

## **PORTFOLIO – ENVIRONMENT & COASTAL SERVICES**

### **ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABILITY OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PANEL -**

**12 JANUARY 2023**

## **WASTE PROGRAMME UPDATE**

### **1. RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 1.1 That the Panel note the revised programme for implementation of the Waste Strategy.
- 1.2 That the Panel note the progress on the ICT and Depot projects.

### **2. INTRODUCTION**

- 2.1 In response to national and regional changes in the approach to management of waste and resources, as well as a desire to ensure that local goals are met, the Council approved the Waste Strategy 2022-27 in July 2022.
- 2.2 Approved changes to the waste and recycling collection system as set out in the Strategy include:
  - 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 wheeled bin
- 2.3 This report provides an update on the waste strategy, as well as an update on the 2 other key projects that form the Waste Programme. These are the Operations ICT Project, and the Hardley Depot Project.

### **3. UPDATE ON WASTE STRATEGY TIMELINE**

#### *3.1 Background*

- 3.1.1 In November 2021, NFDC approved a new Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy (JMWMS) paving the way for service changes. All other Hampshire authorities have also signed up to the JMWMS. Part of this agreement is the introduction of “twin stream” recycling collections consisting of “fibres” (paper and card) in one receptacle, and “containers” (glass bottles and jars, metal tins and cans, drinks cartons, and plastic packaging including bottles, pots, tubs, trays and film) in another.
- 3.1.2 This change requires the redevelopment of waste transfer station infrastructure and a new Materials Recovery Facility (MRF) to be capable of sorting glass and a wider range of plastics within the container’s material stream. On 3<sup>rd</sup> October 2022, HCC approved a project appraisal (see Background Papers) for the infrastructure development. This gives authority to procure, spend and enter into necessary contractual arrangements, and it includes a new MRF in Eastleigh. The planning permission for this new MRF was approved by HCC on 19<sup>th</sup> October 2022.
- 3.1.3 The service changes set out in the Waste Strategy 2022-2027 have interdependencies with the development of this new infrastructure. Specifically, the Council cannot

increase the range of material in the mixed dry recycling to include glass and additional plastics, without a facility to sort this material mix. The MRF is currently expected to be operational in mid-2025.

3.1.4 The Government’s responses to the last round of waste and recycling consultations on “Consistency” which closed in July 2021, are still awaited. This means that there is still no clarity on Government funding and timelines for new legislation. The latest information available from the Government indicates that the Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) funding will be available from April 2024, although there is some industry concern about the deliverability of this timeline. “Efficient and effective” collection services will receive full net cost funding (relating to the collection of packaging) under EPR. It is worth saying that NFDC’s current collection system is unlikely to be seen as “efficient and effective”, meaning that without service change to improve these services, NFDC may not receive the full funding it is eligible for.

### 3.2 Proposed Timeline

3.2.1 In light of the MRF delivery timetable and the continued delayed government decision making, an implementation plan has been produced. This implementation plan involves the introduction of wheeled bins for garden waste in 2024, and remaining service changes in 2025.

3.2.2 The Waste Programme Board, which oversees this programme of work, did consider whether service changes could be implemented any earlier. The proposed plan was assessed as having the most acceptable overall outcomes in terms of:

Environmental objectives	Customer experience
Impact on staffing	Ability to deliver national objectives
Impacts on waste transfer	Operational efficiencies
Financial implications	

3.2.3 The rollout of wheeled bins for garden waste is not dependent upon new waste infrastructure and therefore is scheduled for 2024. Experience from other council areas shows this will increase tonnages of garden waste and therefore improve recycling rates, as well as improving working conditions for staff. Carrying out remaining service changes in 2025 will align with the new MRF delivery timetable and allow for a more-straight forward and consistent rollout for our residents. Compared to other options considered by Programme Board, this plan will also allow us to continue with our current staffing levels until service change in 2025, when staffing requirements will increase due to the addition of food waste collections. It also avoids a significant additional financial burden and will ensure the council has greater certainty on new burdens funding, the Extended Producer Responsibility scheme and associated funding, and the financial arrangements with Hampshire County Council.

3.2.4 A high level indicative timeline is shown below. As discussed in 3.2.3, this timeline is subject to external factors including legislation, funding and completion of infrastructure. The council will have to work with HCC to consider mitigations needed in the event of any infrastructure delays.

	2023				2024				2025			
	Jan – Mar	Apr - June	Jul -sept	Oct - Dec	Jan – Mar	Apr - June	Jul -sept	Oct - Dec	Jan – Mar	Apr - June	Jul -sept	Oct – Dec
Go live Phases			New ICT system			Garden waste	Hardley depot					Core service 3 phases
Property surveying												
Collection policy development												
Garden waste container procurement and delivery												
Garden waste vehicle modifications												
Core service vehicle procurement/delivery												
Core service container procurement/delivery												

#### 4. HARDLEY DEPOT UPDATE

- 4.1 The design for the new depot for operational services has now been finalised, including offices, workshops, vehicle parking and storage. The revised design required planning permission, and the planning application was submitted on 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2022 with a target date of March 2023 for a planning decision.
- 4.2 The Council's retained Technical Advisors are preparing the tender pack and revised specifications. The tender process for the detailed design and build contract will be underway shortly, with a preferred contractor identified by April 2023.
- 4.3 It is expected the final decision as to whether to proceed with the development will be taken by Council in spring 2023. If the decision is taken to proceed with the development, the preferred contractor can be appointed with the objective to complete the construction of the development by the summer of 2024.

#### 5. ICT PROJECT UPDATE

- 5.1 Procurement of the Operations ICT System has been completed. Project team members reviewed and scored submissions from 4 suppliers and carried out final interviews with three of these. The evaluation process has allowed the project team to consider best functional fit, quality, and the most economically advantageous tender. We hope to have preferred provider in place in early 2023 with a 12-to-15-month implementation timeline.

#### 6. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 The introduction of wheeled bins for garden waste will require the following funding for 2023-24 which will be further detailed in the February 2023 budget reports to Cabinet and Council:
  - £600k for supply and delivery of wheeled bins for garden waste
  - £120k for amendments to existing garden waste vehicles
  - £175k to prepare for the garden waste wheeled bins and wider service changes – consisting mainly of additional staffing support and survey of property suitability for wheeled bins.

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**Background Papers:**

[Waste Strategy Update to Panel, September 2022](#)

[Project Appraisal: Hampshire Recycling  
Infrastructure Development](#)