

2020/21 Q4 – ENVIRONMENT, HERITAGE & WASTE MANAGEMENT

Key Activities Q4

Ensure the completion and implementation of the new waste to energy plant, to time and budget and that once open the plant delivers as per the requirements of the waste contract and the commercial aspects of the contract are delivered.

The Energy from Waste Plant passed its Readiness Tests and has been issued a certificate of Readiness by the Independent Certifier. This means that the individual component parts are all electrified and have been tested in isolation to ensure they pass installation and operational tests. This signifies the successful end to cold commissioning. Hot Commissioning and preparation for the acceptance tests has now commenced.

The Hot commissioning phase is now underway during which incinerator box will be slowly heated to operational temperature a number of times, and trial loads of fuel from non-recyclable waste will go through the plant. Each test will help the engineer finetune the plant to achieve the maximum electrical efficiency, and optimal operating environment. However, the Amey (IOW) Service Provider has indicated that the Acceptance Tests are now anticipated to be complete at the end of August 2021. All construction delay is entirely the financial risk of our service provider and does not affect the diversion of waste from landfill or the recycle rates being achieved on the island.

Construction risk and cost of residual waste above agreed contract rates sits with Amey. The council has maintained the service charged step down from August 18 when the plant was originally due to be completed (prior Energos failure) meaning that Amey have to cover the treatment cost gap for sending waste to a mainland ERF.

Through the robust adherence to the target rates set out in the contract despite the delay in the erf completion, the contract is now achieving a 99.8 per cent diversion from landfill of all contract waste and continues to exceed recycling targets.

All and any costs incurred to the delay will not be at the Council's cost.

HWRCs were initially closed in line with the Govt lockdown restrictions but were reopened with stringent social distancing measures in May 2020. The booking system that was introduced as part of the reopening protocol has proved to be very popular, and with some adjustments, will remain in place permanently. The booking system and number of bookings has remained steady moving into the most recent lockdown.

All household collections have continued during the Covid-19 restrictions and recycling rates have remained high.

Complete the review of all premises requiring commercial waste collections and develop an appropriate commercial offer to the owners of the premises

Commercial offer to all business is available and published online. The contract is seeing a steady increase in the number of commercial users of both the Trade Waste Collection Service and the Commercial Waste Recycling Centre at Lynnbottom where they can pay as they throw without a contract.

Holiday lets and B&Bs are to receive a reminder again this year that their waste from operating the business is commercial and request waste transfer notes to evidence that appropriate arrangements for commercial waste are in place.

Duty of Care letters and a campaign is being finalised that will remind all commercial premises on the Island of their DoC to store waste securely and ensure that it is transferred legally to a licensed waste site or registered waste carrier.

Develop a corporate approach to the minimisation of single use plastics

The new Procurement Strategy was approved by [Cabinet in November 2019](#) and includes reference to the reduction of single use plastics as a consideration when purchasing.

The new [Climate Change and Environment Strategy](#) was reviewed at the Policy and Scrutiny Committee for Regeneration and Neighbourhoods on the 9 January, which included the outcomes and actions to work towards the minimisation of plastics in the workplace as part of the overarching [strategy to reduce the councils carbon emission to net zero by 2030](#).

Practical suggestions were made which included obtaining funding for the Rights of Way Improvement Plan, exporting surplus solar energy to the mainland, government grants for heating for those in fuel poverty, and working with other partners such as the National Trust, CLA and Natural Enterprise to obtain grants. It was confirmed that the Green Homes grant and Warm up Wight scheme providing free insulation were already available. The Green Impact Programme for businesses would be further promoted in the coming months. Low carbon housing, solar panel policies and urban rewilding would be looked at as part of the Island Plan.

Ensure that all procurement activity includes the need for good environmental performance from goods and services

The new Procurement Strategy was approved by Cabinet in November 2019 and is based around four key themes; Leadership, Behaving commercially, Local community & Economy and Environmental considerations.

Twice yearly reports to the Council's Audit Committee show the progress against these themes with environmental criteria being built into evaluation criteria for contracts with it being possible to exclude suppliers from any procurement process if they have fallen foul of environmental regulations. Where appropriate key performance indicators are built into council contracts to monitor carbon emissions.

Review energy management activity and procurement of energy for all council owned and operated assets to ensure it provides economic and environmental best value

Water contracts have been secured and the council is to remain with Business stream until 1 February 2025.

Fixed term, fixed price contracts have been entered into for one year for all council sites with Ecotricity (Electricity) and Gazprom (Gas). Contracts are in place until 30 September 2021. The project investigating flexible contracts has not progressed on account of resources being diverted to other priorities. The council is to enter into a further fixed term, fixed price energy contract (procured by July 2021) running from 1 October 2021 to 30 September 2022 with a review of flexible contracts being proposed for November 2021.

13 of 14 bids were approved and the council has received some £2.4 million for 'heat decarbonisation' projects to be completed by September 2021. Quotes and feasibility work is being undertaken by the Corporate Property Maintenance Team however significant time constraints puts many of the projects at risk. Thompson house was awarded some £227 thousand for energy efficiency projects but this project is cancelled as a result of the sites future with the council being uncertain.

Work towards the delivery of a new record office

Newport And Carisbrooke Community Council (N&CCC) members decided that at this time there was not sufficient appetite to proceed with providing funding to support the scheme. This was down to a number of factors but their discussion regarding relocating offices to the library sparked wider discussions, and Councillors agreed to proceed with the search and lease/purchase of a property on the High Street.

As the council is still not in a position to consider any new financial obligations (as a result of the Covid-19 costs and the impact on income) it is currently unable to allocate funding to the scheme for either the initial feasibility work or scheme costs. The scheme is therefore effectively on hold and further discussions will be required with The National Archive regarding the ongoing suitability of Hillside.

Develop a rights of way strategy for the Island, promoting riding, cycling and walking.

[Rights of Way improvement plan](#) has been produced and published on iow.gov.uk after consultation with key stakeholders. Guidance on social distancing rules that are applicable to rights of way have also been published on the IW Council website.

By the summer of 2020, secure the future of the Island's geological collection by working with regeneration and investment partners on the future of Dinosaur Isle.

The dialogue process with one remaining bidder following the Invitation to Tender was on hold due to Covid-19 and continues with the remaining bidder via the procurement portal. Following recent dialogue sessions, Cabinet report on 11 March 2021 was approved to set out and agree the next stages of the process, including key dates and deadlines

Support the AONB Partnership with their work in maintaining and enhancing the Isle of Wight's UNESCO Biosphere designation.

The Council continues to support the UNESCO Biosphere designation with invaluable help from the finance department on the UNESCO Sites Across the Channel project and the support of the Isle of Wight Local Records Centre. The latter is working with the AONB on the production of an Isle of Wight AONB Nature Recovery Plan as the delays in the passage of the Environment Bill will not allow a fully co-ordinated approach to Local Nature Recovery. The work by Neighbourhoods on the IW Climate and Environment Strategy will also be important in promotion and action around the Sustainable Development Goals that underpin the Biosphere designation.

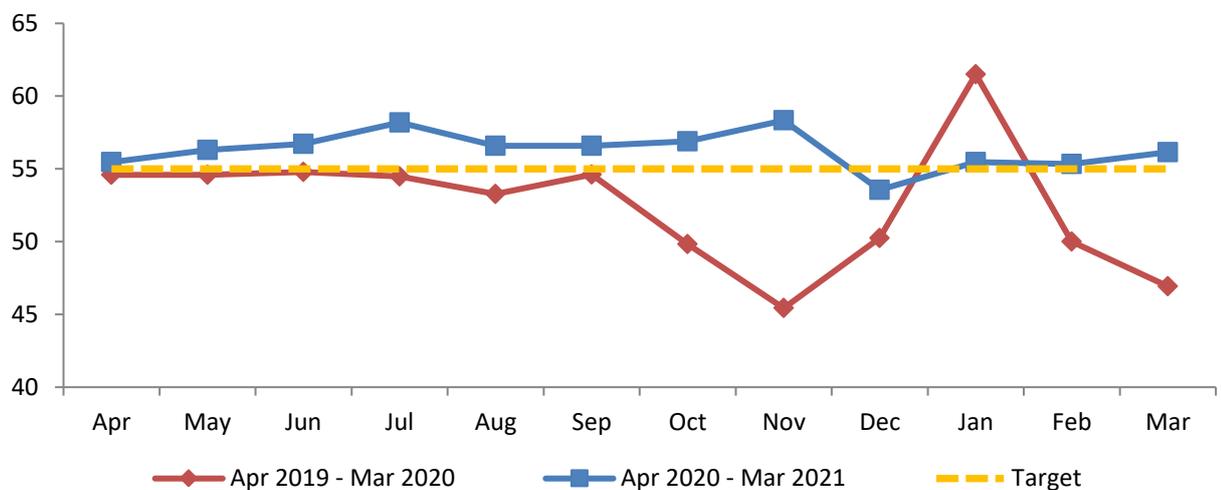
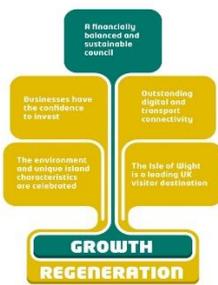
Following the successful environment conference in 2018, develop and implement an environment action plan, by December 2019, that defines our commitment to protect our environment, improve green infrastructure and identify potential for growth of the green economy.

The Climate Change and Environment Strategy will pull together the aspiration for the full council to meet net zero carbon use by 2030. The single use action plan and the environment action plan will form part of the corporate actions of the Climate Change and Environment Strategy.

The draft Climate Change strategy was considered by the policy scrutiny committee in January 2021 with comments being incorporated and submission to Cabinet for consideration in July 2021.

Short term measures

Percentage of contract waste recycled or composted (Rolling 12 months)



Recycling rates for 2020 have been comparably better than the previous year with January being the only month where last year's performance wasn't exceeded and every month other than December has been above the target of 55 per cent.

Strategic Risks

| Failure of the Waste contract resulting in significant financial and operational disruption for the council and its residents | | | Assigned to: Director of Neighbourhoods | | |
|--|----------------|----------------|--|----------------|----------------|
| Inherent score | Target score | Current score | Previous scores | | |
| | | | Feb 21 | Sep 20 | Jun 20 |
| 16 RED | 5 GREEN | 8 AMBER | 8 AMBER | 8 AMBER | 8 AMBER |
| No change to risk | | | | | |