

**REPORT TO: POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE – 25<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY 2016**

**REPORT ON: DOMESTIC WASTE RECYCLING STRATEGY**

**REPORT BY: EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES**

**REPORT NO: 53-2016**

## **1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT**

- 1.1 To seek approval for the temporary suspension in the roll out of the domestic recycling services until an option appraisal has been carried out on the implications of the new Recycling Charter and “Code of Practice” for domestic waste recycling.

## **2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 2.1 Committee is asked to note the content of this report and approve the temporary suspension to the current roll out programme, with the exception of food waste, in order to allow time for a review of the Charter and Code of Practice, determine the implications and plan for a revised roll out programme.
- 2.2 Phase out the current free supply of food waste liners.

## **3.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 3.1 The suspension of the roll out of the domestic waste programme will generate a one-off saving of £66,000 for financial year 2016/2017. In addition, a further saving of £54,000 will be generated in 2016/17 through the cessation of the free bin liner scheme for food waste.

## **4.0 BACKGROUND**

- 4.1 Reference is made to Article II of the minutes of the minutes of the Environment Committee of 21<sup>st</sup> April 2014 (report no. 199-2014 refers) detailing the proposed improvement and expansion of domestic recycling services, including the collection and recycling of food waste.
- 4.2 This report outlined a phased schedule of implementation which, to date, has reached phase 2 of 6. The changes being implemented include a separate food waste collection and co-mingled collection of dry recyclates (metals, plastics and paper products), as well as a collection of mixed glass. The introduction of such services would serve to meet Dundee City Council’s obligations in terms of the Waste (Scotland) Regulations 2012 in the most suitable and cost-effective method.
- 4.3 A recently convened Scottish Government Zero Waste Task Force, comprising representatives from Zero Waste Scotland, COSLA and various Scottish Local Authorities have agreed a Household Recycling Charter and associated Code of Practice and are seeking a formal commitment to such by all local authorities in Scotland. The focus of the Charter is to ensure consistent collections of high quality recycle across Scotland. This would support the Taskforce’s plan to create a Scottish Materials Brokerage Scheme, whose purpose is to deliver collaborated contracts with reprocessors using amalgamated national tonnages of homogenous recycle which is offered to market for the best price. Appendix 1 details the letter from COSLA\Scottish Government launching the Charter and Code of Practice.

- 4.4 The Code of Practice outlines a collection methodology and commodity mix which does not match that currently being introduced as part of the service expansion and, as such, would require changes to the planned implementation in order to comply. In light of this revised guidance, it is recommended that the council undertake an options appraisal of its service methodology with a view to assessing the perceived advantages to the Council of adopting the collection system proposed in the revised Code of Practice. This would require a temporary suspension to the current roll out programme for a number of months to consider the new Code of Practice and to design any revised implementation programme and route planning. A further report will be brought back to committee once this review has been undertaken.
- 4.5 It should be noted however that the temporary suspension would NOT apply to food waste collections which should continue to be rolled out in line with the regulatory requirements.
- 4.6 An initial supply of liners will be provided for each household in the remaining phases as the food waste rollout progresses (as is the standard UK-wide model), along with full details on where these can be purchased locally. Existing stocks of liners would be conserved for this purpose until exhausted, ensuring that any future purchases of such would be minimal. Residents in phases 1 and 2 will be notified of the cessation of free liners for them.

## **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. An Equality Impact Assessment is attached.

## **6.0 CONSULTATIONS**

- 6.1 The Chief Executive, Executive Director of Corporate Services, Executive Director of City Development and Head of Democratic and Legal Services have been consulted and are in agreement with the contents of this report.

## **7.0 BACKGROUND PAPERS**

- 7.1 None.

Elaine Zwirlein  
**Executive Director of Neighbourhood Services**

Gary Robertson  
**Head of Environment**

10<sup>th</sup> February 2016

Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs, Food and the Environment  
Richard Lochhead MSP

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4 February 2016

Dear Leader and Chief Executive

As you know, we jointly convened the SG/COSLA Zero Waste Taskforce in 2014 in order to identify recommendations for the transformation of the management of public sector waste into an effective feedstock for the circular economy. A key recommendation from this Taskforce was that local authorities should be empowered and enabled to move towards more consistent recycling collection systems. This approach has now been articulated by the Household Recycling Charter and associated Code of Practice, which have been scrutinised and approved by COSLA Leaders.

Development of the Charter and of the Code of Practice has brought together input from SOLACE, Zero Waste Scotland (ZWS), the Waste Managers Network (WMON), COSLA and the Scottish Government. The Code of Practice therefore reflects the combined expertise and experience of waste professionals across Scotland and the collection strategies and systems outlined in the document represent those which are considered to best meet the overall objectives of the Taskforce, improve recycling performance and fulfil the aim of developing a consistent national system whilst leaving room for councils to design the specific services that reflect local needs and issues.

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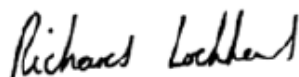
We believe that by signing the Charter and subsequently implementing the systems described in the Code of Practice local authorities will be able to:

- Stimulate inward investment and subsequent job creation in recycling and reprocessing industries
- Retain and enhance existing jobs in waste collection
- Generate and retain the best collective value from waste streams whilst increasing recycling rates
- Provide councils with a strong voice in the procurement market and enable them to manage market conditions to their collective advantage
- Demonstrate the innovative thinking resulting from empowering local government to develop solutions
- Work together to communicate to the public the value in recycling, and the benefits that good recycling practice can bring to communities

This is an exceptional opportunity to turn a required service provision into something that generates jobs, stimulates economic development and can deliver genuine efficiencies and cost savings to both individual councils and to local government as a whole. The Scottish Government is firmly committed to assisting local authorities in the implementation of this more consistent approach to recycling collections and will be aligning the support delivered through ZWS with the systems detailed in the Code of Practice.

Following signature of the Charter, councils will be offered support from ZWS to develop a transition plan that scopes out the cost-effective changes required to move towards the consistent system and to develop an implementation plan complete with timescales and financial considerations. Oversight and scrutiny of this process will be carried out through a high-level strategic group to ensure that the overall aims and objectives of the Charter are being met and to maintain focus on the over-arching circular economy goals and benefits.

Signing the Charter is voluntary, but we would very much like to urge councils to do so, and thereby to unlock the benefits of a more consistent approach to recycling across Scotland; an approach which has been developed by councils themselves and which is considered by practitioners across the country to represent good practice with regards to recycling collections. We are keen that together we maintain the momentum generated so far and continue to drive forward Scotland's efforts to realise the benefits of the circular economy. In light of this, we would appreciate it if you could give careful consideration to signing the Charter and look forward to supporting you in its implementation.



**RICHARD LOCHHEAD**  
Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs, Food  
and Environment



**CLLR STEPHEN HAGAN**  
COSLA Spokesperson for Development,  
Economy and Sustainability

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**EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT TOOL**

**Part 1: Description/Consultation**

<b>Is this a Rapid Equality Impact Assessment (RIAT)?</b> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	
<b>Is this a Full Equality Impact Assessment (EQIA)?</b> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
<b>Date of Assessment:</b> 04/02/2016	<b>Committee Report Number:</b> 53-2016
<b>Title of document being assessed:</b>	Domestic Waste Recycling Strategy
<b>1. This is a new policy, procedure, strategy or practice being assessed</b> (If yes please check box) <input type="checkbox"/>	<b>This is an existing policy, procedure, strategy or practice being assessed?</b> (If yes please check box) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<b>2. Please give a brief description of the policy, procedure, strategy or practice being assessed.</b>	Scottish Government Zero Waste Task Force have drafted a Recycling Charter and Code of Practice which may affect how councils deal with their domestic recycling service
<b>3. What is the intended outcome of this policy, procedure, strategy or practice?</b>	To assess the potential impact to the Council of adopting the collection methodology detailed in the Code of Practice.
<b>4. Please list any existing documents which have been used to inform this Equality and Diversity Impact Assessment.</b>	Recycling Charter and Code of Practice
<b>5. Has any consultation, involvement or research with protected characteristic communities informed this assessment? If yes please give details.</b>	
<b>6. Please give details of council officer involvement in this assessment.</b>  (E.g. names of officers consulted, dates of meetings etc.)	Neighbourhood Services including- Gary Robertson Head of Environment Andy Malcolm, Paul Raeper.
<b>7. Is there a need to collect further evidence or to involve or consult protected characteristics communities on the impact of the proposed policy?</b>  (Example: if the impact on a community is not known what will you do to gather the information needed and when will you do this?)	The intention is to continue to consult with other local authorities and Zero Waste Scotland on the implications and implementation of the new Code of Practice.

**Part 2: Protected Characteristics**

Which protected characteristics communities will be positively or negatively affected by this policy, procedure or strategy?

NB Please place an X in the box which best describes the "overall" impact. It is possible for an assessment to identify that a positive policy can have some negative impacts and visa versa. When this is the case please identify both positive and negative impacts in Part 3 of this form.

If the impact on a protected characteristic communities are not known please state how you will gather evidence of any potential negative impacts in box Part 1 section 7 above.

	Positively	Negatively	No Impact	Not Known
<b>Ethnic Minority Communities including Gypsies and Travellers</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Gender</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Gender Reassignment</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Religion or Belief</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>People with a disability</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Age</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Socio-economic</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Pregnancy &amp; Maternity</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Other (please state)</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

### Part 3: Impacts/Monitoring

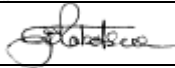
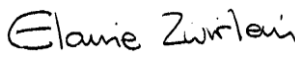
<p><b>1. Have any positive impacts been identified?</b></p> <p>(We must ensure at this stage that we are not achieving equality for one strand of equality at the expense of another)</p>	N/A
<p><b>2. Have any negative impacts been identified?</b></p> <p>(Based on direct knowledge, published research, community involvement, customer feedback etc. If unsure seek advice from your departmental Equality Champion.)</p>	N/A
<p><b>3. What action is proposed to overcome any negative impacts?</b></p> <p>(E.g. involving community groups in the development or delivery of the policy or practice, providing information in community languages etc. See Good Practice on DCC equalities web page)</p>	N/A
<p><b>4. Is there a justification for continuing with this policy even if it cannot be amended or changed to end or reduce inequality without compromising its intended outcome?</b></p> <p>(If the policy that shows actual or potential unlawful discrimination you must stop and seek legal advice)</p>	N/A
<p><b>5. Has a 'Full' Equality Impact Assessment been recommended?</b></p> <p>(If the policy is a major one or is likely to have a major impact on protected characteristics communities a Full Equality Impact Assessment may be required. Seek advice from your departmental Equality lead.)</p>	N/A
<p><b>6. How will the policy be monitored?</b></p> <p>(How will you know it is doing what it is intended to do? e.g. data collection, customer survey etc.)</p>	N/A

**Part 4: Contact Information**

<b>Name of Department or Partnership</b>	Neighbourhood Services, Dundee City Council
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<b>Type of Document</b>	
Human Resource Policy	<input type="checkbox"/>
General Policy	<input type="checkbox"/>
Strategy/Service	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Change Papers/Local Procedure	<input type="checkbox"/>
Guidelines and Protocols	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other	<input type="checkbox"/>

<b>Manager Responsible</b>		<b>Author Responsible</b>	
<b>Name:</b>	Elaine Zwirlein	<b>Name:</b>	Gary Robertson
<b>Designation:</b>	Executive Director of Neighbourhood Services	<b>Designation:</b>	Head of Environment
<b>Base:</b>	Neighbourhood Services 3 City Square, Dundee DD1 3BA	<b>Base:</b>	Neighbourhood Services 3 City Square, Dundee DD1 3BA
<b>Telephone:</b>	01382 434538	<b>Telephone:</b>	01382 436894
<b>Email:</b>	elaine.zwirlein@dundeecity.gov.uk	<b>Email:</b>	gary.robertson@dundeecity.gov.uk

<b>Signature of author of the policy:</b>		<b>Date:</b> 10 February 2016
<b>Signature of Executive Director/Head of Service:</b>		<b>Date:</b> 10 February 2016
<b>Name of Executive Director/Head of Service:</b>	Elaine Zwirlein	
<b>Date of Next Policy Review:</b>		