

Appendix A

Briefing Note for Overview and Scrutiny Panel **(Environmental Well-Being)**

Waste Disposal

Huntingdonshire District Council is the statutory Waste Collection Authority for the district and is required by law, to provide collection of domestic waste from domestic premises.

Domestic waste, once collected is delivered to the Waste Disposal Authority (Cambridgeshire County Council), who have a statutory duty to dispose of the collected material in a manner approved by DEFRA. They direct us to deliver the material that we collect to locations and sites that they specify and we are required to do so.

HDC has elected to retain ownership of the dry recycled material that we collect and make our own arrangements for it's processing. (we have the power to do this). By retaining ownership, we can generate some (very small) income from some of the material, to help offset the high costs of providing the service.

Current arrangements for the disposal of collected waste within the district are as follows:-

Residual Waste (material collected from grey bins) is delivered to a transfer station at Alconbury, from where it is shipped in bulk to the new MBT (Micro Biological Treatment) plant at Waterbeach for processing. The plant removes a range of materials from the waste such as metals / stones / plastics / glass / paper / card etc.(all very low grade material with little value or use), before putting the remaining material through a processing system which renders the material inert, so when sent to landfill, it does not create methane gas etc.

Garden Waste – including kitchen waste (material collected from Green bins) is currently delivered to a processing plant at Ellington, where it is processed using an 'In vessel' composting system (the processing is carried out inside large sealed buildings). The material produced is an inert compost material that has little or no goodness in it, so is used primarily as a soil improver for agricultural land. Some of the material is further processed, sieved and graded, has nutrients added and is sold as a domestic compost.

Dry Recycled Material (material collected from Blue Bins and green boxes) is delivered to a MRF (Material Recycling Facility) at Peterborough, where the collected material is processed, sorted and separated, then sent on for recycling.

Bring Sites material from Bring Sites is collected either directly by HDC or by third parties on our behalf and delivered to transfer stations from where it is sent for reprocessing and recycling.

Robert Ward
Head of Operations
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