

## JOINT MUNICIPAL WASTE MANAGEMENT STRATEGY

### 1. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1.1 That the Cabinet approve the Project Integra Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy (JMWMS) and recommend to Council that this Strategy be adopted.

### 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, which the Council has responded to.
- 2.3 The Council has also been working with partner authorities across Hampshire to develop a new county-wide strategy, known as a Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy (JMWMS) which will set overall aims and objectives for all Hampshire local authorities.
- 2.4 The JMWMS has to be approved by all 14 Hampshire authorities.

### 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. The key measures within the NWS have been subject to two rounds of consultation in 2019 and 2021.
- 3.2 The Council's Sustainable Waste Management Member Task and Finish Group was set up to consider the national, regional, and local factors that were likely to shape the development of a new Waste Strategy for the New Forest. 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. This is known as a two-stream collection.
  - 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
- 3.3 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.

- 3.4 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.
- 3.5 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.
- 3.6 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.
- 3.7 Lead PI Officers, and Portfolio Holders from all partners, have taken part in a series of workshop to identify future priorities. These priorities were presented to the PISB in July 2021, before the final JMWMS was drafted and circulated to all partners for their consideration. The intention is for all partners to have approved the strategy by the date of the next PISB on 26 October 2021.

#### 4. JMWMS

- 4.1 The new JMWMS is included as appendix 1. Key elements of the JMWMS are included below. These are high level principles, and the Strategy states that local decision making however will continue to be maintained across the Partnership to ensure local factors, budgets and challenges are taken into account within any decision making to ensure the approach is best suited for all partners.

Partnership Working
➤ <b>Whole system thinking</b> 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.
➤ An <b>implementation plan</b> with clear actions will be developed by a joint PI working group, along with responsibilities assigned to stakeholders to ensure objectives can be met. Local variations will be captured and considered in the plan as it is understood not all stakeholders will be able to follow the same approach in all instances. A clear consensus is required by all stakeholders with collaboration, regular engagement and decision making necessary to ensure the implementation plan is realistic and achievable.
➤ Setting agreed <b>performance indicators and targets</b> - A performance monitoring regime will be developed and agreed by all PI partners to track improvements made against each performance indicator.
➤ Revision to PI <b>Funding Arrangements</b> - 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.

<b>Recyclable Material Management</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Introduction of <b>two stream collections</b> – this will consist of “fibres” (paper and card) in one 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. This change will require the redevelopment of waste transfer station infrastructure and MRFs to be capable of handling glass and a wider range of plastics within a containers material stream.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ <b>Reduced contamination</b> - Improving recycling performance through reducing contamination is a key operational focus for PI. Contamination of Dry Mixed Recycling is currently at around 16%. Reduced contamination will improve quality of material as well as reduce costs. Non-target materials in the wrong containers can cause processing problems at the MRFs, with whole loads of recycling sometimes having to be rejected. It is anticipated that contamination will reduce with the segregation of paper and card from other materials when the two-stream service is implemented, as well as it being easier to identify contamination. Partners will use communications, monitoring and sampling and improve consistency of approach across all partners.</li> </ul>
<b>Waste Reduction</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Development and delivery of <b>waste prevention initiatives</b> - PI partners will encourage and support residents to drive down the volume of waste that is produced through the development of appropriate initiatives. Implementing initiatives requires agreement on funding, consistent messaging and resourcing, and responsible messages and engagement with residents at local levels will ensure local accountability.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Increased reuse of <b>bulky waste</b> and promotion of <b>home composting</b> – to maximise the diversion of bulky waste (furniture etc) out of the waste stream and into reuse, and maximise composting within gardens.</li> </ul>
<b>Best Practice</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ <b>Zero waste to landfill</b> - 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.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Evaluation and introduction of <b>alternative fuels for vehicles</b> - PI partners will evaluate and discuss the introduction of low carbon transport options, (such as electric, hybrid, biofuels or hydrogen) whilst being mindful of the budgetary and contractual constraints that exist across the partnership.</li> </ul>
<b>Service Delivery</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Consistent, <b>best practice approach to service provision</b> – PI partners will aspire to implement consistent policies and approaches, in particular, PI partners will aspire to implement consistent side waste, clinical waste and contamination policies. The partnership will be mindful of local decisions and circumstances.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Improved and consistent <b>communications campaigns</b> – PI partners will work to improve their communications and have a consistent, standardised approach for maximum impact county wide. For example, consistent PI level messaging utilising ‘Hampshire Recycles’ initiative, development of a behavioural change plan, and consistent communications to support residents during the rollout of any new waste services.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Increased <b>cross boundary working</b> - 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.</li> </ul>

## **5. OTHER PARTNERSHIP DOCUMENTS**

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, the cost of dealing with contamination, 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.

## **6. CONCLUSIONS**

6.1 The JMWMS is an important tool which allows the partnership to move forward together, by setting out the key priorities which will be reviewed by partners every 3 years.

6.2 It also confirms that NFDC’s own draft waste strategy and “preferred option” align with the direction of travel across Hampshire – for example with regard to two-stream collections, food waste, and waste prevention.

6.3 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 change to frontline services, and these will be further detailed in a final waste strategy.

7.2 The latest Medium Term Financial Plan assumed that changes proposed by the County Council in income retention and contamination charges would come into effect from April 2022. As a result of the work going into the JMWMS, there will be no change to the current financial arrangements between HCC and NFDC until April 2023. In 2022-23, NFDC will continue to receive income from sale of Dry Mixed Recycling (DMR), and will not be subject to a charge for delivering contaminated DMR.

## **8. CRIME & DISORDER IMPLICATIONS**

8.1 There are none.

## **9. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS**

9.1 The JMWMS will inform the Council’s final waste strategy which 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.

## **11. ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABILITY OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PANEL COMMENTS**

- 11.1 The Environment and Sustainability Overview and Scrutiny Panel, at its meeting on 9 September 2021, was supportive of the high level principles of the JMWMS.

## **12. PORTFOLIO HOLDER COMMENTS**

- 12.1 This document describes the progress that the District is making on its own waste collection strategy, emanating from the Government's national and regional waste management strategy. Having been reviewed with our Project Integra partners across Hampshire, I am delighted that the Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy received support from the Environment and Sustainability Overview and Scrutiny Panel, and is now presented to the Cabinet.

### **For further information contact: Background Papers:**

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[NFDC's Draft Waste Strategy](#)

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