



Hampshire
County Council

Sent by email

Sent to Project Integra Board
Members

Universal Services
The Castle
Winchester, Hampshire SO23 8UD

Telephone 0300 555 1375
Fax 01962 847055
www.hants.gov.uk

Enquiries to Cllr Adams-King

My reference

NAK/SB

Direct line

Your reference

Date 24 November 2023

Email

nick.adams-king@hants.gov.uk

Dear Project Integra Board Member

Simpler Recycling – System Options and Infrastructure

I hope you are well. I wanted to write to you to set out the next steps that are required following the recent letter that The Leader, Cllr Humby, sent to you setting out the County Council's decision regarding the Inter Authority Agreement, which will enable us to move forward and improve the recycling services for Hampshire, Portsmouth and Southampton residents.

As you know, the Government has now published 'Simpler Recycling', which represents a shift in the Government's position in relation to the requirement to separate all dry recycling material streams by introducing an exemption in relation to how collections of dry recycling from the kerbside are undertaken.

As a result of this, it is important that work is undertaken by Project Integra to determine what the "optimal" recycling system is for Hampshire Authorities. This in turn will enable the Waste Disposal Authorities to determine how best to manage the resultant collected recyclables.

The Disposal Authorities will only be able to provide facilities to accommodate one collection system. Constraints at waste transfer stations means it will not be possible to accept more than one mix of material and therefore we would require agreement from all collection authorities on the preferred system. Thanks to those District Partners who have indicated interest in co-investment, however the Disposal Authorities will not be seeking any co-investment in the delivery of any new infrastructure.

We now have a date by which the Government expects all authorities to be compliant with Simpler Recycling in terms of household waste collections - 1 April

Lead Executive Member for Highways Operations
Councillor **Nick Adams-King**

2026 - and we know that it will be very challenging to achieve this. If there are delays in deciding the preferred recycling system this may impact on the timeframe for delivery of any processing and disposal solutions. As a result, we would ask that a decision is made on the preferred system by 1st March 2024 to give the best opportunity to deliver any new infrastructure by April 2026 or as close to that date as reasonably possible.

I am also aware that Simpler Recycling contained another exemption to allow comingling of garden and food waste and therefore also wanted to set out the County Council's position with regard to provision for managing the organic waste streams. There is existing provision for source segregated garden waste utilising open windrow composting, in line with how garden waste is already collected by all the waste collection and Unitary authorities. We intend to make provision for separately collected food waste, for which new burdens funding will be provided to collection authorities by the Government, and therefore will not accept a comingled organics stream.

The County Council is committed to ensuring we achieve compliance with Simpler Recycling and deliver improved recycling for Hampshire, Portsmouth and Southampton residents. I look forward to working with all our partners to deliver this and as always am available to discuss this with you should it be helpful to do so.

Yours sincerely

A black rectangular redaction box covering the signature of the sender.

Cllr Nick Adams-King
Lead Cabinet Member for Universal Services

CC: Hampshire Chief Executives