

FAREHAM

BOROUGH COUNCIL

Report to Streetscene Policy Development and Review Panel

Date **8 September 2016**

Report of: **Director of Operations**

Subject: **ANNUAL REPORT ON RECYCLING PERFORMANCE**

SUMMARY

The purpose of this report is to provide information on the performance of the recycling facilities offered by the Council to residents of the Borough.

RECOMMENDATION

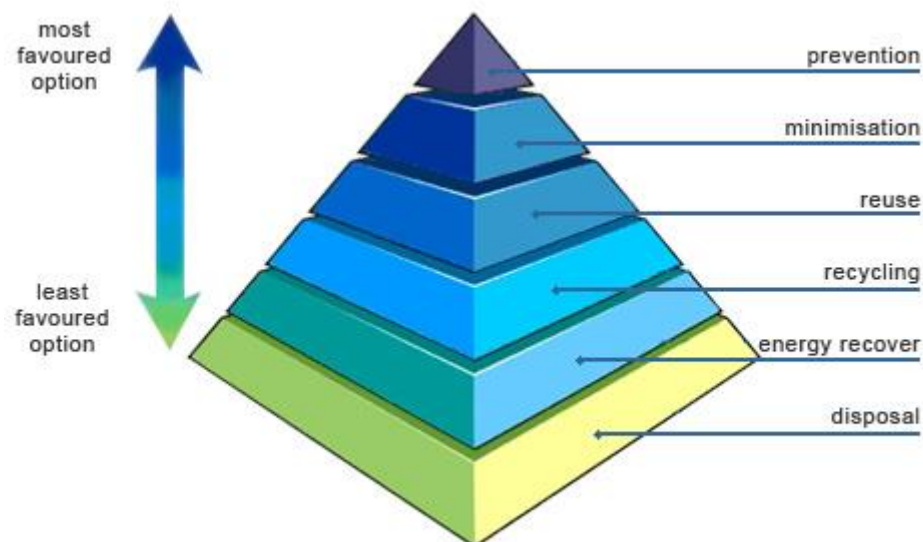
That members note the contents of this report.

INTRODUCTION

1. Fareham Borough Council collects recycling at the kerbside (in the blue top bins and garden waste sacks), and through a network of bring bank sites (mainly glass and textiles).
2. For the last few years the Council has maintained a position whereby 33-35% of the total domestic waste generated is sent for recycling. This is one of the highest rates in Hampshire.
3. This has both environmental and financial benefits. The Council receives a significant income from the sale of materials sent for recycling.
4. The waste disposal and recycling facilities are managed through Hampshire County Council in partnership with all of the waste collection authorities in Hampshire, working together with Veolia Environmental Services.

THE WASTE HIERARCHY

5. 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.
6. 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 landfilling it.
7. The Waste Hierarchy



8. The Waste Hierarchy can be applied to Fareham's waste arisings. The table below shows the proportion of Fareham's waste according to the treatment of it, for the year 2015-16.

Treatment Option	Percentage of total waste
Re-use and Recycling (includes books, shoes, textiles, blue top bin, glass, paper and garden waste)	33%
Energy recovery (includes refuse, rejected recycling, bulky waste, street sweepings, fly tipped waste)	61%
Landfill (includes waste from HWRC and bottom ash)	6%
Total waste	100 %

(*landfill figure is estimated for Fareham as data is only available for Hampshire)

9. Almost all of Hampshire's residual waste is now incinerated at an energy recovery facility (ERF) which generates electricity from the process. Metal is extracted from the incinerator bottom ash, and contributes to the Council's recycling figures. The remaining ash is used in sub-surface aggregate, but this does not count towards the recycling rate. General waste from the Household Waste Recycling Centres (HWRCs) is landfilled. This waste is very difficult to apportion to each individual Borough Council. Across Hampshire, only 6 % of the whole County's waste is landfilled.
10. It is very difficult to quantify the amount of waste avoided by prevention or minimisation measures, since by definition, if waste has been prevented it is not there to weigh.
11. Approximately 70% of textiles collected are reused with the remainder being recycled into new products and non-recyclable items being sent for energy recovery. Due to the nature of collections and the individual makeup of the textiles collected, it is difficult to apportion the exact re-use and recycling amount. Therefore, Hampshire County Council categorise textile bank material as recycling within the waste hierarchy. This ensures that all textiles collected contribute towards the Recycling Rate.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

12. Talks and events are held as requested, to promote recycling and waste prevention and these are provided by the Council's Recycling Co-ordinator. Groups visited over the last year include the WI, Rotary Club, and Cub groups. Love Food Fareham workshops have been held at local churches and community centres to raise awareness of food waste.

WASTE PREVENTION

13. In June 2014 the Project Integra Strategic Board approved the Waste Prevention Plan. If waste is prevented, the cost of collecting, transporting and disposing of that waste is avoided.

14. The main priorities for the Waste Prevention Plan are to:

- increase home composting
- reduce avoidable food waste focussing on the Love Food Hate Waste campaign
- develop a central website to promote examples such as the Mail Preference Service, reusable nappies and smart shopping
- promote furniture reuse organisations for bulky waste

15. A project is being trialled by some Councils in Hampshire, including Fareham, to help residents divert furniture to re-use organisations. When a resident calls to book a bulky waste collection, they are asked if the item is in good condition, and if so they are offered the phone number of a local charity who will collect the item for re-use.

16. This has an environmental benefit, a social benefit to the charity, and a personal benefit to the resident, who saves the cost of a bulky waste collection. Accurate figures are difficult to record, because we do not know the outcome of calls to charity, but since the start of 2016 six people have been referred to charity, comprising a total of 19 items of waste. Although these are small numbers, they are expensive individual items which can be valuable to a charity.

KERBSIDE RECYCLING

17. All households in the Borough have access to a fortnightly collection for the following materials:

- **Paper** - Including yellow pages. Shredded paper cannot be collected as it gets blown around in the sorting plant, and can also clog the machinery.
- **Card** - Soiled cardboard such as take-away pizza boxes cannot be recycled.
- **Food tins and drink cans**
- **Aerosols**
- **Plastic bottles** - No other sort of plastic, such as yoghurt pots and food trays are currently accepted.

18. The materials are taken to the Materials Recovery Facility (MRF) in Portsmouth, where they are sorted and sent for re-processing into new products.

19. Recycling must be placed loose in the bin, not in bags, as staff at the MRF are unable to see if there is potentially hazardous material in them. The only exception is clear plastic bags, because staff can see if they contain recyclable materials. Clear plastic bags are sent out on request to residents waiting for a recycling bin, or who occasionally have a large amount of recyclable material. Residents are permitted two recycling bins if required.

GARDEN WASTE

20. The Council collects one sack of garden waste fortnightly from all households. Residents wishing to dispose of additional garden waste can purchase disposable bags at a cost of £24.50 for 25 bags, or £6 for 5 bags.

21. No income is received by the Council for the recycling of garden waste; however, the tonnage is included in the recycling figures. In 2015-16 a total of 3,782 tonnes of

garden waste was collected.

GLASS RECYCLING BANKS

22. There is a network of 35 glass bring bank sites across the Borough. In addition, 20 blocks of flats have small glass recycling banks. Approximately 2,000 tonnes of glass is collected per annum.

CLOTHING AND TEXTILE RECYCLING BANKS

23. Since April 2013, clothing and textile recycling banks on public land in Fareham have been managed by the European Recycling Company (ERC), under a four year contract with the Council.

24. There are 29 textile recycling banks across the Borough, and along with those on private land provided by charities, residents have access to 40 such facilities. In the year to March 2016, 244 tonnes were collected. The banks are performing equally well so far this year.

RECYCLING BANKS FOR BOOKS, DVDS AND CDS

25. There are recycling banks across the Borough, which are operated by charities to collect these materials for sale in their shops. Weights collected contribute to the Recycling Rate. An Oxfam book bank at Sainsbury's has recently been removed, because the shop in Fareham was unable to handle the amount of books generated through the bank and the shop. Another book bank is being removed from a pub car park at the request of the landlord.

RECYCLING STATISTICS

26. The tables below show a comparison of recycling figures from the year 2014-15 and 2015-16.

Statistic (total tonnage)	Apr-Mar 14/15	Apr-Mar 15/16
Overall Recycling %	35%	33%
Total Recycling Tonnage	12290	11990
Total Residual Tonnage	22899	24410

Breakdown of Recycling Tonnage	Apr-Mar 14/15	Apr-Mar 15/16
Recycling (blue top bin) total tonnage	6970	6876
Bring Bank Glass total tonnage	2029	2089
Textile bank total tonnage	248	244
Garden waste total tonnage	3924	3782
Paper bank total tonnage	74	35
Book bank total tonnage	75	63
Shoe bank total tonnage (banks on private land)	0.9	0.9

27. The overall Recycling Rate has reduced by 2% compared to the previous year, due to a number of factors. These include the downturn in the newspaper industry, with a corresponding reduction in the amount of print media for recycling and decreased weight of recyclable items collected.
28. It is a trend seen across the Project Integra partnership, and nationally across the UK. Residual waste has risen over the same period, due in part to the economic recovery and greater household spending. However, the amount collected for recycling has not increased. Tonnages of glass collected for recycling have remained about the same.

INCOME

29. The income derived from the sale of dry mixed recycling (blue top bin) materials is allocated back to each authority according to the tonnages collected, and the market price of each material. In the financial year 215-16, Fareham Borough Council received over £230,000 from the sale of recycled materials sent to the MRF.
30. Over £44,000 has been generated from the sale of textiles collected from blue banks across the Borough. The amount received from the sale of glass and textiles has significantly reduced from the previous year, due to the changes in the markets and reduced prices for recyclables. Full details of all income received from recycling for the last five financial years can be found at Appendix A.

RISK ASSESSMENT

31. There are no significant risk considerations in relation to this report.

CONCLUSION

32. The Council currently provides a variety of recycling services that have environmental and financial benefits. However, market prices do vary and, as a result, the levels of income are not guaranteed. For example, the price of glass has reduced from £33 per tonne to £8 per tonne in the past twelve months.
33. Through Project Integra, the Council regularly reviews the type of recycling services it can provide, giving due consideration to issues of sustainability and affordability.
34. The Council continues to work with community groups to promote recycling and waste minimisation, whilst making efficient use of current resources.

Background Papers:

None

Reference Papers:

None

Enquiries:

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

Appendix A

Summary of Income and Credits Received for Recycling for the Last Five Financial Years

	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16
Sale of material from the MRF	£376,372	£300,300	£297,880	£230,347	£234,467
Sale of glass	£20,095	£26,369	£56,081	£40,049	£15,056
Glass recycling credits*	£66,143	£76,286	£72,220	£69,463	£72,715
Sale of Textiles	-	-	£78,506	£81,918	£44,173
Total	£462,610	£402,955	£504,687	£421,777	£366,411

*Recycling credits are paid to waste collection authorities (WCA) by their waste disposal authority (WDA). The WCA receives recycling credit in direct proportion to the saving of cost that would otherwise have been incurred to dispose of the waste. The Council receives recycling credits from Hampshire County Council for glass, paper and textiles collected from bring bank sites.