

HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Executive Decision Record

Decision Maker:	Executive Lead Member for Transport and Environment Strategy
Date:	3 October 2022
Title:	Project Appraisal: Hampshire Recycling Infrastructure Development
Report From:	Director of Economy, Transport and Environment

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1. The decision:

- 1.1 That the Executive Lead Member for Transport and Environment Strategy approves the Project Appraisal for a Materials Recovery Facility at Chickenhall Lane in Eastleigh and the associated necessary works to the Waste Transfer Station network, as outlined in the supporting report, subject to granting of the necessary planning permission.
- 1.2 That approval be given to procure, spend and enter into the necessary contractual arrangements, in consultation with the Head of Legal Services, to implement the proposed development of the Materials Recovery Facility at Chickenhall Lane in Eastleigh and associated works to the Waste Transfer Station network across Hampshire, as set out in the supporting report, at an estimated total cost of £30 million, with a £23.1million contribution from Hampshire County Council to be funded from prudential borrowing.
- 1.3 That authority to make the arrangements to implement the scheme, including minor variations to the design or contract, be delegated to the Director of Economy, Transport and Environment.

2. Reasons for the decision:

- 2.1 This decision will enable the County Council to develop a new materials recovery facility (MRF) that is capable of processing the increased range of materials that is required because of the introduction of the Environment Act 2021¹ (the Act) and specifically the measures set out within the Act relating to the consistency of kerbside recycling collections.

¹ [Environment Act 2021 \(legislation.gov.uk\)](https://legislation.gov.uk)

2.2 The existing recycling infrastructure in Hampshire is nearing the end of its operational life and is not capable of managing the range of material streams that the legislation requires local authorities to collect and therefore a decision to provide a new material recovery facility is necessary.

3. Other options considered and rejected:

3.1 The option to not change the recyclable material specification collected at the kerbside was considered and rejected, as this would mean that the County Council as well as the other partner authorities within Project Integra would fail to comply with the requirements of the Environment Act 2021.

3.2 The option to refit the two existing materials recovery facilities has been considered and rejected. The Portsmouth MRF does not have sufficient space on the site to accommodate a facility capable of processing the wider range of materials. The Alton site would cost a significant amount to redevelop to be able to process the new material mix, and whilst closed for works would result in significant material diversion out of the county to maintain the kerbside recycling collections in Hampshire. The financial and carbon cost of transporting this material for an extended period of time was considered to be prohibitive and therefore redevelopment of the existing sites was rejected.

3.3 The option to develop a single materials recovery facility to process a fully comingled recyclables material mix was considered and rejected as it was determined that this would incur significant unacceptable financial costs and would also not meet the requirements of the Environment Act to ensure clear separation of material streams, particularly of the fibre element from the remaining materials.²

3.4 The option of a system where all items are separated into materials streams at the point of collection at the kerbside was considered and rejected. An in-depth assessment of this option showed that it would achieve comparable results in terms of recycling performance but with a greater carbon impact and financial cost than the twin stream system that the proposed development will enable.

4. Conflicts of interest:

4.1 Conflicts of interest declared by the decision-maker:

4.2 Conflicts of interest declared by other Executive Members consulted:

5. Dispensation granted by the Conduct Advisory Panel: none.

² [Recycling and Single Materials Recovery Facility Update-2020-07-02-EMETE Decision Day \(hants.gov.uk\)](https://www.hants.gov.uk/news/recycling-and-single-materials-recovery-facility-update-2020-07-02-emetete-decision-day)

6. Reason(s) for the matter being dealt with if urgent: not applicable.

7. Statement from the Decision Maker:

I thank the Transport and Environment Select Committee for their consideration and support of the proposals. In making my decision, I also note the change in the delivery timescales to now be extended into 2025.

Approved by:

Date:

3 October 2022

**Executive Lead Member for Transport and
Environment Strategy
Councillor Edward Heron**