

# FAREHAM

## BOROUGH COUNCIL

### **Report to Streetscene Policy Development and Review Panel**

**Date**                    **5 September 2013**

**Report of:**           **Director of Street Scene**

**Subject:**             **CLOTHING AND TEXTILE RECYCLING CONTRACT**

#### **SUMMARY**

The purpose of this report is to provide an update on the clothing and textile recycling contract that was awarded to European Recycling Company Ltd (ERC) on 1 April 2013.

#### **RECOMMENDATION**

That the Panel notes the contents of this report.

## **INTRODUCTION**

1. At the meeting of the Executive on 3 September 2012, the recommendation of the Streetscene Policy Development and Review Panel that Officers prepare a competitive tender for the exclusive rights to provide and service clothing and textile recycling banks on Council owned land within the borough was endorsed.
2. A tender process was completed and the contract awarded to The European Recycling Company Ltd (ERC). The contract commenced on 1 April 2013 and is for a term of four years.
3. The Executive also requested Officers to bring forward a further report setting out options for distributing the proceeds arising from the award of the tender, following consultation with members of the public via Community Action Team meetings, online and using Fareham Connect in Fareham Shopping Centre. The public consultation was conducted over a period of eight weeks, closing on 10 March 2013. The report was taken to the Executive on 15 April 2013.

## **TEXTILE RECYCLING BANKS**

4. The number of textile banks available for residents to use has increased significantly through this contract. Prior to April 2013, there were a total of 30 textile bank recycling sites, 14 on publicly owned land, and 16 on private land with public access (for example pub car parks).
5. This has now increased to a total of 46 textile bank recycling sites. ERC have added new sites, and there are now 30 sites on public land. The charity banks on the 16 sites on private land remain, as they are not part of this contract. Residents therefore have a wider choice in recycling their textiles: to support a charity shop, to support a charity through a recycling bank, or to support local good causes through the contract. A list of the textile bank recycling sites on Council land can be found at Appendix (A).
6. The textile recycling banks can be used for all types of clothing, underwear, outer wear and household textiles. Shoes can be put in the same bank, or in the separate shoe bank where there is one on-site.

## **PROGRESS UPDATE**

7. During the first week of April 2013, ERC installed FBC branded blue textile recycling banks across the borough and commenced collections from all sites. There is a designated ERC collection driver, who services all sites across the borough in a 3.5 tonne van. This employee provides feedback direct to Streetscene Officers regarding usage of each bank and facilitates a quicker response in resolving any issues as they arise.
8. After the textiles have been collected from each site they are stockpiled in a 40 foot container based at the Council Depot. Once full this container is then transported direct to ERC's sorting plant in Germany. The material is sorted at a modern, high-tech plant which meets high levels of environmental and ethical employment standards. These standards were an important element of the tendering process. The items are sorted into 400 different categories covering material type, clothing type, target group and brand. The textiles are then reused or recycled depending on their quality. Further information on the recycling process can be found at Appendix (B).

## **TEXTILE TONNAGES COLLECTED**

9. The weights of textiles collected during the first three months of the contract are outlined in the table below. These figures are in line with predictions for the initial months of the contract and show an increase for the first quarter of the year.

Month	Tonnages Collected
April 2013	10.7
May 2013	12.9
June 2013	12.5

## **DISTRIBUTION OF THE PROCEEDS FROM TEXTILES**

10. At the Executive meeting held on 15 April 2013, the decision was approved to allocate the proceeds from the clothing and textile contract as follows.
11. From the net proceeds of the clothing and textile recycling contract, 90% is to be given to good causes with the remaining 10% to be retained by the Council and used to help keep Council Tax bills down by supporting services for residents.
12. The 3 previous textile bank operators – Hampshire & Isle of Wight Air Ambulance Service, Salvation Army and TRAIID (Textile Recycling for Aid & International Development) will receive a guaranteed income of a share of £35,000 based on the current proportion of tonnages collected by each operator and subject to the tonnages of textiles being collected remaining at a sufficiently high level to permit this. For the current financial year, this income has already been distributed to the 3 previous operators.
13. This arrangement will remain in place for the duration of the 4 year contract. The proceeds have already been distributed to the previous textile bank operators for the current financial year.
14. The remainder of the 90% of net proceeds from the clothing and textile contract is allocated to the Council's Community Fund from which residents and local groups can bid.

## **RISK ASSESSMENT**

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

## **CONCLUSION**

16. The contract is progressing well and the tonnages collected so far are as expected. Additional sites across the Borough are continuing to be investigated and assessed for suitability to increase the availability of textile recycling to residents.
17. The operational performance from ERC has been good with the installation of the new textile banks carried out efficiently and with minimal disruption. The banks continue to be well serviced and maintained.
18. The increase in the number of clothing and textile recycling banks in the borough has provided a better service to residents, with positive feedback from the public in relation

to the appearance of the banks and maintenance of the sites.

19. At the time of writing this report, one other local authority in Hampshire has joined the framework agreement and a number of other authorities intend to do so within the current financial year.

**Background Papers:**

None.

**Reference Papers:**

None.

**Appendices:**

Appendix A – Textile Recycling Bank Locations in Fareham

Appendix B – What happens to the textiles collected in Fareham

**Enquiries:**

For further information on this report please contact Paul Doran. (Ext 4572)

## **Appendix (A) – Textile Recycling Bank Locations on Council Land**

### Existing charity bank sites now managed by ERC:

- Barry's Meadow car park, Titchfield, Fareham
- Bishopsfield Road car park, Fareham
- Broadcut car park, Wallington, Fareham
- Burr ridge Sports & Social Club, Botley Road, Burr ridge
- Crofton Community Centre car park, Stubbington Lane
- Highlands Road shops, Fareham
- Holly Hill car park, Sarisbury Green
- Leisure Centre car park, Park Lane, Fareham
- Middle Road car park, Park Gate
- Osborn Road Youth Centre car park, Fareham.
- Portchester Precinct car park, Portchester
- Priory Park Community Hall car park, Upper Brook Drive, Locks Heath, Fareham
- Titchfield Community Centre car park, Mill Lane, Titchfield
- Warsash Road car park, Warsash

### Additional sites managed by ERC:

- Bath Lane car park, Fareham
- Car park behind Holy Trinity Church, Western Road, Fareham
- Civic Way car park, Fareham
- Fareham North West Community Centre, Henry Cort Drive, Fareham
- Ferneham Hall, Osborne Road, Fareham
- Harper Way Taxi Rank, Fareham
- Lower Lysses car park, Fareham
- Malthouse Lane, off Osborne Road South, Fareham
- Market Quay car park, Fareham
- Monks Hill car park, Hill Head, Fareham
- Multi Storey car park, Central Fareham
- Passage Lane car park, Warsash
- Salterns Road car park, Hill Head, Fareham
- Upper Lysses car park, Fareham
- Western Road Recycling Area, Fareham
- Wicor Recreation Ground, Portchester, Fareham

## Appendix (B) – What happens to the textiles collected in Fareham

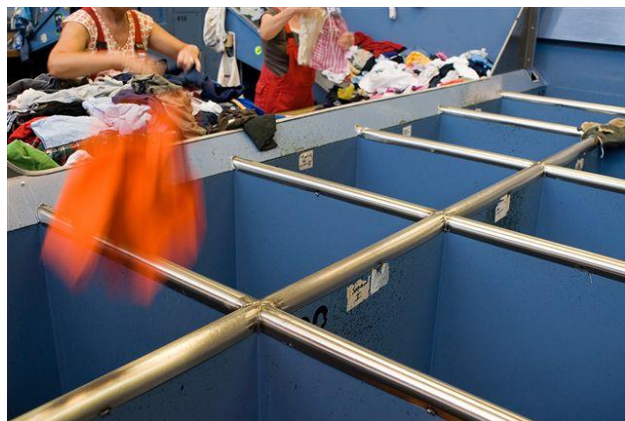
The textile banks can be used for all types of clothing, underwear, outer wear and household textiles. Shoes can be put in the same bank, or in the separate shoe bank where there is one on-site.



All clothes can have a new lease of life. Items in perfect condition are sorted for different markets to be worn again. These include “high quality” and “vintage” lines, to ensure the best value is obtained for everything. Emerging markets treasure these quality products because they are often superior to newly-made mass-produced items in terms of design and durability.

The material is sorted at a modern, high-tech plant which meets high levels of environmental and ethical employment standards. Skilled workers sort items into 400 different categories:

- material type – denim, leather, cotton, synthetic
- clothing type – trousers, coats, belts, hats, bras
- target group – men, women, children
- brand, fashion style, colour, quality.



In 2011 in Fareham borough, more than 750 tonnes of clothes, shoes and textiles were simply thrown away in household bins.

Even worn out items are basic raw materials for something fundamentally new, such as insulation material for new cars, cleaning wipers, or blankets for the house removal trade.



Operating to a Zero Waste philosophy, the European Recycling Company is continuously developing its technology to recycle as much as possible.

In the sorting plant, the computer can combine 'ingredients' to create bespoke mixes to meet customers' exact product needs – for example fibres only from cotton or acrylic, or just wool for reintegrating into the clothing manufacturing industry.



Currently more than 95% of all used textiles collected are recycled. The rivets from old clothes are extracted and recycled as metal. Even the plastic bags the clothing is deposited in are recycled.

In co-operation with a research institute, the company have even found ways to use the textile dust, which inevitably arises in the recycling process, as an alternative fuel for industrial plants.



*Pictures above right – rivets collected for recycling  
right – a dustbrick*