

Equality and Safety Impact Assessment

The Public Sector Equality Duty (Section 149 of the Equality Act) requires public bodies to have due regard to the need to eliminate discrimination, advance equality of opportunity, and foster good relations between different people carrying out their activities.

The Equality Duty supports good decision making – it encourages public bodies to be more efficient and effective by understanding how different people will be affected by their activities, so that their policies and services are appropriate and accessible to all and meet different people’s needs. The Council’s Equality and Safety Impact Assessment (ESIA) includes an assessment of the community safety impact assessment to comply with section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act and will enable the Council to better understand the potential impact of the budget proposals and consider mitigating action.

<p>Name or Brief Description of Proposal</p>	<p>Waste Improvement and Transformation Plan (“WITP”)</p>
<p>Brief Service Profile</p>	
<p>As a unitary authority, Southampton City Council has a legal duty to arrange for the collection and disposal of household waste, and if requested, commercial and industrial waste. The Council’s Waste service operates free fortnightly collections of residual (‘black bag’) and recycling waste from all areas of Southampton. Residents of low-rise properties in Southampton are provided with separate bins for residual waste, dry mixed recycling (“DMR”: paper, card, tins, aerosols, and plastic bottles) and glass. Some blocks of flats have communal bins for residual, DMR and glass. The total number of residential dwellings serviced is around 110,000, or 260,111 residents. Criteria for the correct presentation of bins by residents is set out in the Council’s ‘Managing the Local Environment Policy’. The Council operates further chargeable collection services including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a trade waste service for local businesses; • a bulky waste collection service; and, • a garden waste collection service (servicing around 18,000 properties). <p>Disposal of waste in Hampshire is carried out through an integrated system, in which the Council is one of three disposal authorities (along with Hampshire County Council and Portsmouth City Council). Coordination of the integrated system is achieved through the Project Integra waste management partnership, comprising Hampshire’s district councils and the disposal authorities. Disposal of household</p>	

waste is carried out on behalf of the disposal authorities by Veolia UK under arrangements which commenced in 1997. Trade waste in Southampton is disposed of by a separate contractor. Currently, Southampton's recycling rate is around 29%, with around 21% of material in recycling bins diverted to landfill or incineration because it is too contaminated.

Waste service delivery is supported by other areas of the Council, including customer services, business support and human resources, communications and legal.

Summary of Impact and Issues

The WITP sets three fundamental goals to drive the planning and operations of the Waste Service during the period 2022-27:

- Increase Southampton's recycling rate above 50% by 2027.
- Improve the customer experience.
- Work with partners to encourage and enforce responsible waste behaviours.

The period of effect of the WITP covers important changes in the regulatory landscape for waste set out in the Environment Act 2021. The 2021 Act will require the consistent collection by local authorities of a wider range of dry mixed recyclables and the separate collection of food waste, with duties expected to commence from 2023/24. Through its membership of the Project Integra partnership and its adoption of the Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy in November 2021, the Council has committed to introducing a twin-stream collection system for DMR to meet the requirements of the 2021 Act. This system will maintain the existing number of containers for DMR (two) but introduce a different mix of recycling. Glass, cartons, plastics, tin cans and aerosols will go into the existing, blue-lidded recycling bin, with paper and cardboard (fibres) in a separate bin. The WITP addresses the changes to organisation, management and service delivery required to carry twin-streaming and weekly food-waste collections into effect.

The WITP extends further than the requirements of the 2021 Act in defining and setting out plans to address wider issues affecting the performance of the Waste service. It sets new quantitative targets for recycling (above 50% by 2027), reducing contamination (5% or lower by 2027), reducing fly-tipping (80% reduction in fly-tipping), reducing missed bins (90% reduction by 2027) and reducing round cancellations (zero cancellations by 2027). It aims to improve engagement with community stakeholders to further the achievement of these targets.

The WITP addresses the performance of internal aspects of the Waste service, including communications; career development and training provision; IT access; and data gathering and analysis. It is intended that implementation of the WITP will bring about a general improvement of the Waste service across three phases:

1. Stabilisation (by April 2023).
2. Improvement (by April 2025).
3. Excellence (by April 2027).

Potential Positive Impacts

The implementation of twin-streaming and a weekly food waste collection in compliance with the 2021 Act are expected to increase the rate of recycling (with customers able to recycle a wider range of materials). Greater separation of materials will lead to an increase in material quality and a lower rate of contamination, decreasing the cost of disposal for the Council. The weekly collection of food waste will lead to a reduction in the proportion of organic material in residual bins, leading to improved hygiene and a reduction in vermin and bad odours. Other measures under the 2021 Act to be implemented centrally will bring about improved labelling of plastic packaging, further improving the rate of recycling in local authority streams.

Twin stream collections will present a lower risk of injuries to SCC operatives than the currently co-mingled system, as waste will be distributed across more containers and less spillages from glass containers.

Measures in the WITP to reduce the number of missed bins and to eliminate cancelled rounds will improve the quality of service provided to residents of Southampton. The adoption of a new waste collection policy by 2023 will improve access to the Waste service for all residents by providing a clear and consistent set of criteria for bin presentation (including contents) and a clear procedure for non-compliance. It is expected that this and general improvements under the WITP will reduce the occurrence of bins left out on highways by residents following collection, which may present a risk to persons with disabilities.

Responsible Service Manager	David Tyrie Head of City Services
Date	January 2022

Approved by Senior Manager	James Strachan Service Director, Business Development
Date	January 2022

Potential Negative Impacts

Impact Assessment	Details of Impact	Possible Solutions
Age	No impact.	
Disability	People with disabilities may require assistance presenting their DMR containers for collection.	SCC will continue to operate an assisted collection service where loaders will collect the containers from a collection point inside the resident's property boundary and return them to the collection point following emptying.
Gender Reassignment	No impact.	
Marriage and Civil Partnership	No impact.	
Pregnancy and Maternity	No impact.	
Race	No impact.	
Religion or Belief	No impact.	
Sex	No impact.	
Sexual Orientation	No impact.	
Community Safety	No impact.	
Poverty	No impact.	
Other Significant Impacts	Changes to the recycling collection system may cause confusion for residents.	<p>The adoption of twin streaming (rather than kerbside sort) will minimise disruption for residents by providing the same number of containers.</p> <p>The measures in the 2021 Act will make recycling simpler for residents by ensuring a consistent set of materials is collected by local authorities across England albeit some LA's will opt for / continue kerbside sorting of separate materials.</p> <p>The move to twin streaming will be accompanied by a comprehensive, multi-channel communications campaign. Due</p>

		regard will be paid to removing communication barriers for people with relevant protected characteristics.
--	--	--