

FAREHAM

BOROUGH COUNCIL

Report to Streetscene Policy Development and Review Panel

Date **2 March 2017**

Report of: **Director of Operations**

Subject: **WASTE PREVENTION UPDATE**

SUMMARY

The purpose of this report is to provide information on the waste prevention activities carried out by the Council.

RECOMMENDATION

That members note the contents of this report.

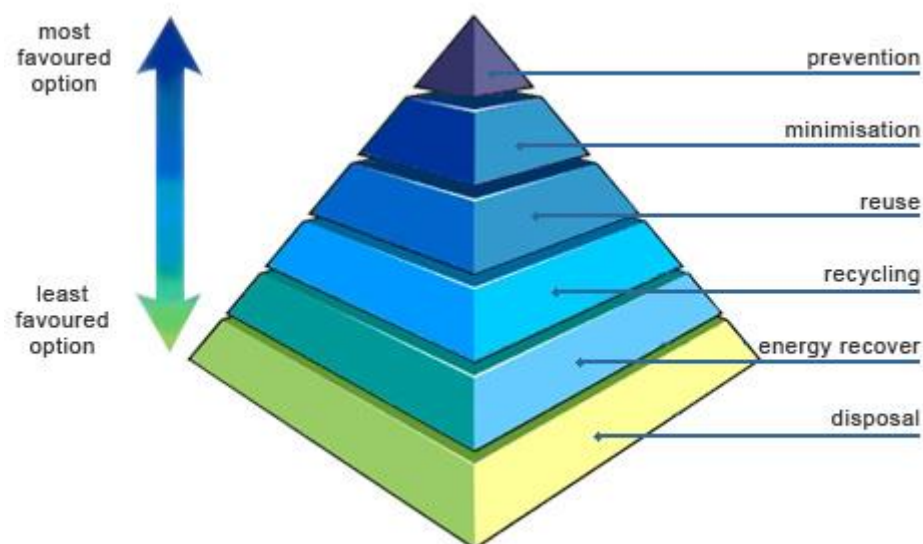
INTRODUCTION

1. Waste prevention is viewed as the top of the waste hierarchy meaning that it is the least environmentally harmful and therefore most preferred method of managing waste.
2. There are two key areas of waste prevention:
 - (a) Reducing the amount of waste that residents bring into their homes in the first place
 - (b) Residents managing their waste once it is in their home to ensure that as little as possible is put out as refuse.

THE WASTE HIERARCHY

3. The Waste Hierarchy is a process used to protect the environment and conserve resources through a priority approach established in waste policy and legislation. It has been part of the European Union's Waste Framework Directive since 1975 and in 2008 the stepped process outlined in the pyramid diagram below was introduced. As well as recycling, there are benefits to avoiding the waste arising in the first place.
4. The best environmental option is to prevent the waste in the first place, for instance using left-over food rather than throwing it away. If waste is re-used, it saves the energy required to recycle something into a new product. Re-use might include giving away a wardrobe for someone else to use. It is better to incinerate the remaining waste with energy recovery, than landfill it.

The Waste Hierarchy



CURRENT INITIATIVES

5. There have been a number of initiatives Officers have been working on in the past year and planned items for the next year.

BULKY WASTE DIVERSION TO REUSE

6. Since mid-2015 callers requesting a bulky waste collection have been advised of charities which may collect their waste free, and sell it on for re-use. Although only a small proportion of residents have pursued this option, it has ensured furniture and other items are re-used, and this provides significant income to the charities. From the beginning of 2016 to date, 9 residents took up this option, meaning a total of 30 items were diverted for re-use.

HOME COMPOSTING

7. An increase in home composting is a high priority in the PI Waste Prevention Plan. Composters are available at discounted prices, in an on-going agreement with [getcomposting.com](http://www.getcomposting.com). In Fareham this is promoted via leaflets given out at events and sent to residents requesting additional waste capacity; and featured on our web site at http://www.fareham.gov.uk/waste_collection_and_recycling/garden_waste_and_composting/compostsitebinfaq.aspx
8. From April 2015 – November 2016 (later data not yet available) 93 bins were sold in the FBC area. In addition to the standard compost bins this includes 4 Thermo Kings, one Green Cone and one Bokashi bin.
9. The Thermo King is a premium composter manufactured from Thermolen, a plastic with better insulating properties. The heat generated is retained inside the container speeding up the composting process.
10. The Green Cone is a food waste digester that can be used for cooked food and meat as well as peelings. It is dug into the ground in a sunny, well drained area. Food waste, including bones, is consumed by natural micro-organisms, leaving just water and carbon dioxide.
11. The bokashi bin is a Japanese system that pickles waste, and is good for small spaces. The bin can be kept indoors, and special bran infused with bacteria must be added to the cooked and uncooked kitchen waste. Bokashi waste breaks down rapidly into traditional compost. It can be dug straight into the soil or added to a traditional composter.
12. A composter can be used for kitchen waste, such as peelings, uncooked vegetables and tea bags; and garden waste and pet bedding. They are also a good alternative for shredded paper, now that there are no longer paper banks in the Borough.

TEXTILES

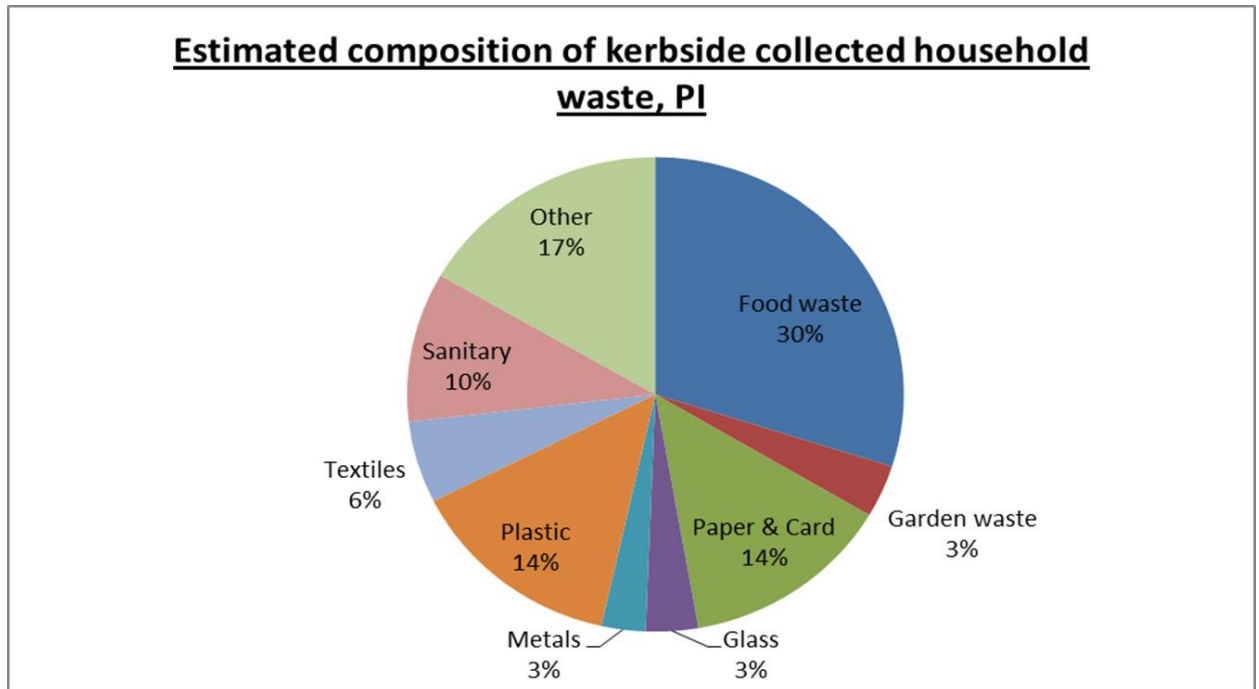
13. An ideal approach to clothes from a waste prevention point of view is to buy less, take good care of clothes, and make sure they are put to good use when they are disposed of. Approximately 32% of textiles put in the Borough's textile banks are re-used; this constitutes good-quality wear-able clothes and textiles sold on in shops or market stalls. For 2015-16, this amounts to about 80 tonnes of all materials collected through textile banks in the borough.

FOOD WASTE

14. Food forms a significant part of the waste collected in Hampshire. Most of the food

thrown away could have been eaten; i.e. it went off, or too much was cooked. Inedible waste such as peelings or meat bones forms a smaller proportion of the food thrown away. This is a problem across the country, although research shows that people under-estimate the amount of food they throw away.

15. The graph below shows the proportions of waste collected from the kerbside in Hampshire, in refuse and recycling bins, and garden waste collections.



16. A project is currently being developed to work with residents in the Fareham South area. Partners in the project include Hampshire County Council, Fareham Borough Council, First Wessex Housing, Y Services, local schools, and Fareham College. The project aims to help residents see how much food they throw away, and find ways to make more use of the food they buy, thus saving money. It is hoped that in due course the project could be replicated in other areas of the Borough.
17. Along with other supermarkets, Sainsbury's have recognised food waste as a major issue, and are offering grants to communities for initiatives and ideas to reduce food waste. This potential funding is being investigated and could expand the scope of the project.
18. Food waste is also included at talks and presentations made to local groups. This work has included working with students at Fareham Academy Citizenship Day, and a talk to the Tenants and Leaseholders Forum. Food waste featured as a major part of the bin collection calendar delivered to all households in the autumn
19. Most of the big retailers are working to help their customers reduce food waste. More products are in re-sealable packaging to help products stay fresher for longer, and there is clearer on-pack labelling. The Co-op have put food storage messages on their fruit and vegetable bags, and Sainsbury's have changed on-pack advice to 'Freeze up to use by date' instead of 'Freeze on day of purchase'.
20. Tesco have removed 'display until' dates to avoid confusion. Since 2014 Tesco has not had any 'buy one get one free' promotions on fruit and vegetables, which

encourage people to buy more than they need.

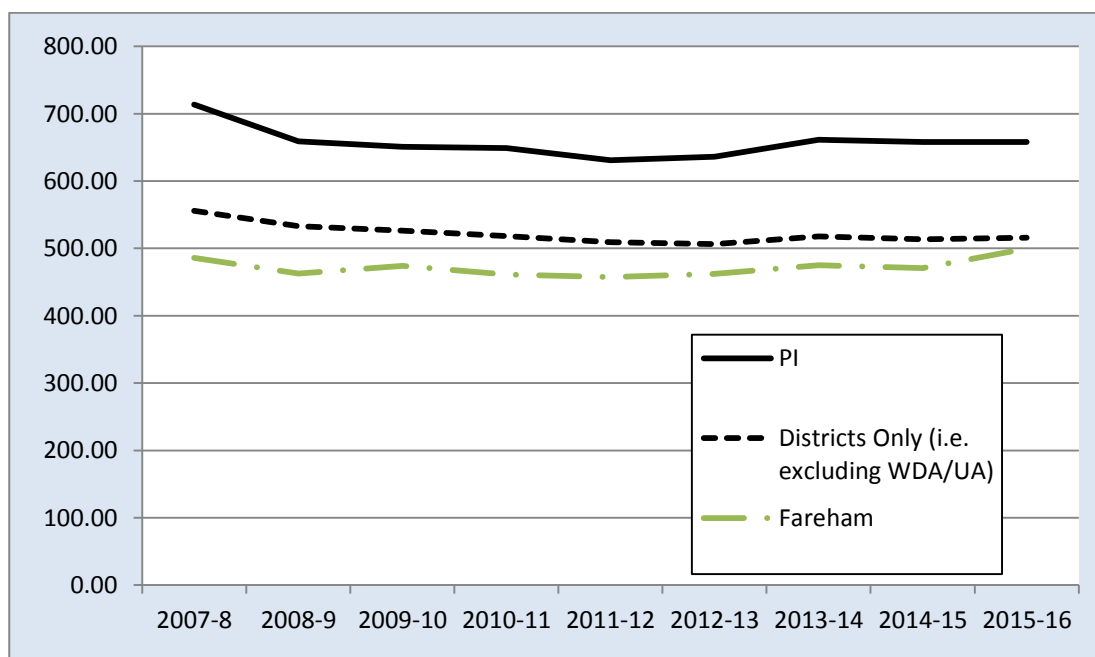
PROJECT INTEGRA WASTE PREVENTION PLAN

21. The Project Integra Waste Prevention Plan 2014-17 supports the Project Integra Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy target of limiting annual growth of residual waste per household to less than 0.5%. It also delivers an important action from within the Project Integra Action Plan for authorities to help residents reduce the amount of waste produced.

22. The Plan outlines a series of actions intended to maximise the benefits for all PI partners. These actions are grouped in themes according to the actions for local authorities identified in the national programme, and they include:

- Assessing opportunities for greater diversion of bulky waste
- Increasing home composting promotion and support
- Designing and implementing a food waste reduction programme
- Reviewing residual waste collection policies
- Improving internal practices to “lead by example”
- Maximising reuse at HWRCs by exploring opportunities with the third sector.

23. The following graph shows the trend of kg of residual waste per household for all PI authorities for the past 9 years. This shows no significant change of the past few years. It is worth noting that the waste per household in Fareham is the second lowest of all Hampshire authorities.



24. The plan is 66 pages in length and copies can be distributed on request. A progress

update on the Waste Prevention Plan for 2016-17 was discussed at the February 2017 PI Strategic Board including details of key activity. This highlighted the following points:

- A waste prevention survey was conducted in June/August 2016 which received 1500 responses and gave an insight into attitudes and behaviours of residents in Hampshire with regard to waste prevention activities
- Bulky waste diversion focus using call centre scripts to divert bulky items to the third sector
- HCC have maintained a network of 20 active Waste Prevention Community Champions to spread messages about Love Food Hate Waste among Hampshire residents
- Continue to fulfil commitments to the Courtauld Commitment 2025, which is a voluntary agreement, aimed at improving resource efficiency and reducing waste within the UK grocery sector. PI signed up to the commitment in 2016, recognising that 25-30% of PI's kerbside residual waste is food.

CONCLUSION

25. Waste Prevention is part of the Reduce, Reuse and Recycle plan which the Council has continued to promote over the years. Officers continue to work in conjunction with the Project Integra Waste Prevention Plan to encourage residents to reduce and reuse as much as possible.

Background Papers:

None.

Reference Papers:

Project Integra Waste Prevention Plan 2014-17.

Enquiries:

For further information on this report please contact Sue Hand. (Ext 4554)