

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.

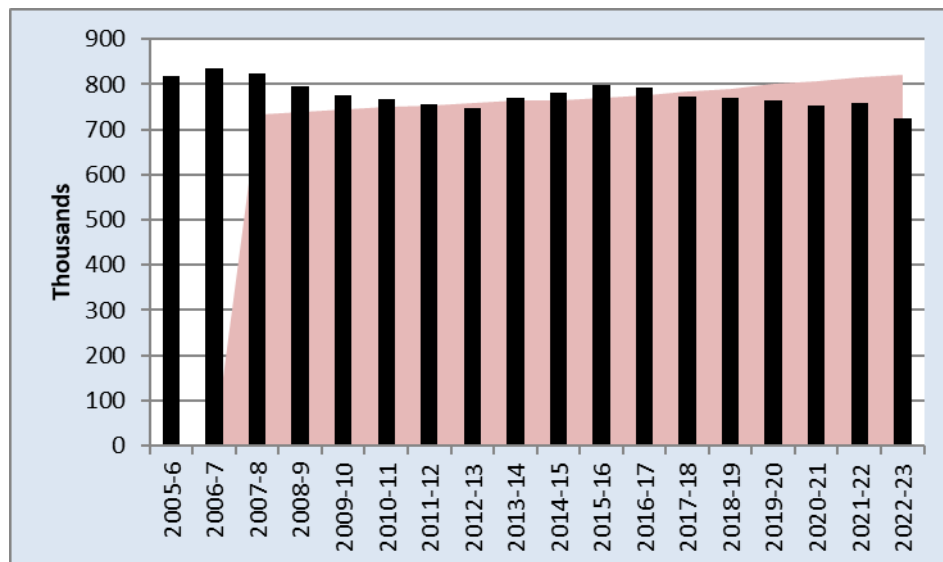
RECYCLING AND RESIDUAL WASTE STATISTICS

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