Item 5

8th November 2022

Glasgow City Council

Net Zero and Climate Progress Monitoring City Policy Committee

Report by Executive Director of Neighbourhoods, Regeneration & Sustainability

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UPDATE ON THE CIRCULAR ECONOMY ROUTE MAP AND ACTION PLAN

Purpose of Report:

To provide Committee with an update on the Circular Economy Route Map and Action Plan.

Recommendations:

The Committee is asked to:
1) Note the contents of this report;
2) Continue to support the work of Neighbourhoods, Regeneration & Sustainability (NRS) in promoting the transition to a citywide circular economy.
3) Request a further update in 12 months.

Ward No(s): Citywide: ✓

Local member(s) advised: Yes ☐ No ☐ consulted: Yes ☐ No ☐

1 Introduction

1.1 In December 2020, Glasgow City Council approved the Circular Economy Route Map and Action Plan which aims to guide a change in city-wide economic practices from the current extractive system towards a regenerative system. The Route Map addresses the need to move away from the "take-make-dispose" model to a circular system of quality, reuse and durability. The action plan focuses on how to deliver this across a range of stakeholders including the Council, private sector and civil society.

1.2 A wide scale consultation was undertaken to identify stakeholders that would play a pivotal role in the development and implementation of the circular economy in the city. This was carried out in collaboration with the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), the Glasgow Chamber of Commerce and Zero Waste Scotland. Over 50 interviews were conducted throughout 2020. These interviews helped shape the OECD document 'Case Study on the Circular Economy in Glasgow' which was launched on 11 November 2021 during the UN COP26 Climate Conference.

1.3 In a case study produced during COP26, the OECD identified three main functions that the city should fulfil to deliver the conditions for a circular economy in Glasgow. These are to be a promoter of the different ideas and concepts around circularity. To be an enabler of good practice, operating circularity both in organisational terms and in the services, projects, and products purchased on behalf of the city. And, to facilitate initiatives where possible helping to activate and establish the circular economy whether in business or the community space.

1.4 The Route Map's ten year vision is intended to enhance awareness of sustainable practices, promote a message of considered consumption, and provide a challenge to the current wasteful consumerist practices that exist in society and were sharply highlighted at the UN COP26 Climate Conference.

1.5 As a result of the wide reach of circular economy principles, embracing this approach offers Glasgow a unique opportunity to:

- Reduce carbon emissions,
- Drive green economic growth,
- Identify opportunities to help regenerate communities,
- Encourage the growth of the sharing economy,
- Support job creation and skills development,
- Champion employment and career opportunities in renewables,
- Develop and nurture local sustainable businesses,
- Improve recycling and re-use practices,
- Develop a more sustainable and circular public procurement strategy,
- Contribute locally to more sustainable forms of global stewardship.

2 Implementation of the Circular Economy Action Plan

2.1 Using the Circular Economy Action Plan has been important to create a strong foundation for relationship building and project planning across 2021 and 2022. The Route Map has been recognised by many cities, organisations and networks as one that is striking and progressive and has proven to be an inspiration.

2.2 As outlined in the report to the Environment Sustainability and Carbon Reduction City Policy Committee in February 2022, the Circular Economy Action Plan was divided into six themes to capture the different economic sectors occurring throughout the city. This framework acknowledged the relevant organisational influence that each of the stakeholders can exert on the proposed transition to a circular economy. Each of the stakeholders were consulted before these themes were allocated to secure their buy in and participation.

2.3 The Action Plan is broken down into the following six themes, comprising 31 actions which have provided an opportunity to create networks post COP26 and enable different organisations such as Zero Waste Scotland to take ownership and provide leadership throughout 2022;

i. **Policy:** Identifying strategic policy work that would prioritise and enable a coordinated circular approach at a wider city and national level.
ii. **Planning:** Recognising that city planning frameworks can play a major role in influencing how the built environment can transition towards more circular activities.
iii. **Production:** Alignment with sustainable and circular methods in the manufacturing and production sectors will have a substantial impact, not only on the manner in which products are sourced and assembled, but also in their future decommissioning and the reuse of those materials.
iv. **People:** A critical aspect of the transition towards more sustainable practices should have a focus on positively impacting our citizens, advancing their opportunities, and offering the building blocks to create resilient and secure community wealth building projects and careers.
v. **Private:** The influence of the private sector on developing circular and sustainable work practices is undeniable. The engagement work carried out by the Glasgow Chamber of Commerce indicates a willingness of private enterprise to engage with the circular economy. This has to be translated into widespread uptake of circular activities by business in the city.
vi. **Public:** The public sector in Glasgow plays a significant role in developing a narrative and organisational approach to sustainable work practices. With a substantial procurement budget, influence over the planning system, and an operator of large scale assets such as the road network; the city administration has the potential to have a transformative impact on the city in terms of embedding the circular economy.

3 Action Plan Updates

3.1 There has been progress made across all six Action Plan themes since the publication of the strategy in December 2020. A detailed breakdown of progress for this reporting period is provided in Appendix 1.

3.2 Some key highlights since the last report to the Environment Sustainability and Carbon Reduction City Policy Committee in February 2022 are outlined below:

i. **Build strong relationships with the higher education sector and the development of an evidence base:** Through the ongoing City Portrait and GALLANT work with the team at Glasgow University and valuable work on food systems with Strathclyde University Business School, new opportunities have opened up for city specific research projects. This work will gather important data to create valuable baseline scenarios across diverse sectors such as energy, engineering, remanufacture, textiles and food growing. These studies will allow future decisions on circular economy projects to be fully informed with robust evidence.

ii. **Development of the City Construction Forum:** In March 2022 Glasgow signed a partnership agreement with the Ellen MacArthur Foundation. Part of the arrangement was to collaborate on developing the City Construction Forum. The council have been working closely with two other organisations who are integral to these preparations; our existing partners at Circular Glasgow and also our H2020 EU CIRCuIT project lead, ReLondon. The forum development is well underway, with an expected launch in early 2023.

iii. **Embedding Circular practices**: Discussions for material salvage and storage are at an advanced stage. Using influential networks across Scotland, an initial workshop that took place in September 2022 identified both challenges and solutions to this topic. The council is working with these stakeholders to develop a reuse model that will benefit both the city developers and our citizens.

iv. **Reuse Projects:** Glasgow partnered with the environmental campaign charity , Hubbub, in March 2022. One of the major projects that has been delivered was a major sustainable fashion fair in the Briggait in September 2022. This attracted more than 400 visitors to sample reuse clothing, participate in repair workshops and take part in a fashion show. The Slow Threads event was targeted at both the general public and also the incoming student population in the city to raise awareness of the impact the textile industry has on the planet and the climate and also to experience circular solutions.

v. **Circular Procurement:** The City Council is working on an assessment of our internal procurement practices. Procurement officers have undergone circular and sustainability training to support this action. The revision of the Scottish Government Procurement Prioritisation tool is ongoing with the final amendments taking place to fully integrate the relevant policies into the procurement system.

4 Next Steps

4.1 Actions will build on the progress made since COP26 and focus on the continued delivery of the Circular Economy Action Plan.

4.2 The circular economy requires the continued input of commitment and resources from the city council as well as city stakeholders. This next phase of work will also involve a crucial turning point for behavior change which we will aim to support through ongoing communication and engagement, and further work with our Education partners to increase knowledge and understanding.

4.3 The need to continue to engage with city stakeholders is vital and forms an important part of the work to embed the circular economy. Initial work on the Thriving Cities Initiative (TCI) led by C40 cities was launched during the UN COP26 Climate Conference and has been taken forward in a collaboration between the council and Glasgow University. A series of workshops have targeted council officers, academic facilitators, community groups, elected officials and will continue with a wider city stakeholder cohort to deliver a City Portrait based on the Doughnut Economics model. This will help consolidate efforts to create an action pathway to reduce consumption-based carbon emissions.

5. Policy and Resource Implications

Resource Implications:

Financial:	There are no direct financial implications arising from the report.
Legal:	The report raises no legal issues.
Personnel:	The Circular Economy Routemap and Action Plan is managed within existing resource in the Sustainability team.
Procurement:	The purchase of commodities is currently being assessed using the Scottish Government's Procurement Prioritisation Tool, to consider how to embed more circular principles.

By the CPUB

Equality and Socio-Economic Impacts:

Does the proposal support the Council's Equality Outcomes 2021-25? Please specify.	This work is generally supportive of all equality outcomes, specifically 1. and 8.

	1. An increased proportion of people with protected characteristics are supported to enter employment or training. 8. Service users with protected characteristics are provided with targeted improved and more accessible information about the services provided by the Council family.
What are the potential equality impacts as a result of this report?	Positive Impact. An EQIA screening was undertaken during the development of the Circular Economy Routemap and Action Plan.
Please highlight if the policy/proposal will help address socio-economic disadvantage.	The Circular Economy Route map proposes a sustainability focused approach whereby the environment, commerce and society are considered fully with positive opportunities and outcomes sought in each aspect. The overarching theme throughout the Route Map is one of social inclusion and justice in an effort to tackle the climate and ecological emergency while also bridging the gap on deep socio-economic and health inequalities in the city.

Climate Impacts:

Does the proposal support any Climate Plan actions? Please specify:	The Circular Economy Routemap and Action Plan will have a significant positive impact upon the environment by actively raising awareness and educating citizens and staff members about the need to reduce unnecessary consumption. This update report will reinforce this endeavor.
What are the potential climate impacts as a result of this proposal?	A reduction in unnecessary consumption, a promotion of reuse, and raising the concept of materials efficiency across the city and a shift away from the traditional linear economic model.
Will the proposal contribute to Glasgow's net zero carbon target?	Yes, this proposal will positively contribute to Glasgow's net zero carbon target. This is especially notable when reducing levels of embodied carbon within the built environment for example.
Privacy and Data Protection Impacts:	None

6 Recommendations

6.1 The Committee is asked to:

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3) Request a further update in 12 months.