

HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Decision Report

Decision Maker:	Executive Member - Environment
Date:	5 April 2011
Title:	A Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment and Batteries Collection Contract
Reference:	2791
Report From:	Director of Environment

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1. Executive Summary

- 1.1. The purpose of this report is to gain approval to issue a tender for the provision of waste electrical and electronic equipment (WEEE) and batteries collection, treatment and recycling in Hampshire.
- 1.2. This paper will outline the existing WEEE and batteries collection arrangement, and demonstrate the benefits of entering into a similar contract following the end of the existing contract on 31 December 2011.

2. Contextual information

- 2.1. WEEE is the fastest-growing waste stream in the EU and contains hazardous elements, which present challenges in terms of treatment and disposal. Through appropriate processing, it is possible to recover valuable materials from WEEE, reducing the risk of pollution to the environment and providing the opportunity to capture precious metals and rare earth elements for reuse.
- 2.2. The Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment (WEEE) Regulations 2006 and Batteries Regulations 2009 aim to reduce the impact of end of life electrical equipment on the environment by reducing the amount disposed of to landfill, and increasing recovery and recycling rates.
- 2.3. The 26 Household Waste Recycling Centres (HWRCs) in Hampshire, (including Southampton City Council and Portsmouth City Council) receive WEEE and batteries from residents, which amounted to 7,418 tonnes in 2010.
- 2.4. Under the WEEE and Battery Regulations, the manufacturers of these items are responsible for the cost of their end of life treatment and disposal.

Producer Compliance Schemes (PCSs) undertake these collections from HWRC sites and transfer stations on behalf of manufacturers, at no cost to the waste disposal authorities in Hampshire. WEEE is currently removed from DCFs by Geodis UK under contract to the European Recycling Platform (ERP) producer compliance scheme.

- 2.5. WEEE includes the hazardous waste streams of fridges and freezers, TVs and monitors, fluorescent tubes and low energy light bulbs. It also includes non hazardous electrical items, such as washing machines and dishwashers, and small items, including all electrical gadgets, such as toasters, kettles, game consoles and audio visual equipment.

3. Finance

- 3.1. The current WEEE and batteries collection contract has no cost to Hampshire County Council. The intention is to ensure, if possible, that the replacement contract also has no cost to Hampshire County Council, subject to changes in market conditions and future changes in legislation.
- 3.2. A key feature of the current contract is that Geodis agrees not to claim rights of physical access or financial revenue over any waste collected by the Council as scrap metal or other waste. Large Domestic Appliances (LDA) have a scrap metal value which is shared between Hampshire and the HWRC contractor, Hopkins Recycling Limited. In 2010, this was around £220,000, of which the County Council received £90,000 as income. Retaining this revenue is a critical part of the existing contract in terms of its benefit to Hampshire County Council.
- 3.3. If Hampshire County Council did not let a new WEEE and batteries collection contract, it would become liable for the costs of disposing of the hazardous elements of WEEE. Prior to putting the current WEEE and batteries collection contract in place, this cost was around £900,000 per year.

4. Performance

- 4.1. The EU has set collection targets for Member States of 4 kilogrammes per inhabitant per year. Some countries, including the UK, have achieved considerably higher rates.
- 4.2. In 2009 the UK collected 7.3 kilogrammes of WEEE per inhabitant, which represents 37% of the WEEE put on the market. This was a rise from 2008, which saw 31% of WEEE collected.
- 4.3. In 2010, Hampshire recycled nearly 7,500 tonnes of WEEE and batteries, and achieved a collection rate of over 7.5 kilogrammes per inhabitant in 2010, well above the national target.
- 4.4. Small WEEE is the most challenging category to capture, because these items can easily be disposed of along with residual waste. The UK as a

whole captured less than half as much of the small WEEE on the market as the other categories, a trend which was reflected in Hampshire. It is likely that the revised WEEE Directive will focus on achieving increased collection of small WEEE, so it is the intention to focus more on this material stream, in line with national priorities.

5. Other key issues

- 5.1. The EU WEEE Directive is currently being revised by the European Parliament. The updated Directive is likely to include increased collection targets for the UK, an increased focus on maximising the separate collection of small WEEE, and increased emphasis on reuse of electrical items.
- 5.2. In order to respond proactively to future regulatory changes, the contract will offer flexibility to include options for kerbside collection, where locally appropriate, and opportunities to investigate and facilitate responsible reuse.

6. Recommendations

- 6.1. That approval be given to tender, in accordance with the report, a waste electrical and electronic equipment and batteries collection contract in Hampshire for a period of three years from January 2012, extendable annually by additional periods of one year up to a maximum total contract period of six years.
- 6.2. That the Director of Environment, in consultation with the Executive Member for Environment, be authorised to award this contract and subsequent extensions to this contract.
- 6.3. That the Director of Environment, in consultation with the Executive Member for Environment, be authorised to vary the scope of the contract as necessary in line with service improvement objectives.

CORPORATE OR LEGAL INFORMATION:**Links to the Corporate Strategy**

Hampshire safer and more secure for all:	no
Corporate Improvement plan link number (if appropriate):	
Maximising well-being:	no
Corporate Improvement plan link number (if appropriate):	
Enhancing our quality of place:	yes
Corporate Improvement plan link number (if appropriate):	

Section 100 D - Local Government Act 1972 - background documents

The following documents discuss facts or matters on which this report, or an important part of it, is based and have been relied upon to a material extent in the preparation of this report. (NB: the list excludes published works and any documents which disclose exempt or confidential information as defined in the Act.)

DocumentLocation

None

IMPACT ASSESSMENTS:

1. Equalities Impact Assessment:

- 1.1. The proposed invitation to tender for a WEEE and batteries collection contract would ensure continued access for all Hampshire residents to responsible disposal of their waste electrical and electronic equipment and batteries at no cost.

2. Impact on Crime and Disorder:

- 2.1. Negligible impact.

3. Climate Change:

- a) How does what is being proposed impact on our carbon footprint / energy consumption?

The Waste and Resources Action Programme estimated that current UK recycling saves between 10-15 million tonnes of CO₂ equivalent greenhouse gases a year. This is equivalent to taking 3.5 million cars off the road.

The proposed invitation to tender for a WEEE and batteries collection contract would allow for continued separation and recycling of WEEE and batteries, and increased recycling as national targets increase, thereby reducing the carbon footprint of Hampshire residents.

- b) How does what is being proposed consider the need to adapt to climate change, and be resilient to its longer term impacts?

The current HWRC Service Provision Review includes consideration of the resilience of the HWRC network as a whole to climate change, and ensuring that it continues to provide excellent recycling facilities in the future. This will allow Hampshire to go on reducing climate change impacts through maximising recycling.