34.1% | 35.8% |
| Total Recycling Tonnage | 11439 | 13216 | 12530 | 12726 |
| Total Residual Tonnage | 21421 | 22847 | 21759 | 20665 |

| Breakdown of Recycling Tonnage | Apr-Mar 19/20 | Apr-Mar 20/21 | Apr-Mar 21/22 | Apr-Mar 22/23 |
|---|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|
| Recycling (blue top bin) total nett tonnage | 5355 | 5850 | 5456 | 4995 |
| Bring Bank Glass total tonnage | 2082 | 2518 | 2393 | 2268 |
| Textile bank total tonnage | 308 | 270 | 280 | 227 |
| Garden waste total tonnage | 3624 | 4269 | 4371 | 5007 |
| Book bank total tonnage | 46 | 1.89 | 13 | 6 |

19. The overall Recycling Rate has remained relatively unchanged in recent years, a trend that follows the national picture. The introduction of the chargeable garden waste service showed a noticeable increase in the recycling rate for year 22/23; the current year to date recycling rate is 39%.
20. Contamination rates in dry mixed recycling (DMR) for partner authorities are calculated through the PI Materials Analysis Facility (MAF) sampling programme. The sampling facility has been in use since commissioned by Project Integra in 2006. Since 2015/16, Fareham has consistently ranked as one of the top three performing authorities in Hampshire. In 2022/23 Fareham's contamination rate, at 15.21%, was below the Project Integra average of 17.04% and the second lowest among all partner authorities.
21. 2022/23 has seen a decrease in tonnage across all recycling and residual categories in Hampshire with total household waste tonnage dropping to the lowest ever level between 2005/06 and 2022/23. The tonnages include residual weights from HWRCs, and recycling collected from bring banks and HWRCs. The table below illustrates the drop in household residual waste. The shading area behind the graph columns indicates housing growth.



22. The reduction in tonnage is considered attributable to the current high cost of living and economic uncertainty. The reduction is not just particular to Hampshire, with local authorities across England noting a decrease in their household waste tonnage.

23. Fareham’s per Kg household data for residual waste in 22/23 was 448.18 tonnes, this being the third lowest among PI partner authorities. The two highest performing authorities both operate food waste & kerbside glass collections in addition to the same kerbside collection service as Fareham.

CONCLUSION

24. The Council has performed favourably among PI partner authorities, with one of the lowest contamination rates & Kg per household figures. Although dry-mixed recycling rates have plateaued, in keeping with other partner authorities, the success of the chargeable garden waste service has seen an overall increase in the recycling rate for Fareham.

25. Going forward, the focus will be on the introduction of the Simpler Recycling arrangements and the collection and disposal arrangements with HCC. Although work is already being undertaken on what these arrangements may look like in Fareham, confirmation will come when the Government publishes the response to Simpler Recycling consultation, expected to be released in early 2024.

26. Implementing the new collection arrangements will require a major change to existing collection arrangements with residents having to come to terms with weekly food waste collection, new recycling material streams, Deposit Return Scheme, and likely changes to their collection days.

27. This will require careful planning and an extensive communications programme to ensure that residents are well informed and given every assistance to adjust to the changes.

Appendices: Appendix 1- Monthly Tonnage of Garden Waste Collected
Background Papers: None

Reference Papers: None

Enquiries:

For further information on this report please contact Mark Bowler EXT 4420

