

Biffa Municipal press release

3rd October 2011

PORTSMOUTH PREVIEWES NEW SERVICE

Staff from Portsmouth City Council and municipal contractor Biffa recently hosted a promotional preview of the city's new refuse and recycling service that starts today (Monday 3rd October).

Council Leader Gerald Vernon-Jackson, other council staff and Brian Ashby from Biffa showed off two brand-new Biffa collection vehicles parked in the city's Guildhall Square, and answered questions about the new service.

The KWIK Zip-mounted livery on the new vehicles includes a poem about recycling written by local resident Jim Marsh after he attended a recycling at home course arranged by the council. His recitation of the poem can be heard on a podcast at

[http://www.portsmouth.eu/media/Podcast_6 - Recycling Poem.mp3](http://www.portsmouth.eu/media/Podcast_6_-_Recycling_Poem.mp3)

Biffa was awarded the £20 million contract to provide Portsmouth's refuse and recycling services earlier this year, and has spent the last few months planning its implementation and mobilisation.

Portsmouth City Council estimates that the new contract will save the city's 200,000 residents occupying nearly 90,000 households over one million pounds annually over its eight year life, and help divert more waste from landfill by lifting the city's recycling rate.

Councillor Vernon-Jackson said that unlike many new contracts, the city would be retaining the weekly collection of refuse in sacks. Dry recyclables will be collected fortnightly from wheeled bins.

Biffa will also handle collections of communal refuse and recycling, collections from local bring banks, and clinical waste and bulky collections.

Portsmouth will also be the first local authority in Hampshire where the entire fleet of 21 vehicles will be powered by biodiesel produced from recycled cooking oil, helping reduce the CO₂ impact of its waste operations.

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Further press information from:

Blair Drummond, PR consultant Tel: 07798 686 217

Email: blair.drummond@btopenworld.com

Notes to editors:

The municipal division of recycling, waste and renewable energy business Biffa (www.biffa.co.uk) currently provides high quality, efficient recycling, refuse, street cleansing and grounds maintenance services for over 40 local authorities in England, Wales and Scotland. The division expanded considerably in late 2010 when municipal services specialist Verdant Group, and its 24 local authority contracts, joined Biffa when Greenstar UK was acquired. The municipal business makes over 2½ million collections per week, and employs in excess of 2,500 staff who use over 1,000 vehicles. Its notable successes include helping South Oxfordshire District Council achieve a recycling and composting rate of 70% during 2010, placing the

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council second in Defra's 2009-2010 league tables for overall recycling, composting and reuse and winning a LARAC Award for the most improved recycling authority. The first months of Vale of White Horse District Council's new service saw its recycling and composting rate match that of its South Oxfordshire neighbour, while a redesigned service for Surrey Heath Borough Council doubled its recycling and composting rate to almost 65%, helping it meet its 2025 target almost 15 years early.