Item 5

3rd October 2023

Glasgow City Council

Environment and Liveable Neighbourhoods City Policy Committee

Report by Executive Director of Neighbourhoods, Regeneration and Sustainability

Contact: David McCulloch Ext: 76751

Waste and Recycling Collections - Options Appraisal for Flatted Properties

Purpose of Report:

To provide an update to committee on the Options Appraisal (OA) undertaken in conjunction with Zero Waste Scotland to assess future waste and recycling collections from flatted properties.

Recommendations:

It is recommended that:

- Committee notes the contents of this report
- Committee notes the further work to be undertaken to determine the different service provision provided to flats to enable alignment with the Charter for Household Recycling and supporting Code of Practice

Ward No(s):	Citywide: ✓
Local member(s) advised: Yes ☐ No ☐	consulted: Yes ☐ No ☐

1 Introduction

1.1 The purpose of this report is to update Committee on the collaborative work undertaken with Zero Waste Scotland and their consultants, which assessed options for the future waste and recycling collections for high density properties across the city.

2 Background

2.1 The resource and recycling sector is within a period of significant policy change, which includes, but is not limited to:

- The Charter for Household Recycling and supporting Code of Practice (CoP)
- Deposit Return Scheme (DRS) for Single-use Drinks Containers
- Extended Producer Responsibility for Packaging Waste
- Scottish Government Circular Economy Bill
- Scottish Government Route Map to 2025 and Beyond
- Ban on biodegradable material going to landfill

2.2 These policy changes will influence the design of future waste and recycling service provision to domestic premises.

2.3 An options appraisal (OA) was undertaken previously on the kerbside collection services (properties who present their bins to the kerb for collection) and the outputs from this report informed the council's application to the Scottish Government's Recycling Improvement Fund.

2.4 The Council's Resource and Recycling Strategy 2020-30 supports the implementation of changes to waste and recycling services to align with national policies.

2.5 The Council agreed to sign the Charter for Household Recycling at the Environment, Sustainability and Carbon Reduction City Policy Committee in February 2019.
https://www.glasgow.gov.uk/councillorsandcommittees/agenda.asp?meetingid=16022

Aligning to the CoP requires a twin stream recycling service, with recycling to be collected in the following bins:

- Fibre bin - paper/card
- Container bin - plastics (pots/tubs/trays/bottles), cartons, food and drink cans
- Glass

3 Purpose and Aims of the Options Appraisal

3.1 The purpose of the OA was to assess alternative ways of delivering communal collection services and to provide the council with cost, operational and performance information for each of the proposed options.

3.2 The aims of the OA were to assess the impact of:

- The introduction of a Deposit Return Scheme (DRS) on communal services
- Aligning collection services to the requirements of the Code of Practice, supporting the Charter for Household Recycling
- Re-introducing food waste collections to all communal households

4 Options Overview

4.1 Glasgow operates a collection service to 183,673 communal households, across the city. All communal properties in Glasgow receive a residual and a commingled recycling collection and have access to food waste recycling at communal areas or via public sites.

4.2 For the purposes of the options appraisal there are three property types for communal collections

- Tenements (1 to 16 Households,)
- Flats (17 to 79 households)
- Multi story (more than 79 Households)

4.3 Within Tenements there are two types of property, those with 'limited access' and those with good access for waste collection. Many of the challenges experienced within Glasgow communal collections are associated with 'limited access' tenements.

4.4 In selecting the options for modelling, consideration was given to a range of factors, including those noted within section 3.2, and in addition, considered presentational changes to reduce the resource required, and time taken to conduct collections from some tenement properties.

4.5 Within the OA, three options were assessed, and these are highlighted in the table below. In addition, each option considered two different methods of bin presentation.

Options		Bin Presentation	
		A	B
1	Changes to the presentation of bins for limited access tenements.	Residents present 240 litre bins from backcourt to front of property	Use of bin hubs to the front of properties

2	Moving recycling collection from co-mingled to two-stream (fibres and containers)	Residents present 240 litre bins from backcourt to front of property	Use of bin hubs to the front of properties
3	Two-stream (fibres and containers) and Increasing food waste coverage	Residents present 240 litre bins from backcourt to front of property	Use of bin hubs to the front of properties

4.6 The key outputs from the modelling exercise are as follows

4.7 As more materials were targeted for recycling, the overall systems performance improved, with the greatest increase being noted within option 3 where food waste collection is enhanced in all communal properties

4.8 Making presentation changes leads to increase capture rates and reduced contamination, and as a result the system performance in presentation variants B score higher than A variants.

4.9 Option 3B scored the highest in the Qualitative modelling against the following criteria

- Alignment with the COP
- Public & Political acceptability
- Stakeholder Acceptability
- Ease of implementation & Delivery
- Ease of use
- Quality of material

4.10 From both the Qualitative & Qualitative analysis Option 3B was the highest performing option in terms of increasing tonnage recycled while reducing its carbon impact .

5 Current Communal Waste Collection Initiatives

5.1 The Council is currently piloting aspects of the OA, and specifically Option 3B noted in Section 4.2, within the Bin Hub Pilot in Pollokshields. Impacting approximately 1,900 properties, bin hubs have been installed on-street to the front of properties, providing opportunity to recycle additional materials compared to the current blue bin recycling service.

5.2 The bin hub installations are fitted on the road, adjacent to the pavement and the configuration of each hub is highlighted in the table below. Each bin hub serves c.8 tenement closes and an image of a bin hub is included within Appendix 1.

Bin	Materials Collected	Bin Size & Number	Collection Frequency
General Waste	Non-recyclable waste	2 x 1,280 litre	Every 4 days

Fibres	Paper, card, cardboard	1 x 1,280 litre	Every 8 days
Containers	Plastic bottles/pots/tubs/trays/film, cartons, food/drink cans	1 x 1,280 litre	Every 8 days
Food Waste	All cooked/uncooked food waste	1 x 240 litre	Every 8 days

5.3 To encourage participation within the food waste collection service, replacement food waste caddies and liners are available (free of charge) for collection by residents, within scope of the project, from Pollokshields library.

5.4 Many of the properties within the Pollokshields pilot previously had standalone 1,280 litre waste and recycling bins located on the pavements. Wheeled bins (240 litre) had been removed from the backcourt bin storge areas due to health and safety concerns for collection crews accessing some of the tenement closes when servicing the bins.

5.5 A detailed assessment of the pilot will be undertaken on, however from early indications & resident feedback , improvements have been noted in the quality and quantity of recycled material captured, cleanliness of the streets and a reduction in missed bins reported.

5.6 In an addition to the positive feedback, double parking of vehicles restricting access to the Hub's and side waste are still challenges within this area which are being addressed.

5.7 This pilot will be extended to approximately 940 communal properties in the Haghill area in October 2023.

6 Next Steps

6.1 The Outcome of the OA assumed that all properties will be able to make changes to their bin provision, however, it is unlikely that these changes will be universally implemented, and that any changes are likely to be a combination of the options presented in 4.5.

6.2 Although bin and collection provision will vary across property types, to improve the recycling service and to align with the CoP, all properties will receive a two-stream (fibres and containers) and enhanced food waste collection service.

6.3 A hybrid approach will be developed to ensure all properties receive the new service. This approach will be delivered based on the following criteria.

- Group 1 - Limited access tenements. The solution for this group will be the installation of on street (Hub) containment systems.

- Group 2 - Properties that are currently serviced by 4 wheeled (1280ltr) bins, including Multi story flats. The solution for this group will be the

reconfiguration of exiting containment to introduce paper & card, and containers recycling, and the re-introduction of a food waste collection service.

- Group 3 - Properties with existing good access currently serviced by wheelie bins. The solution for this group is the reconfiguration of exiting containment to introduce paper & card, containers recycling, and re-introduce a food waste collection service.

6.4 The implementation of the changes to the three groups will improve system performance (recycling rate and carbon impact) in relation to the materials collected for recycling, presentational changes, and reduce coverall operational costs

6.5 The presentational/ provision changes will reduce operational cost associated with the collection of material, however, there will be substantial costs associated with container/hub purchase and the ongoing maintenance of these units.

6.6 Once determined, a further application will be submitted to the Scottish Government Recycling Improvement Fund for capital to support the implementation of this scheme.

6.7 This modelling exercise has been conducted at a theoretical level, and the next stage will be to develop a detailed project and business plan for its delivery.

7 Policy and Resource Implications

Resource Implications:

Financial:	No direct financial impacts from the completion of the OA. Aligning collection services with current and future national policies will require funding. An application will be made to the Scottish Government Recycling Improvement Fund (or future equivalent).
Legal:	No legal implications with completing the OA. The Circular Economy Bill seeks to place aspects of the Code of Practice for the Charter for Household Recycling on a statutory footing.
Personnel:	Changing collection models from communal properties will impact the number of staff required to provide collection services. Staff

	will be reassigned to other areas of the department.
Procurement:	Additional bin infrastructure will be required to align services with future national policy implementation.

Council Strategic Plan: Support for Grand Challenge 3, Mission 2, Commitment 8.
Support for Grand Challenge 4, Mission 1, Commitments 3, 10, and 12

Equality and Socio-Economic Impacts:

Does the proposal support the Council's Equality Outcomes 2021-25? Please specify.	Yes. All residents within communal properties will be provided with a service aligned to future national policies
What are the potential equality impacts as a result of this report?	EQIA will require to be undertaken on all property types (tenements, multi-storey, new builds) within the communal property. No significant impact anticipated.
Please highlight if the policy/proposal will help address socio-economic disadvantage.	Any future service change will impact all communal property types, ensuring all residents have access to similar services.

Climate Impacts:

Does the proposal support any Climate Plan actions? Please specify:	Future communal service changes will target additional materials for collection, diverting these items from the general waste bin with a subsequent increase in recycling rates.
What are the potential climate impacts as a result of this proposal?	Increase in material collected for recycling and improvement in the quality of material collected, with associated reduction in waste sent to landfill and residual waste treatment.
Will the proposal contribute to Glasgow's net zero carbon target?	Yes. All options modelled saw a reduction in the carbon impacts associated with managing waste from flats.

Privacy and Data Protection Impacts:	
Are there any potential data protection impacts as a result of this report Y/N	No
If Yes, please confirm that a Data Protection Impact Assessment (DPIA) has been carried out	

8 Recommendations

It is recommended that:

- Committee notes the contents of this report
- Committee notes the further work to be undertaken to determine the different service provision provided to flats to enable alignment with the Charter for Household Recycling and supporting Code of Practice

Appendix 1

Bin Hub Image – Pollokshields

