The Formentera Department of Environment reports that this Friday, local cabinet councillors will present for approval in the February plenary assembly a procurement contract for waste collection and transport, clean roads and beaches, green spaces conservation and maintenance and management of the island's waste treatment plant. The eight-year contract comes with the option of a two-year extension and is valued at €31.5 million, with FDE chair Antonio J Sanz drawing attention to terms like an upgraded vehicle fleet, enhanced organics collection, new bins and more frequent pickup.

More organics, more bins

The contract covers standard waste, paper/cardboard, plastics and glass collection; door-to-door commercial pickup for "major waste generators"; door-to-door organics pickup for "mid-range" and major waste generators; door-to-door collection on pedestrian streets in Es Pujols and —absent from past contracts— kerbside organics bins as soon as two years after the contract's entry in force. Councillor Sanz called it "the latest step in line with 2019 legislation on waste and polluted soils requiring 50% of all discarded material be recyclable".

The incoming service provider will also be on the hook for upgrades of the island's underground containers and their inside-and-out cleaning, not to mention new dustbins street side.

Pickup frequency, new equipment and e-vehicles

In addition to an upgraded fleet of vehicles including electric vehicles in the light fleet, the new terms envision enhanced material and human resources for more frequent service factoring for considerations like seasonal demand. Councillor Sanz said improvements ranging from increased collections to staff and e-vehicle additions sought to enable a more appropriate response to local demand.

Landscaping and road clearing will also be provided for, services Sanz said would require "more extensive material and human resources", plus manual and machine-assisted beach cleaning and waterfront rubbish and recycling bins.

Path forward

The new contract will be put to tender when plenary backing is secured, with service rollout possible as early as year's end. "Contracts like these can be slow-going and convoluted", said Sanz, who confided he was nevertheless "hopeful this moves quickly because it's of vital

importance to the island", describing the island's former waste management contract as "obsolete" and "conceived for Formentera circa 2005". He concluded by praising the department staffers who had "made this contract happen".

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Communications Department
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