

REPORT TO: ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE - 9th JANUARY 2012

REPORT ON: DEVELOPMENT OF RECYCLING SCHEMES

REPORT BY: DIRECTOR OF ENVIRONMENT

REPORT NO: 14-2012

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1 To advise committee of the requirement to work towards compliance with the Scottish Government's Zero Waste Plan and to seek approval for a number of improvement projects to improve the recycling services to our residents.

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

2.1 It is recommended that committee note the contents of this report and authorise the Director of Environment to implement the four projects as detailed.

3.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

3.1 The Director of Finance advises that the capital costs of £160,125 associated with implementing the four projects can be met in 2011/12 from the Scottish Government Zero Waste Funding.

3.2 The additional revenue costs associated with expanding the collection routes will be balanced from the savings made as a result of implementing a more efficient collection method.

4.0 MAIN TEXT

4.1 The Scottish Government's Zero Waste Plan (2010) and associated regulatory framework which is due to be published in late 2011/early 2012, outlines the future requirements and targets for the management of waste. It is anticipated that the forthcoming regulations will include highlighting a number of specific materials which all Local Authorities in Scotland must separately collect for recycling as far as is reasonably practicable. In order to respond to these changes in regulations, there are four projects proposed for implementation.

4.2 Project 1 – Improved Dry Recyclate Collection

4.2.1 All local authorities are required under the Zero Waste Regulations to increase domestic recycling and maximise the use of valuable resources such as alu-cans, plastic bottles, etc. At present there are approximately 16,000 properties within the city which are served by a 70 litre kerbside box collection scheme for plastics, aluminium cans and glass (clear, green and brown).

4.2.2 A trial to increase the operational efficiency of the existing scheme has recently been completed and this has proven to be very successful. The recycled materials are now being collected mixed and separated mechanically at the processing plants. This more efficient system will allow the number of properties being served by the service to be expanded.

- 4.2.3 A further 3,000 properties will receive a 240 litre wheeled recyclates container which will be serviced on a 4 weekly basis. The range of materials for recycling will be extended to include clean steel cans, aluminium cans, foil trays, etc. An assessment of this scheme will be made during and at the end of a 12 month trial period in order to establish and measure its effectiveness. Positive results will lead to consideration of upgrading all of the existing properties that have a 70 litre box system to the 240 litre container system. The locations to benefit from this additional collection scheme will be selected based on a number of factors including route capacity, current service provision and storage and collection capability. Further details will be communicated to all members at a later date should approval be granted.
- 4.2.4 In addition to the improved efficiencies, it is expected that the new household dry-recyclates system will also provide the following advantages:
- lower carbon footprint (less frequent collection timetable);
 - will allow the householder to recycle a wider range of materials via one container/uplift;
 - will reduce the number of instances of windblown litter from the existing box scheme;
 - improved health & safety (less manual handling) for the collection operatives;
 - better vehicle fleet compatibility; and
 - more efficient system of distribution of the collected materials.

4.3 Project 2 – Increased Neighbourhood Recycling Points

- 4.3.1 There are currently 72 Neighbourhood recycling points at various locations throughout the city which supplement domestic paper and glass recycling. It is proposed to install a further 10 NRP's in areas of close proximity to some high-density housing.

4.4 Project 3 - Recycling Container Provision at Sheltered Housing and MSD's

- 4.4.1 A number of sheltered housing and multi-storey flatted complexes currently have limited recycling facilities and it is proposed to provide large euro recycling containers specifically for glass. A total number of 18 containers will be provided to various complexes and will be serviced as required from within the existing collection vehicle.

4.5 Project 4 – Consolidation of Storage and Processing Facilities

- 4.5.1 Currently, the collected recyclate material is processed at both Marchbanks and Baldovie plants within the city. The facilities at Marchbanks are dated and limited in their ability to bulk store and transfer materials on to the reprocessing plants. It is proposed to install some further bulk storage bunds at Baldovie and transfer most of the operations into this single facility. Consolidating the operations into one larger main unit will provide a greater level of efficiency.
- 4.6 In addition to providing an increased amount of recycled glass, the above projects will result in a lower percentage of glass being present in the residual waste which is sent to the DERL Energy-from-Waste Plant. Glass has an abrasive effect on the EfW plant and this will therefore provide a further benefit to the City's recycling/disposal strategy.
- 4.7 The equipment associated with Project no's 1-3 will be procured via the Scotland Excel framework. The construction works associated with project 4 will be carried out internally by the Construction Division of the Environment Department.

Project Heading	Equipment Required	Cost
1. Household mixed dry-recyclates	3000 x 240litre containers	£75,000
2. Neighbourhood glass scheme expansion	10 x 4-bin NRP cluster	£18,000
3. Sheltered housing / multi-storey glass scheme	18 x 1280/660 litre containers	£13,125
4. Glass processing plant infrastructure (Baldovie)	Concrete bund partitioning	£54,000
Total:		£160,125

5.0 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

5.1 This report has been screened for any policy implications in respect of Sustainability, Strategic Environmental Assessment, Anti-Poverty, Equality Impact Assessment and Risk Management. There are no major issues.

6.0 CONSULTATION

6.1 The Chief Executive, Depute Chief Executive (Support Services), and the Director of Finance have been consulted and are in agreement with the contents of this report.

7.0 BACKGROUND PAPERS

7.1 None

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8th December 2011