

ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABILITY OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PANEL – 9 SEPTEMBER 2021

PORTFOLIO – ENVIRONMENT & COASTAL SERVICES

WASTE STRATEGY UPDATE

1. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1.1 That the Panel note the progress on the Council's Waste Strategy.
- 1.2 That the Panel comment upon the key principles and priorities within the draft Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy (JMWMS).
- 1.3 That the Panel agree to hold a special meeting of the Panel on 11 November 2021.

2. INTRODUCTION

- 2.1 In response to national and regional changes in waste management strategy and approach, as well as a desire to ensure that local goals are met, the Council is developing a new Waste Strategy.
- 2.2 A Draft Waste Strategy for NFDC was published in November 2020, with a period of engagement with residents and other stakeholders following on. Since then, the Government has released four new waste consultations, and work is progressing on a Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy which will set overall aims and objectives for all Hampshire local authorities.
- 2.3 This report provides an update on the key issues affecting development of a new Waste Strategy for the New Forest.

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 The Government's National Waste Strategy (NWS), "Our Waste, Our Resources: A Strategy for England" was published in December 2018. It contained new objectives for dealing with the nation's waste and suggested how these objectives can be achieved. In the future, the waste streams that the Council collects and the way they are collected will be heavily influenced by the NWS.
- 3.2 The key measures within the NWS were subject to consultation, and the Council responded to the four consultations between February and May 2019. The results of the consultation indicated strong support for many of the objectives suggested in the NWS and this informed the content of the draft Environment Bill 2020.
- 3.3 Shortly after this original consultation period, NFDC convened a Member Working Group to consider the national, regional, and local factors that were likely to shape the development of a new Waste Strategy for the New Forest. This group has carried out research, reviewed case studies and worked with partners to assess options for the future frontline service. This group is now known as the Sustainable Waste Management Member Task and Finish Group.
- 3.4 The Council released a Draft Waste Strategy in November 2020. There followed a period of engagement, where residents and other stakeholders were invited to provide feedback on how some of the changes in the Council's "preferred option" would affect them. The "preferred option" consists of:

- A weekly separate collection of food waste
 - Dry recycling collected in a reusable bag (paper and card) and a wheeled bin (glass, plastic, metal), both of which are collected on the alternate week to general waste
 - General waste collected in a wheeled bin on the alternate week to dry recycling
 - Collection of garden waste every two weeks in a reusable bag or wheeled bin
- 3.5 Under the sponsorship of the Hampshire and IOW Local Authorities (HLOWLA) group, all Council partners in Hampshire have been considering the future of collections, recycling, and disposal infrastructure in the County, and how the District Councils will work with the County Council in the future, in an operational and financial sense.
- 3.6 Central Government consultations on Deposit Return Schemes, Extended Producer Responsibility, Waste Prevention and Consistency in Collections closed in July, and NFDC responded to all 4 (see report from July's Environment and Sustainability Overview & Scrutiny Panel for further information). It is believed that there may not be a response from Government until early 2022.

4. REGIONAL DEVELOPMENTS

- 4.1 Project Integra (PI) is a waste partnership, comprising all 11 Waste Collection Authorities, 2 unitary authorities and Hampshire County Council, who have responsibility for the disposal of waste collected by NFDC. The partnership arose in the 1990s as a result of the need to have a co-ordinated response to waste and recycling collections, processing and infrastructure. The partnership meets 3 times a year as the "Project Integra Strategic Board" which consists of one voting Member, usually that authority's Portfolio Holder.
- 4.2 Under the sponsorship of the Hampshire and IOW Local Authorities (HLOWLA) group, all Councils in the PI partnership (including NFDC) have been working together to consider the future of collections, recycling, and disposal infrastructure in the County. This is in the context of the National policy and legislation developments, and desires within all partners to increase recycling and reduce overall waste generation.
- 4.3 This future will be underpinned by three main pieces of work:
- A revised Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy (JMWMS)
 - A new Partnering Agreement
 - A new financial model, which will define the financial relationship between HCC and all district councils.
- 4.4 *Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy (JMWMS)*
- 4.4.1 The PI partnership has an existing JMWMS, but it has not been revised since 2012. It is therefore overdue a review, and needs to be fit for the future of waste management in Hampshire.
- 4.4.2 Lead PI Officers, and Portfolio Holders from all partners, have taken part in a series of workshop to identify future priorities. These were then presented to the PISB in July 2021. The JMWMS is still in draft form and a final version will be distributed to all Hampshire Councils in mid-September, for each partner to take through a decision-making process in September and October in order that all partners will have approved the strategy by the date of the next PISB on 26th October. NFDC will take the JMWMS to its Cabinet meeting on 6th October.

4.4.3 Key elements of the JMWMS are included below. These are high level principles, with further detail to follow in the form of an implementation plan in 2022:

Partnership Working
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Whole system thinking at PI level – this is a key principle which requires all parties to consider the impact of local decision making and service configuration, on other parties and Hampshire residents.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ An implementation plan with clear actions will be developed by a joint PI working group, along with responsibilities assigned to stakeholders to ensure objectives can be met.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Setting agreed performance indicators and targets - A performance monitoring regime will be developed and agreed by all PI partners to track improvements made against each performance indicator.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Revision to PI Funding Arrangements - Funding arrangements need to drive the right performance behaviours and the right approach with whole system thinking and be reflective of the performance of partners as well as the local challenges encountered across the county. The arrangement will fund consistent initiatives and be structured to incentivise and support positive waste management practices.
Recyclable Material Management
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Introduction of two stream collections – this will consist of fibres (paper and card) in one container receptacle, and containers (glass bottles and jars, plastic bottles, plastic pots, tubs and trays, metal tins and cans) in another. Note – this aligns with the Council’s current “preferred option” as well as the Government’s direction of travel. The JMWMS is not specific in terms of how such collections should be carried out – i.e., which receptacles or vehicles should be used, or what collection frequencies should be.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Reduced contamination - Improving recycling performance through reducing contamination is a key operational focus for PI. Contamination of Dry Mixed Recycling is currently at around 16%. Partners will use communications, monitoring and sampling and improve consistency of approach across all partners.
Waste Reduction
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Development and delivery of waste prevention initiatives - PI partners will encourage and support residents to drive down the volume of waste that is produced through the development of appropriate initiatives.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Increased reuse of bulky waste and promotion of home composting – to maximise the diversion of bulky waste (furniture etc) out of the waste stream and into reuse, and maximise composting within gardens.
Best Practice
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Zero waste to landfill - PI partners will seek treatment of remaining, non-recyclable waste as well as reuse options to achieve our aim for zero waste to landfill and continuously monitor and measure their progress towards it.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Evaluation and introduction of alternative fuels for vehicles - PI partners will evaluate and discuss the introduction of low carbon transport options, whilst being mindful of the budgetary and contractual constraints that exist across the partnership
Service Delivery
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Consistent, best practice approach to service provision – PI partners will aspire to implement consistent policies and approaches, whilst being mindful of local decisions and circumstances

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Improved and consistent communications campaigns – for example, consistent PI level messaging utilising ‘Hampshire Recycles’ initiatives; responsible messages will be presented at the local level to increase accountability, tailored to individual partner needs where necessary
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Increased cross boundary working - PI partners will look to increase cross boundary working through greater collaboration and sharing of services across partners, to make efficiencies and savings within the service and across the partnership.

4.5 Partnering Agreement and Financial Model

4.5.1 Hampshire County Council (HCC) are now working with their long-term waste disposal contractor, Veolia, on the impacts of changes to collections on current and future infrastructure, including a new Materials Recovery Facility (MRF) which would be capable of sorting the expanded range of dry recyclables described earlier. These changes will have both operational and financial implications on all PI partners. To facilitate the transition, two new documents are being prepared –

- A “Partnering Agreement” – this will set out roles and responsibilities of waste collection authorities and waste disposal authorities, and how HCC will work with Districts.
- A Financial Model – this will set the financial arrangements between partners, in relation to how waste and recycling is handled and processed by Districts and HCC. It is likely to cover, for example, waste/recycling processing costs and income from sale of recyclable material.

Both items are still being developed, they will be an important part of the Council’s future Waste Strategy.

5. NFDC STRATEGY DEVELOPMENT

5.1 Development of the JMWMS has given further context for the development of NFDC’s own Waste Strategy. The Council continues to develop its final strategy, and is currently working on the following areas, with the waste officer project team and Sustainable Waste Management Task and Finish Group:

- Continuing to work on financial and resource considerations around the future collection service.
- An assessment of how much of the recycling we collect is in scope Extended Producer Responsibility funding, and what that could equate to in terms of future income from packaging producers.
- A review of what the impact of a Deposit Return Scheme may be on our collection resources, vehicle and container choice and recycling rate.
- Drafting an initial implementation plan for rollout of new services, considering factors such as lead times for vehicles and receptacles, with risks and mitigations included.
- Communication and Resident engagement plan
- A review of options for garden waste collection – including an assessment of possible receptacles for a future service, and an estimate of the impact on the finance and operation of the service should the Government choose to legislate for compulsory free collections of garden waste, as per the recent consultations.
- Staff communication and resources plan

5.2 Our provisional timeline is for Cabinet to consider the NFDC Waste Strategy in December 2021, therefore it is proposed a Special Panel meeting is scheduled for 11 November 2021.

6. CONCLUSIONS

6.1 The JMWMS will be considered by the Cabinet at its meeting on 6th October 2021.

6.2 Officers and the Sustainable Waste Management Task and Finish Group will continue to work on NFDC's new Waste Strategy.

7. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

7.1 In future there will be changes in expenditure and income resulting from necessary service changes, and these will be further detailed in a final waste strategy.

8. CRIME & DISORDER IMPLICATIONS

8.1 There are none.

9. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

9.1 The Council's final waste strategy will be aiming to increase recycling levels and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

10. EQUALITY & DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS

10.1 There are no direct implications resulting from the content of this report. However, the Council's final waste strategy will be subject to an Equalities Impact Assessment.

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Background Papers:

[NFDC's Draft Waste Strategy](#)

[The Environment and Sustainability Overview
and Scrutiny Panel report, July 2021](#)

[The existing Project Integra JMWMS](#)