

FAREHAM

BOROUGH COUNCIL

Report to Streetscene Policy Development and Review Panel

Date **12 July 2018**

Report of: **Head of Streetscene**

Subject: **REVIEW OF RECYCLING**

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

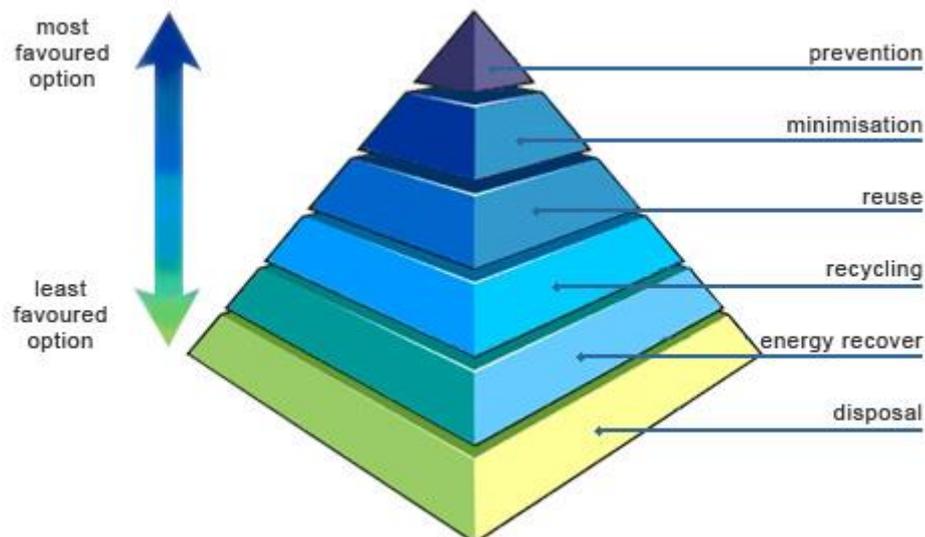
That members note the contents of this report.

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 or composting. This is one of the highest rates in Hampshire. As well as the environmental benefits, the Council receives a significant income from the sale of materials sent for recycling.
3. The waste disposal and recycling facilities are managed through the Project Integra partnership, comprising Hampshire County Council (HCC), all of the waste collection and unitary authorities in Hampshire, together with Veolia Environmental Services. Almost all of Hampshire's residual waste is now incinerated at an energy recovery facility (ERF) which generates electricity from the process.

THE WASTE HIERARCHY

4. The Waste Hierarchy establishes a priority approach to waste, to protect the environment and conserve resources through policy and legislation.
5. The best environmental option is to prevent the waste arising, for instance using left-over food rather than throwing it away. Further down the hierarchy, re-use saves the energy required to recycle something into a new product.
6. The Waste Hierarchy



COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

7. Talks and events are held as requested, to promote recycling and waste prevention and these are provided by the Council's Recycling Co-ordinator. A day of workshops was run at Fareham Academy as part of Year 7s Citizenship Day.

WASTE PREVENTION

8. The Project Integra Waste Prevention Plan aims to reduce waste generation levels, to be more in line with the England average. The HCC area has one of the highest rates of residual waste generated per household of any shire county, and Southampton and Portsmouth City Councils have some of the highest of England's unitary authorities.
9. Waste prevention activities will reduce collection and disposal costs. These activities also have a positive knock-on effect of increasing recycling tonnages, due to the increased publicity. 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.
10. The main priorities for the Waste Prevention Plan are to:
 - reduce avoidable food waste focussing on the Love Food Hate Waste campaign
 - increase home composting
 - promote furniture reuse organisations for bulky waste
 - develop a central website to promote examples such as the Mail Preference Service, reusable nappies and smart shopping

FAREHAM FOOD PROJECT

11. The Food Saver Champion, funded by Sainsbury's, has been working with local residents, schools and employers, to reduce food waste. The initial plan to focus on Round 4 in the south Fareham area proved too difficult, because a couple of key personnel in a local school and college had left. Therefore, the project covered the whole Borough.
12. A competition was run for children to design a take-out bag; which has been printed and distributed to local restaurants and pubs. This encourages diners to take home any food they cannot finish, to use the leftovers. All primary-age schools in the Borough were invited to take part, and the competition was advertised in the library and on the web site.
13. 1550 competition entry forms were distributed, and over 300 entries were received back. The winner, from Whiteley Primary School, was presented with her prize by the Mayor at a tea party in the Parlour in February, and the competition was successful in gaining considerable press coverage. The bags have been issued to 30 restaurants and pubs, and have been very well-received.
14. Nearly 1800 Food Diaries were issued, for people to note down for a week how much food is thrown away. It was hoped that people would return the completed diary, so that tips and suggestions could be emailed to help avoid food waste. Unfortunately, it proved difficult to get people to return the diaries, and only 80 were sent back. This activity did not lead to the discussions and sharing recipes on social media which it

had been hoped.

15. Exhibition stands and pop-up displays have been run in a variety of different locations, including large employers, child-care nurseries, Council Connect, Sainsbury's, the Leisure Centre and Park Runs. A total of 87 have been held to date, reaching over 1800 residents, with a few more planned.
16. More unusual locations, such as Park Runs, which are timed 5km runs held in public parks every Saturday morning, have proved successful in reaching a lot of people. Pop-up exhibitions in school play-grounds at the end of the school day also reach a lot of people in a short time.
17. This work is the second year of a 5-year project funded by Sainsbury's to help their customers reduce food waste. The project has reached a lot of people, and has started to build a momentum, as people have come across the project more than once. It had been hoped to be able to continue the work next year, but unfortunately, this funding has been withdrawn so the project is coming to an end in mid-July.

HOME COMPOSTING

18. Residents of Hampshire continue to be offered composters as part of a special offer. Home composting is an excellent way to dispose of fruit and vegetable waste, and Hampshire County Council staff have attended several events alongside the Food Saver Champion to promote the offer.

KERBSIDE RECYCLING

19. The Council continues to collect paper, card, tins, cans, aerosols and plastic bottles from all households in the Borough. The amount of contamination in recycling bins is increasing across Hampshire. This relates to the wrong materials put in the recycling bin; both through misunderstandings about plastics, and using the bin for domestic waste.
20. The Streetscene Vanguard intervention has been looking at the way the service currently deals with contamination of the blue top bins and ways in which residents can be encouraged to put the right materials in the blue tops bins.
21. Discussions with the crews have highlighted large bulky items such as polystyrene, wood and glass as being regular contaminants. But plastic, pots, tubs and trays are the most frequent source of contaminate present in many blue top bins.
22. In order to understand the difficulties residents have with recycling, a door-knocking exercise has been undertaken to visit all properties with contaminated recycling bins over a two-week period.
23. Most people were very receptive to the project, and pleased the Council were out talking to people. The results of the project are currently being analysed. They will be used to develop further communications to tackle contamination.

NATIONAL POLICY

24. The impact of the proposed Deposit Return Scheme for all drinks containers in England, whether plastic, glass or metal, is not yet known. Residents may choose to return these materials for a small cash sum, which would have an impact on the kerbside and bring bank recycling services. The government has indicated that the delayed Waste Strategy will be launched in the autumn.
25. The government has signed up to the EU Circular Economy Package, which includes recycling targets. Signatories will have to meet recycling targets for municipal waste of 55% by 2025, 60% by 2030 and 65% by 2035.

GARDEN WASTE

26. The Council collects one sack of garden waste fortnightly from all households, at no extra charge. Residents wishing to dispose of additional garden waste can purchase disposable bags at a cost of £26.00 for 25 bags, or £6 for 5 bags. This covers the cost of collecting and disposing of the extra material.

RECYCLING BANKS

27. There is a network of 34 bank sites across the Borough, for recycling glass bottles and jars. In addition, 20 blocks of flats have small glass recycling banks.
28. There are 37 textile recycling banks across the Borough. There are a mix of banks on public land run under contract to the Council, and those on private land provided by charities.
29. There are a few recycling banks for books, CDs and DVDs, which are operated by charities to collect these materials for sale in their shops.
30. There is public interest in the mixed plastics recycling banks installed by Southampton City Council. Residents can use them to recycle pots, tubs and trays not accepted in the kerbside stream. However, there is a significant cost to this service, and the material is not processed locally.
31. Attempts have been made to engage the contractor working in Southampton to operate a similar service in Fareham. However, this has proved difficult, but the Hampshire Waste Partnership is currently considering whether collection arrangements could be put in place as part of the contract with Veolia.

RECYCLING STATISTICS

32. The tables below show a comparison of recycling figures from the last 4 years.

Statistic (total tonnage)	Apr-Mar 14/15	Apr-Mar 15/16	Apr-Mar 16/17	Apr-Mar 17/18
Overall Recycling %	35%	33%	33.6%	32.8%
Total Recycling Tonnage	12290	11990	12222	11761
Total Residual Tonnage	22899	24410	24129	24038

Breakdown of Recycling Tonnage	Apr-Mar 14/15	Apr-Mar 15/16	Apr-Mar 16/17	Apr-Mar 17/18
Recycling (blue top bin) total tonnage	6970	6876	6742	6484
Bring Bank Glass total tonnage	2029	2089	2102	2094
Textile bank total tonnage	248	244	267	256
Garden waste total tonnage	3924	3782	3969	3854
Book bank total tonnage	75	63	58	56

33. The overall Recycling Rate has decreased slightly, while the increase in tonnages of residual waste collected over recent years has been maintained.

INCOME

34. The income derived from the sale of recycling materials is passed back to each authority according to the tonnages collected, and the market price of each material. In the financial year 2017-18, Fareham Borough Council received just over £295,000 from the sale of recycled materials sent to the MRF. This sum is derived from a profit share arrangement with Veolia Environmental Services whereby 50% of the sale proceeds from dry mixed recyclables is allocated back to participating councils in proportion to the tonnages collected.

35. Almost £48,000 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 increased slightly from the previous year, due to stability in the markets and slightly increased prices for recyclables. Full details of all income received from recycling for the last five financial years can be found at Appendix A.

36. In addition to income from sale of materials, Recycling Credits are paid to waste collection authorities (WCA) by their waste disposal authority (WDA). The WCA receives Credits in direct proportion to the saving of cost that would otherwise have been incurred to dispose of the material as waste. The Council receives Recycling Credits from Hampshire County Council for glass and textiles collected from bring bank sites. The current rate is £45.94 per tonne, a rise of 3% on last year.

RISK ASSESSMENT

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

CONCLUSION

38. The Council currently provides a variety of recycling services that have both environmental and financial benefits. Through Project Integra, the Council regularly reviews the type of recycling services it can provide, giving due consideration to issues of sustainability and affordability.

39. Waste prevention is an important way of stopping material which still has value from entering the waste stream. This has been a focus of work for both Fareham Borough Council and Project Integra.

Background Papers:

Reference Papers:

Enquiries:

For further information on this report please contact Sue Hand. (Ext 4544)

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

	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18
Sale of material from the MRF	£297,880	£230,347	£234,467	£284,267	£295,279
Sale of glass	£56,081	£40,049	£15,056	£18,286	£23,979
Glass recycling credits	£72,220	£69,463	£72,715	£75,839	£77,507
Sale of Textiles	£78,506	£81,918	£44,173	£44,405	£47,790
Textile recycling credits	£4,877	£6,880	£7,381	£5,795	£3,408
Total	£509,564	£428,657	£373,792	£428,592	£447,963