



Sherbourne Recycling

APSE Annual Seminar 2026

Innovation Showcase: Service Transformation | Thursday 17 September

SHERBOURNE RECYCLING

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Innovation and collaboration are at the heart of Sherbourne's success as a pioneering materials recycling facility

A sector-first local authority model:

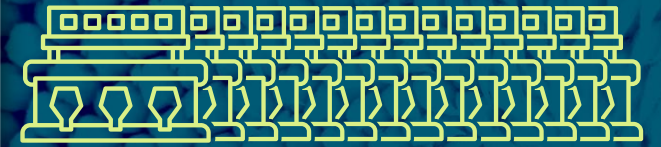
- Innovative partnership, ownership and funding model
- Technology led solution, needing minimal human intervention
- On-going commitment to the circular economy
- Unique R&D 'Circular by Design' capability
- Knowledge and understanding of operational, commercial and local authority needs
- Exclusive knowhow and experience within the team



Partnership. Resilience. Innovation.



18 SORTING ROBOT ARMS



14 OPTICAL SORTERS

100% OF MATERIAL KEPT IN THE UK



1.5MILLION RESIDENTS SERVED



AI VISION THROUGHOUT PROCESS



Why change was needed

From shared challenge to regional solution

- Journey began in 2016; Sherbourne incorporated in 2021
- Sherbourne was established to develop, operate and maintain a new state-of-the-art Materials Recycling Facility in Coventry
- Partnership of eight local authorities, formed in response to the challenge in processing kerbside recyclate:
 - Escalating waste management costs
 - Volatile recyclate markets
 - Procurement difficulty and reliance on short-term processing arrangements
 - Policy and material change: DRS, EPR and Simpler Recycling
 - Compositional changes
 - Industry labour shortages
 - Feasibility study identified sufficient capacity within the partnership to build a regional facility



Delivery and growth centred on partnership, sustainability and innovation



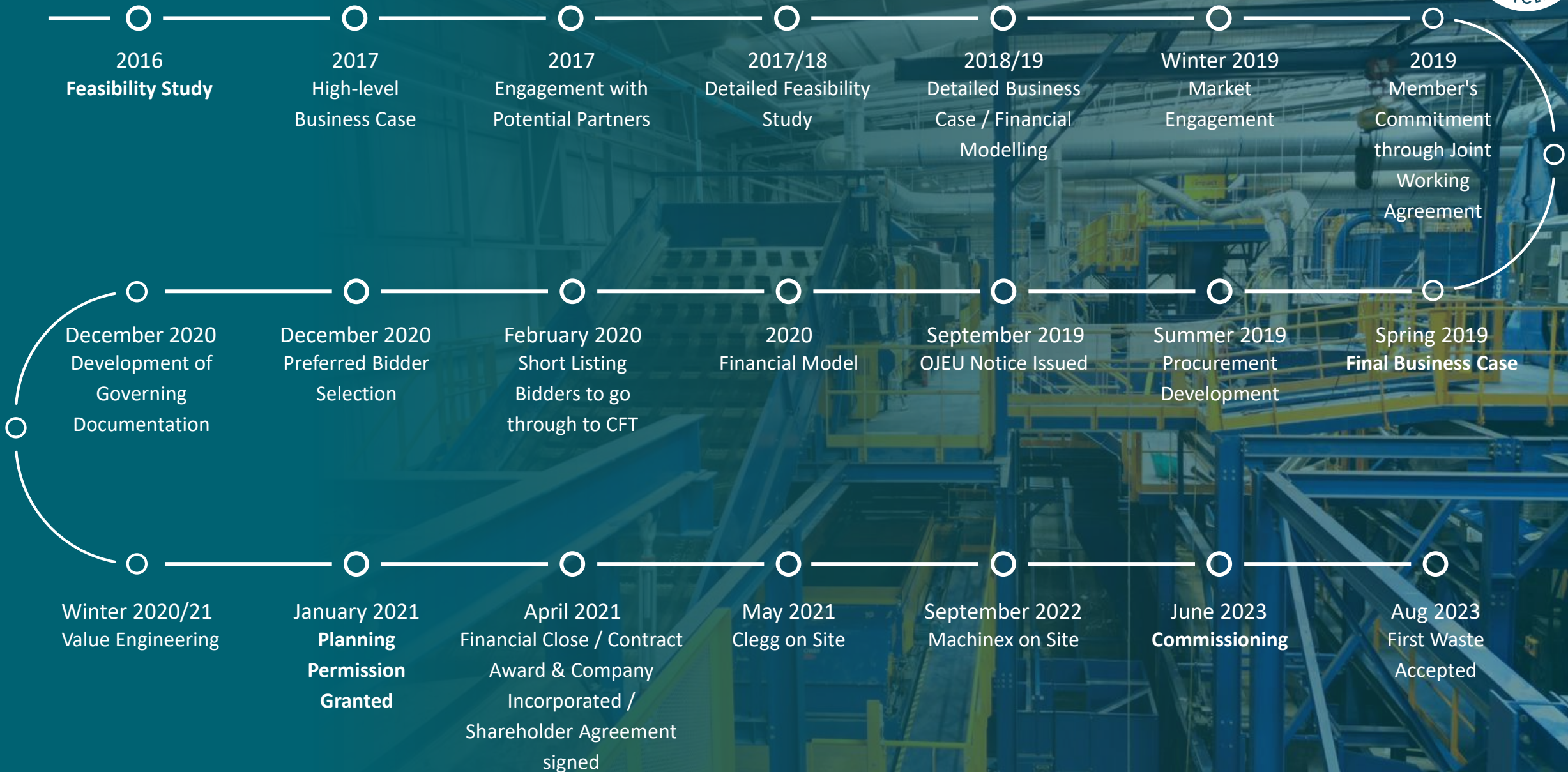
Rethinking waste:

An innovative approach to the UK waste challenge

The Challenge	Our Approach	The Outcome
• Escalating waste management costs • Volatile recycling markets • Difficulty securing long-term recycling contracts – procurement challenges • Evolving waste legislation and the restructuring of public services • Industry labour shortages	• 25-year partnership across eight local authorities • Designed to adapt to future recycling challenges • Use of technology suitable to eliminate manual sortation • Use of AI and robotics to maximise material recovery • Sustainable solution with UK end markets • Capacity to process 250,000 tonnes annually	• Sherbourne Recycling was established in 2021 • A state-of-the-art Materials Recycling Facility was developed in Coventry • Local authorities gained greater control over their recycling future • Long-term financial return from investment made



From concept to operation:



Built for throughput. Engineered for recovery.



SHERBOURNE RESOURCE PARK FACILITY AT A GLANCE

£65m
INVESTMENT

SCALE

12,000m²

purpose-built, state-of-the-art
facility

47.5 t/hour

of waste processed every hour

250,000 t/year

permitted processing capacity

SMART OPERATIONS

18

Sorting robots

14

Optical sorters

1

Semi-automated sampling
station

5

Manual pickers required

4

Electric-powered forklifts

UK

End markets for all
recyclate



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Designed for Simpler Recycling

From one recycling bin to many valuable resources



ACCEPTED IN YOUR RECYCLING BIN

Paper & card · Plastic bottles · Pots, tubs & trays · Film & wrapping ·
Steel cans · Aluminium cans · Glass bottles & jars · Cartons

WHAT THESE MATERIALS BECOME

Paper & card	New packaging and paper products
Plastics	New containers and packaging
Metals	New cans and metal products
Glass	New bottles and jars
Plastic film	Refuse sacks and other plastic products



DID YOU KNOW

Sherbourne is one of the few UK facilities able to extract plastic film and wrapping from mixed household recycling.

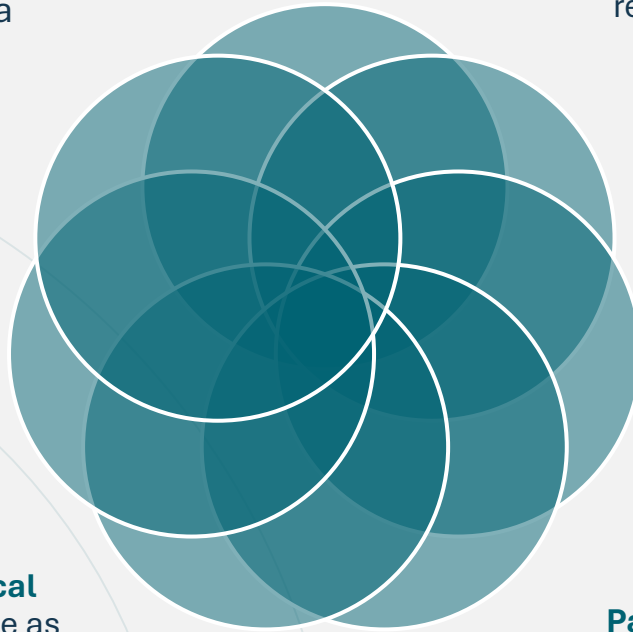


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Impact beyond the facility



Building confidence with a model that is now proven



Our local authorities signpost community groups, schools and colleges from each area to enhance ongoing education about recycling

We **have fast-tracked compliance** at the same time as making kerbside recycling easier than ever for our 1.5 million residents

Academics and product and packaging designers visit to see world-leading best practice in action

Reprocessors are confident in our ability to deliver the quality materials they demand

Government and local authorities use our site as a best practice example of what's possible, while learning how they can replicate the model

Packaging and FMCG brands come to us to understand how they can make their products and packaging more circular

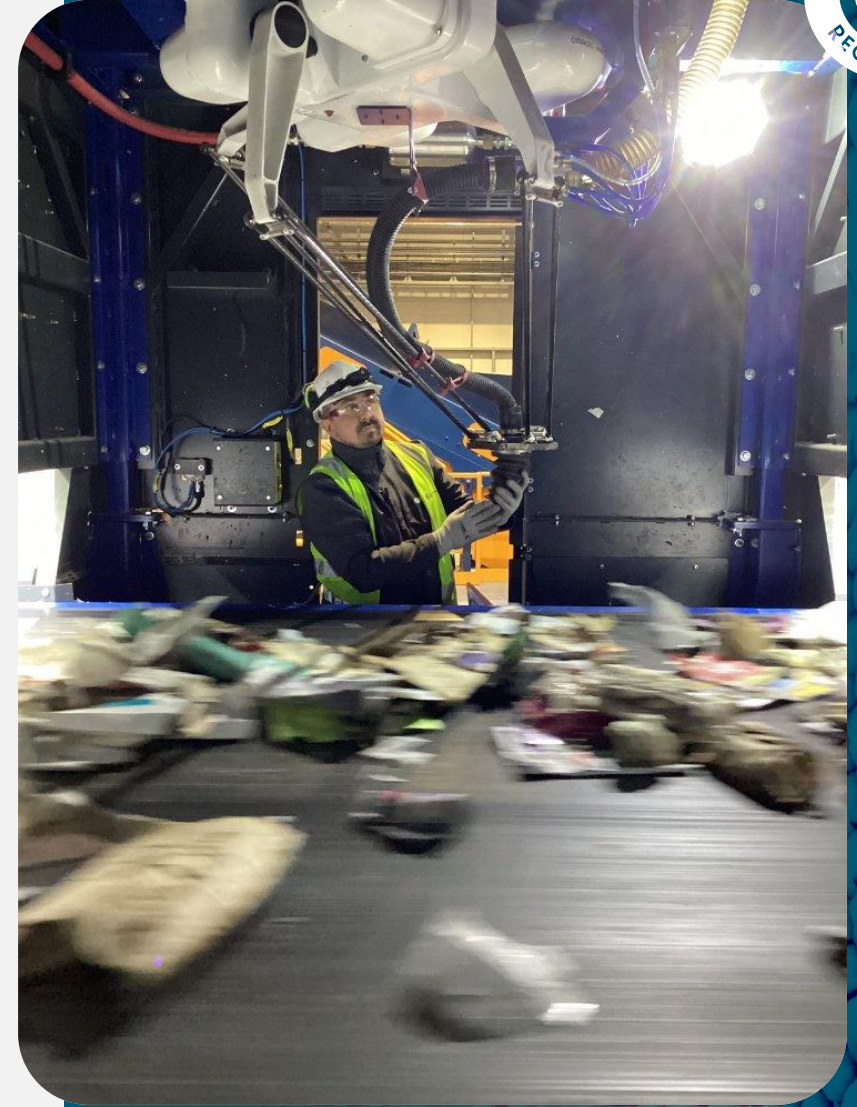


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What this means

Empowering councils by giving them the control and flexibility to adapt rapidly to material or legislative changes

- ✓ **Risk reduction** – a future proof model that is deliberately planned to have a minimum 25-year lifespan
- ✓ **Raising the game** – our quality is unmatched. While other MRFs turn plastics into a bin or a fleece, our waste streams are so pure that we can turn it back into a bottle; **a truly circular approach**
- ✓ **Reducing waste** – we deliver measurable impact with up to 99% resource recovery figures
- ✓ **Reducing costs** – we help businesses adhere to legislative compliance
- ✓ **Raising revenue** – in the short time we have been operating we have already established trust and a market for our outputs



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Final thoughts



- From the outset, our goal has been a long-term solution that maximises resource recovery and value for our partner authorities and their communities — and sets a template others can follow.
- Partnership and innovation are driving real circularity, and our open approach to knowledge sharing has made Sherbourne a trusted, influential voice across Government and the wider waste sector.



Layla.shannon@sherbournerecycling.co.uk



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