



Glasgow City Council

Net Zero and Climate Progress Monitoring City Policy Committee

Report by George Gillespie, Executive Director of Neighbourhoods, Regeneration & Sustainability

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UPDATE ON PLASTIC REDUCTION STRATEGY AND ACTION PLAN

Purpose of Report:

To provide Committee with an update on the Plastic Reduction Strategy and Action Plan.

Recommendations:

The Committee is asked to:

- 1) Note the contents of this report;
- 2) Note the progress update provided;
- 3) Support the proposed integration of the Plastic Reduction Action Plan into the Circular Economy Action Plan, Resource and Recycling Action Plan, Climate Plan and associated governance.

Ward No(s):

Citywide: ✓

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

1. Introduction

- 1.1 This report presents a review of the relevant legislative and policy context and a progress update on actions. It also examines the Plastic Reduction Strategy through the lens of circular economy and proposes a revised approach with the aim to align with other key policies, such as the [Circular Economy Route Map](#) and [Climate Plan](#).
- 1.2 Glasgow City Council published the [Plastic Reduction Strategy](#) (PRS) in 2019. The PRS included the vision to work towards a city free from unnecessary plastics by 2030, with a direct focus on reducing single use plastics. A Plastic Reduction Action Plan was agreed within the Strategy comprising 24 actions. An update on progress has been reported to Committee on an annual [basis](#).

2. Policy and legislative context

- 2.1 A review of the policy and legislative context was carried out. It is presented in detail in Appendix 1.
- 2.2 The current policy and legislative context highlights that plastics remain a key area of concern at both national and global level. Efforts to reduce unnecessary single use plastic, which is the key focus of the Plastic Reduction Strategy, remain current and are directly linked to efforts to create a circular economy.

3. Progress to date

- 3.1 The status of each action within the Plastics Reduction Action Plan has been reviewed and a full update on each action is contained within Appendix 2 of this report. Some of the key highlights include:
 - 3.1.1 **The Recycling Improvement Fund:** Residents across Glasgow are benefitting from an improved recycling service. Supported by the [Recycling Improvement Fund](#), Glasgow City Council introduced a [Twin Stream recycling service to flats](#) in three pilot areas in Glasgow (Pollokshields, Haghill and Finnieston) in 2023, expanding the range of materials collected for recycling (pots, tubs, trays, soft plastics) and increasing the collection frequency, therefore allowing the improvement of quality of recyclables collected. The twin stream recycling service is also being introduced to kerbside properties from Spring 2024.
 - 3.1.2 **Upstream Battle:** Glasgow City Council has been supporting the Upstream Battle initiative co-ordinated by Keep Scotland Beautiful since its launch in 2019, promoting the Upstream Battle Source 2 Sea week organised annually in September. In January 2024, the Council took part in the Glasgow Green Litter Survey and Litter Pick Day. Surveys help understand specific litter issues in an area so that campaigns to change negative behaviours and prevent littering are

targeted to local needs. The Council has helped establish the Clyde Litter Picking community Hub in partnership with volunteers at Clyde Place Square/Clyde Place to support and promote Upstream Battle campaigns. The Council has participated in litter pick events across the year in areas around and at River Clyde.

- 3.1.3 **Scottish Top-Up Taps initiative:** Scottish Water have continued to grow their “Top-Up tap” infrastructure across the city during 2023/24. The Top-Up Tap project installs outdoor water bottle refill stations with the aim to reduce plastic single use bottle consumption, reduce waste and litter. There are six Top-Up taps in operation across Glasgow, with the longest Top-Up tap in service for over 56 months. There are two Top-Up taps planned for installation in 2024, at People’s Palace and Buchanan Bus Station.
- 3.1.4 **Glasgow Royal Concert Hall reusable cups:** In an effort to reduce single use plastic consumption and waste, the Glasgow Royal Concert Hall fully replaced pint and half-pint glasses with a reusable alternative. The deposit return offering launched by Encore in April 2023 and has been operating successfully since.
- 3.1.5 **Procurement tracker:** The Council has developed a tool to help reduce single use plastic. The tracker is derived from catering procurement data. Catering products are assigned a risk category based on material and ease of recycling, targeting the reduction of high-risk items. The latest report dated December 2023 demonstrated that there has been a 99.7% reduction in the procurement of highest risk plastic¹. Also that in 2022/23 97% of all dining items purchased were made of ‘green’ materials. This year, in 2023/24, 100% of plates, spoons, knives and forks are made of sustainable, ‘green’ material. It is expected that 100% of straws and stirrers will be sustainable, ‘green’ material by end of 2023/24.
- 3.1.6 The above product categories targeted through the Procurement tracker align with the focus of the Plastic Reduction Strategy. The procurement tracker also provides information on persistent issues, such as cling film and food bags, as well as sustainable materials, such as aluminium foil and foil food containers, enabling more informed purchasing decisions to be made.

4. Moving forwards

- 4.1 There has been significant progress achieved across various projects and initiatives within the PRS. However, there are challenges in the delivery of the

¹ The risk categories are: ‘red’, which is the highest risk plastic (Plastic 6 – polystyrene or Plastic 7); ‘amber-high’, which is more difficult to recycle (Plastic 3 to Plastic 5); ‘amber-low’, which is composite items; and ‘green’, which is alternative material (non-plastic) easily recyclable. Analysis has shown that there has been a 99.7% reduction in ‘red’ detail plastic since 2016/17. In 2023/24, 38 ‘red’ and 79 ‘amber – high’ products were eliminated from all purchases, including all nitrile gloves.

Plastic Reduction Strategy that have also been taken into consideration during its review. Delays to legislation, such as EPR and DRS, governance and progress tracking, and capacity to implement changes to existing services, have had a negative effect on plastic reduction implementation.

- 4.2 Glasgow City Council is currently progressing actions and programs aimed at addressing the climate emergency through the Climate Plan. One key aspect of which is to embed circular economy principles across the city. One action within the Climate Plan is to deliver our Circular Economy Route Map. Within the Route Map, there is a vision for Glasgow to be a circular city by 2045. Actions to reduce plastic pollution and single use plastics form a key part of the journey to a become circular city.
- 4.3 During the first quarter of 2023/24, the Ellen McArthur Foundation (EMF) acted as a critical friend to Glasgow and conducted an [evaluation on Glasgow's Circular Economy Route Map](#). The purpose of this evaluation was to build on the initial review by the [OECD](#) and refresh the findings. The evaluation assesses the Route Map and provides recommendations in four key areas: governance and commitment, stakeholders, baseline information and solutions. EMF propose an amendment to governance arrangements, which focus on the creation of a working group to deliver on the Circular Economy Action Plan. A Circular Economy Working Group was created in January 2024, led by NRS Sustainability.
- 4.4 To better integrate plastic reduction actions into the Council's climate governance structure, and ensure consistent reporting, this report proposes the integration of the PRS into existing Council strategies. Doing so will also allow an alignment of the engagement approach, communication, and overall messaging on plastic reduction with relevant approaches in circular economy, resource and recycling and climate action.
- 4.5 There are 24 actions in the Plastic Reduction Action Plan. Five actions were completed by the [March 2023 Plastic Reduction Action Plan update](#). One additional action has been closed. There are 18 actions that remain "open". The status of each "open" action has been reviewed and confirmed with action owners. A red-amber-green (RAG) scoring has been assigned to each. Each "open" action was assessed against the Circular Economy Action Plan, the Resource and Recycling Action Plan and the Climate Action Plan where relevant. This is presented in detail in Appendix 2. Table 1 below summarises the review of the 18 "open" actions, presenting the recommendation on how to move forward and rationale for this.

Action No	Recommendation	Rationale
2, 16, 12	Mark as complete	Completed as per target and/or now business as usual for the council.

5, 8, 9, 10, 11, 15, 17, 19, 20, 22	Integrate with and report through Circular Economy Route Map	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Alignment of PRS actions with CE aims and objectives. • Alignment of PRS actions with existing CE actions • Streamline the reporting process and avoid duplication.
16, 21	Delivered by Resource and Recycling Strategy and reported through Resource and Recycling Strategy and the Circular Economy Route Map	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aligns with key Resource and Recycling Strategy aims and objectives. • Plastic recycling and engagement integral part of Resource and Recycling Strategy. • Directly delivered by specific Resource and Recycling Strategy and Circular Economy Route Map actions. • Currently reported on annual basis to Environment & Liveable Neighbourhoods City Policy Committee and will also be reported on annual basis to Net Zero and Climate Progress Monitoring City Policy Committee.
18	Delivered by the Climate Literacy training and reported through the Climate Plan.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Climate Literacy Training will cover a wide variety of climate related topics. • Integration will embed the plastic reduction topic in wider context of climate emergency. • Integrated course is expected to increase participation.
13, 14	Delivered by the Climate Engagement Framework and reported through the Climate Plan.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Opportunity to align messaging, communications, and engagement on plastic pollution with wider engagement on climate emergency through the Climate Engagement Framework.

Table 1 – Summary of recommendations for “open” actions

5. Next steps

5.1 The next steps in the review and delivery of the Plastic Reduction Strategy are to:

- Develop the integrated Circular Economy Action Plan and Plastic Reduction Action Plan. This will be an overarching Circular Economy

Action Plan for the city. An update will be presented to the Net Zero and Climate Progress Monitoring City Policy Committee in September 2024.

- Integrate training on plastic pollution and plastic reduction with Climate Literacy Training. Moving forward, updates will be reported through the Climate Plan. The next update of the Climate Plan is expected in October 2024.
- Integrate engagement on SUP issues with Climate Engagement Framework. Moving forward, updates will be reported through the Climate Plan. The next update of the Climate Plan is expected in October 2024.

5.2 Reporting of the Plastic Reduction Strategy and Action Plan will continue, until it is transferred to the Circular Economy Route Map, Resource and Recycling Strategy, and Climate Plan as outlined above.

5.3 Reporting aligned with the above proposals will be provided to the Net Zero and Climate Progress Monitoring City Policy Committee on an annual basis.

6. 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 Plastic Reduction Strategy is managed within existing resource in the Sustainability team.

Procurement: The purchase of any single use plastics will continue to be addressed by regular evaluation and reporting.

Council Strategic Plan: The project supports Grand challenge 3 and 4:

- Fight Climate Emergency in a Just Transition to Net Zero; Mission 2: Become a Net Zero Carbon City by 2030.
- Enable staff to deliver essential services in a sustainable, innovative and efficient way for our communities; Mission 1: Create safe, clean and thriving neighbourhoods.

Equality and Socio-Economic Impacts:

Does the proposal support the Council's Equality Outcomes 2021-25? Please specify. Not applicable to this report.

What are the potential equality impacts as a result of this report? An EQIA screening was undertaken during the development of the Plastics Reduction Strategy. A need has been identified to maintain the availability of plastic straws for some disabled citizens.

Please highlight if the policy/proposal will help address socio-economic disadvantage. Not applicable for this project.

Climate Impacts:

This report has been used to trial the new CCIA process. The outputs of which can be found [here](#).

CCIA Outcome	Yes /No Or / Not At This Stage
Was a significant level of negative impact arising from the decision identified?	No
Does the decision require to be amended to have a positive impact?	No
Does a more detailed Climate Change Impact Assessment need to be undertaken?	Not at this stage

Does the proposal support any Climate Plan actions? Please specify: The project will contribute to Action 45 of the Climate Plan – “Support the delivery of the plastic reduction strategy to achieve its goal of no unnecessary plastic by 2030”. The Plastics Reduction Strategy will have a significant positive impact upon the environment by actively raising awareness and educating citizens and staff members about the need to reduce single use plastic consumption.

What are the potential climate impacts as a result of this proposal? A reduction in the consumption of single-use or unnecessary plastics across the city.

Will the proposal contribute to Glasgow’s net zero carbon target? Yes, this project will positively contribute to Glasgow’s net zero carbon target.

Privacy and Data Protection Impacts: None

7 Recommendations

7.1 The Committee is asked to:

- 1) Note the contents of this report;
- 2) Note the progress update provided;
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Appendix 1: Policy and legislative context

- 1.1 [The Environmental Protection \(Single-use Plastic Products\) Regulations 2021](#) (Scotland) came into force on 1 June 2022, leading to the ban of several single use items, unless an exemption applies for reasons such as medical purposes. The ban means it is unlawful to make and supply commercially any of the following single-use plastic items:

- Cutlery (forks, knives, spoons, chopsticks and other similar utensils);
- Plates;
- Beverage stirrers;
- Food containers, cups and lids made of expanded polystyrene;
- Plastic straws;
- Plastic balloon sticks.

The legislation aligns with the priorities within the Plastic Reduction Strategy. As a result, the legislation has helped address the reduction of these single use plastic items. This will be further explored in section 3.1.5.

- 1.2 The UK Government have reformed the [Extended Producer Responsibility](#) (EPR) for Packaging Waste. Originally expected to be introduced in 2024, packaging fees have been deferred for one year, now expected to start in October 2025.
- 1.3 The proposed reforms introduce a full net cost (FNC) recovery system that requires producers to fund the full net cost of the collection, sorting, treatment, recycling, and disposal of household packaging they place on the market. This policy changes who pays for the cost of managing and disposing packaging waste, shifting it away from local authorities and the public purse to businesses.
- 1.4 [Initial analysis](#) by the UK Government indicates that this will not result in significant increases in consumer prices. A modulated fee structure is expected to be introduced in 2026/27 with the aim to incentivize improvements to the recyclability of packaging. Developments in EPR legislation are also closely monitored through the council's [Resource and Recycling Strategy](#) which reports to the Environment & Liveable Neighbourhoods City Policy Committee.
- 1.5 The UK Government, on 1 April 2022, also introduced the [Plastic Packaging Tax](#) which is aimed at encouraging the use of recycled plastic for plastic packaging. This is implemented through a fee imposed on plastic packaging components with less than 30% recycled plastic, which are manufactured or imported into the UK. The new tax complements EPR by increasing demand for recycled plastic. The two policies are expected to drive plastic packaging reduction.
- 1.6 In January 2024, the UK Government announced a [ban on disposable vapes](#). A ban on the sale and supply of single use vapes in Scotland is due to come into effect on 1 April 2025, under proposed legislation published by the Scottish Government in February 2024.

- 1.7 Zero Waste Scotland estimates that up to 26 million single use vapes were consumed and disposed of in Scotland in the last year, with 10% ending up as litter and more than 50% disposed of incorrectly.
- 1.8 The legislation aims to reduce vaping among non-smokers and young people and take action to tackle their environmental impact. Glasgow City Council supported a ban on the sale of single use vapes at the Environment & Liveable Neighbourhoods City Policy Committee in [March 2023](#).
- 1.9 In April 2022, all four UK nations announced a [ban on wet wipes containing plastic](#). The Scottish Government will introduce regulations by the end of 2024 with the ban due to come into force 18 months later. This builds on work undertaken to tackle problematic and unnecessary sources of plastic litter. Wet wipes containing plastic do not biodegrade and persist for many years, which may cause harm to wildlife and the environment, and are a source of microplastic pollution.
- 1.10 The Scottish Government is committed to a [Deposit Return Scheme](#) (DRS) for single use drinks containers. On 7 June 2023, the decision was made for Scotland's DRS to be delayed until October 2025 at least, with the aim to align with schemes across the rest of the UK. On 25 April 2024, the UK Government announced a [revised timeline](#) for the launch of a nationwide Deposit Return Scheme by October 2027. The deposit return model incentivises behaviour change, reduces demand of raw materials and waste to landfill. The scheme's aim is to increase recycling of single use drinks containers, to reduce litter, and to reduce carbon emissions helping meet climate change targets.
- 1.11 In May 2023 the Scottish Government consulted on the [Circular Economy \(Scotland\) Bill](#) and subsequently in January 2024 on the [Circular Economy & Waste Route Map to 2030](#). The Bill gives powers to Scottish Ministers to introduce measures to help develop a circular economy. This includes powers for Scottish Government to publish a circular economy strategy, develop circular economy targets (including local recycling and reuse targets), reduce waste, increase penalties for littering from vehicles, make sure individual householders and businesses get rid of waste in the right way, and improve waste monitoring.
- 1.12 The Circular Economy & Waste Route Map to 2030 outlines what the Scottish Government intends to do, by when, and how it will work with others, to drive sustainable use and management of Scotland's resources. It is designed to drive progress on three key fronts: the strategic direction for delivering system wide circularity, priority actions leading up to 2030, and reducing emissions associated with resources and waste.
- 1.13 Internationally, in March 2022 the United Nations (UN) Environment Assembly adopted a [resolution](#) which led to the establishment of an Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee (INC) with the task to develop an international legally binding instrument to address plastic pollution. The INC is expected to complete its work by the end of 2024, which will include a treaty ready for ratification. In

May 2023, a [UN report](#) was published proposing a systems change to address the causes of plastic pollution and create a circular economy for plastics.

Net Zero Committee:

Appendix 2: Plastics Reduction Strategy Action Plan Update

	On track
	Minor delay/issues
	Major delay/issues
No colour	Completed/closed by previous review

APPENDIX 1 - PLASTIC REDUCTION ACTION PLAN UPDATE						
ACTION NO	SPECIFIC ACTION	TARGET	OWNERS	UPDATE	RAG	RECOMMEND
GLASGOW'S PLASTIC DECLARATION						
1	Glasgow City Council formally signs the EUROCITIES Environment Forum declaration on Curbing Plastic Waste and Littering.	To sign this declaration by the next meeting of the Environment Forum.	Glasgow City Council - NS	This action was completed by April 2023 review .	Complete	N/A
NATIONAL ACTION						
2	Establish a working group to make representation to the Scottish Government on wider plastics issues including plastic bags and plastic packaging.	Prepare a City wide working group to raise local plastics issues with the Scottish Government for further consideration.	Glasgow City Council NS to coordinate with key city partners	<p>EPR is coming into force in 2025. Plastic Packaging came into force in 2022. SUP ban has been enforced in Scotland. There is national (and international) action on plastics.</p> <p>With regards to the single use vape debate, GCC supported a ban on the sale at the Environment & Liveable Neighbourhoods City Policy Committee. In January 2024, the UK government announced a ban on disposable vapes.</p> <p>GCC representation to the Scottish Government occurs through the council's</p>		It is proposed that this action is marked completed.

				regular channels and through consultation responses on the Circular Economy (Scotland) Bill and Circular Economy & Waste Route Map to 2023, which amongst other topics, relates to increase of plastic recycling and decarbonizing disposal.		
3	Explore the potential for Glasgow to act as a pilot city for the Scottish Government's proposed Deposit Return Scheme for plastic bottles, allowing the scheme to be introduced earlier to the city than across the country.	Undertake detailed discussions and feasibility studies with a view to piloting the Deposit Return.	Glasgow City Council – NS, Scottish Government	This action was closed by April 2023 review .	Closed	N/A
CITY WIDE REDUCTION						
4	Undertake a feasibility study with a view to a city-wide ban on specific SUP items (namely plastic straws, stirrers, cutlery, and takeaway boxes). This will take account of the legislative context, as well as the need for relevant exemptions for disabled citizens.	Feasibility report concluded by October 2020.	Glasgow City Council - NS	This action was completed by April 2023 review .	Complete	N/A
5	Provide support to businesses, caterers, licensed premises and event organisers on how to reduce	Prepare and circulate Best Practice guides to business by April 2020. Undertake two focused workshop sessions to discuss	Glasgow City Council – DRS Business Advisors, Licensing,	NRS continue to work with the GCC Events Team, Major Events suppliers and Glasgow Life to develop Sustainable Events Guidance for event's organisers. Draft reporting was trialed during the 2023/24 summer events		It is proposed that this action is consolidated with Action 19, remains open and integrated with CE Action

	SUPs in day-to day operations.	reduction of plastics in businesses.	Glasgow Chamber of Commerce	<p>season and the final guidance is due to be shared at committee in August 2024.</p> <p>The Sustainable Glasgow Business Charter is a commitment from businesses to affect significant and demonstrable change towards net-zero carbon targets. The Council relaunched the Charter in 2023 with the aim to encourage commitment. Seven additional businesses have signed up to the Charter in 2023.</p> <p>Support to businesses on how to reduce SUP and waste is also available through Zero Waste Scotland.</p>		Plan/Action 17 – Circular Events.
6	Continue to support the work of Best Bar None Glasgow to recognize and support licensed premises and venues which reduce plastics usage.	Continue to provide support and expand this annual awards scheme to ensure licensed premises and venues receive extra credits for the reduction of unnecessary single-use plastics.	Glasgow City Council NS, Best Bar None Glasgow	<p>Best Bar None Glasgow has been engaging with premises post-Covid to encourage participation in the award process implementing best practice. As part of its operation, focused sessions are delivered for participants. Since January 2023, five seminars have been delivered on various subjects that benefit the licensed trade.</p> <p>Best Bar None Glasgow is administered locally by Glasgow City Council, it is part of operations receiving continuous support.</p>		It is proposed that this action is marked completed, as it has become business as usual for GCC.
7	Work to integrate the actions of the Plastics Reduction strategy with the forthcoming Circular Glasgow Route Map to identify overlap and opportunities between them.	Ensure integration of the plastics reduction strategy with the upcoming Circular Glasgow Route Map.	Glasgow City Council – NS, Glasgow Chamber of Commerce	This action was completed by April 2023 review .	Complete	N/A
8	Increase the number of top up taps in the	Work with city partners, in particular	Glasgow City Council	There are 6 Top Up Tap locations in Glasgow, which have dispensed 297K liters of water, the		It is proposed that this action remains

	city, which aim to be a catalyst to encourage more people to carry a refillable bottle.	Scottish Water and its “Your Water, Your Life” campaign, to increase the number of top up taps available across the City. Aim to have installed two additional top up taps by October 2020.	working with Scottish Water	equivalent of 900,000 330ml plastic bottles. The longest Top Up Tap has been in service for over 56 months. The scheme is expected to reach 1 million 330ml plastic bottles avoided by early 2024. There are 2 additional Top Up Taps planned for installation in 2024 at People’s Palace and the Buchanan Bus Station.		open and is integrated with CE Action Plan/Action 10 – Reuse and Sharing.
9	Take initial steps in developing the first plastic free shopping area in Glasgow.	Work with city partners to undertake a baseline survey on the quantity and type of plastics used by the retail and commercial shopping sectors. By October 2020.	Glasgow City Council, ZWS, Glasgow Chamber of Commerce	Glasgow's Coffee Festival has been single use coffee cup free since 2018. The same year, single use plastic milk bottles were replaced with reusable glass alternatives. The event is working on further reducing its impact and implementing sustainable practices. The single use plastic free approach can similarly be considered for events and venues additionally to shopping areas to ensure maximum reuse and waste reduction impact.		It is proposed that this action remains open and is integrated with CE Action Plan/Action 10 – Reuse and Sharing.
INTERNAL ACTION – LEADING THE WAY						
10	The Council will work to explore options to deliver a more sustainable approach to school meals.	This will include consideration and feasibility of options to address the changes needed to move towards plastic-free school catering.	Glasgow City Council Encore	Glasgow schools remain fully compliant with the SUP regulation. Following initial trials, primary schools utilize large bowls to serve fruit and vegetables where possible. Exploration of implementation of a Deposit Return Scheme for plastic bottles at secondary schools has stopped. This is in line with the decision to delay the scheme until 2025 to align with schemes in the rest of UK. Catering and Facilities Management regularly investigate new and innovative ways to further reduce SUP plastic items as part of their operations.		It is proposed that this action remains open and is integrated with CE Action Plan/Action 10 – Reuse and Sharing.

				GCC has been developing a catering plastics tracker which can provide further insight in SUP reduction opportunities for schools.		
11	The Council will continue to participate in the Glasgow Cup Movement initiative in order to reduce the use of single-use plastic coffee cups and recycle those which are in the system.	An assessment of newly established recycling infrastructure will be undertaken. Consideration will be given to opportunities for the further roll out of additional infrastructure and a significant push towards reusable cups.	Glasgow City Council – NS, KSB	The successful initiative was relaunched in September 2023 in partnership with retailers across the city. Partnering with the National Cup Recycling Scheme and key retailers, the #TakeitBack scheme directs Glaswegians to 128 stores across the city where any standard single-use cup can be taken back to be recycled.		It is proposed that this action remains open and is integrated with CE Action Plan/Action 10 – Reuse and Sharing.
12	The Council will continue to undertake clean ups to support the Upstream Battle campaign and prevent marine plastics reaching the River Clyde.	Continue to co-ordinate clean ups that address the issue of plastics in the River Clyde and its tributaries.	Glasgow City Council – NS, KSB	<p>GCC Neighbourhood Improvement and Enforcement Services (NIES) have been promoting the Upstream Battle Source 2 Sea week run in September each year. Through this campaign GCC actively promotes litter picking, whilst advocating the upstream Battle – thus tackling litter at its source on land before it reaches the River Clyde or any tributaries.</p> <p>NIES have 93 city wide established community litter picking hubs. The locations of all the hubs and information on how to access the equipment can be found on an interactive map on the council's website at Community Hub Locations.</p> <p>City wide there are also 625 Neighbourhood Improvement Volunteers involved with litter picking Neighbourhood Improvement Volunteers.</p>		It is proposed that this action is marked completed, as it has become business as usual for GCC, through NIES partnership with KSB and Clean Glasgow Litter Prevention Plan .

				<p>GCC has promoted People Make Glasgow Greener and Clean Glasgow and all campaigns run by Keep Scotland Beautiful, also participating in several events over the past year. As an example, GCC took part in the KSB Upstream Battle – Glasgow Green Litter Survey and Litter Pick Day in January 2024. Surveys help understand specific litter issues in these areas so that campaigns to change negative behaviours and prevent littering are targeted based on local needs.</p>		
13	<p>Undertake focused engagement with young people to discuss the impact of plastics as part of a climate emergency conversation, with a view to establishing Glasgow's first SUP free school. This will be extended to an early years establishment, as well as primary and secondary schools.</p>	<p>Prepare and deliver an engagement exercise to reach young people and foster a plastic reduction conversation.</p>	<p>Glasgow City Council - NS and Education Services</p>	<p>GCC undertook young people engagement as part of the ICLEI Global Stocktake activities. The Global Stocktake is one of the activities committed by the global community through the Paris Agreement at COP21. This engagement activity provided an opportunity to assess progress of the city's climate targets from the perspective of young people, specifically Lourdes Academy. The report was presented at COP28 by the leader of the Council.</p> <p>During COP26 GCC launched the Glasgow's Children and Young People's Climate Charter: Engage the World to Change the World, which is an intergenerational declaration, promise and challenge. It inspires citizens, partners, children, and young people to become climate and carbon literate and empowers young people to play an active role in the climate emergency. It touches on various aspects of climate change, including reduce, reuse, recycle principles, responsible consumption, packaging reduction etc. The Charter was updated by a group of children and young</p>		<p>It is proposed that this action remains open, to be delivered by the Climate Plan - Engagement Framework, once approved. Updates will be reported through the Climate Plan.</p>

				<p>people in 2023. The full Climate Charter can be found here.</p> <p>Engagement with young people on the climate emergency, a part of which is the impact of plastics on communities, is a part of business as usual activities for GCC.</p>		
14	Undertake focused engagement with communities (including faith and equalities groups) about the impact of plastics to ensure that their voices are heard as part of a wider community climate conversation.	Prepare and deliver an engagement piece to reach a maximum number of residents and foster a plastic reduction conversation across communities.	Glasgow City Council – NS	NRS Sustainability is currently developing a Climate Engagement Framework. Community engagement will be addressed through this channel.		It is proposed that this action remains open, to be delivered by the Climate Plan - Engagement Framework, once approved. Updates will be reported through the Climate Plan.
15	Ensure that procurement policy pays reference to the need for plastics reduction in the context of supplier sustainability credentials.	Sustainability qualification information to be provided in tenders to encourage suppliers to address and improve their sustainability credentials particularly in relation to plastic reduction.	Glasgow City Council Procurement, Scotland Excel, City partner agencies	<p>The CPU has published Glasgow City Council's Sustainable Procurement Strategy for 2023-2027. One of the Strategy's key objectives is to support the Council's Net Zero, Ecological and Adaptation ambitions by continuing to utilize circular economy principles throughout the procurement process. The strategy pays specific reference to the need for single use plastic reduction and takes into consideration the Plastic Reduction Strategy.</p> <p>As an example, due to GCC's sourcing strategy and in compliance with the Scottish Government's single use plastic policy, 97% of all dining items (spoons, forks, knives and plates) purchased in 2022/23 were plastic free. This rose to 99.9% by the end of 2023. The Sustainable Steering Group has been</p>		It is proposed that this action remains open and is integrated with CE Action Plan/Action 23 – Sustainable and Circular Procurement.

				reestablished, with the first meeting in April 2024. This will allow a renewed focus on embedding sustainability in the procurement workplan and agree on frameworks that can have a targeted focus as part of the Plastic Reduction Strategy, Circular Economy and other sustainable targets.		
16	Undertake a refresh of the provision of information to citizens on recycling bins, and the transport and disposal of plastic waste. This will be undertaken as part of a wider communication strategy around waste management and recycling.	Provide information to citizens in relation to plastic recycling.	Glasgow City Council – NS	<p>This action is being delivered through the published Resource and Recycling Strategy. The council has been working on improving recycling collection infrastructure. A twin stream recycling service was implemented in three pilot areas (Pollokshields, Haghill and Finnieston), expanding the range of materials collected, and food waste bins were re-introduced. Collection frequencies for all material streams have increased. A communication campaign, including face-to-face events with residents in the local area was carried out to support the installation of this new infrastructure. Additional communications and a survey of residents will be undertaken in 2024. An update to additional communication campaigns undertaken in 2023 was presented to the Environment & Liveable Neighbourhoods City Policy Committee in January 2024.</p> <p>From Spring 2024, a new twin stream recycling service will be introduced to all kerbside properties. All households (c.120,000) will receive instructional information on the materials targeted for collection within service, including additional plastic materials.</p>		It is proposed that this action remains open, to be delivered by the Resource and Recycling Strategy. Updates on the RRS will be reported through the Environment & Liveable Neighbourhoods City Policy Committee and the Net Zero and Climate Progress Monitoring City Policy Committee for the Circular Economy Route Map.
17	Continue to explore options to remove all SUP items used within Council and	This will include consideration and feasibility of options to address the	Encore	CPU, Catering and Facilities Management (Encore) and NRS continue to work closely to remove single use plastic in Encore cafes and GCC Estate. As a recent successful example,		It is proposed that this action remains open and is integrated with CE

	Encore cafes and increase the use of sustainable alternatives.	changes needed to move towards single-use plastic free catering.		<p>SUP pint glasses, half pint glasses and wine flutes have been fully replaced by reusable alternatives at the Glasgow Royal Concert Hall. The new offering launched in April 2023 and has been operating successfully since.</p> <p>Reusable coffee/tea cup pilots were trialed at several locations. Learnings have been collated and GCC is working on exploring how sustainable alternatives can be rolled out across council venues. The Mitchell Library and City Chambers Ure Café & East Café along with Leisure sites (Emirates, Scotstoun, Tollcross, Gorbals, Bellahouston and Kelvinhall) are under consideration for the feasibility of implementing reusable cup alternatives.</p>		Action Plan/Action 10 – Reuse and Sharing.
18	The Council will encourage staff to work towards plastics reduction and look to influence other partners.	Prepare a GOLD course to encourage Council staff to work towards plastics reduction as employees and citizens.	Glasgow City Council – NS, other city partners Glasgow Chamber of Commerce	Work is ongoing on the development and relaunch of the Climate Literacy Course in GOLD. Plastic pollution and plastic reduction aspects will be delivered through the course.		It is proposed that this action remains open, to be delivered by the Climate Plan – Climate Literacy Course, once approved. Updates will be reported through the Climate Plan.
BEHAVIOUR CHANGE						
19	Support behaviour change action by learning from best practice in SUP minimisation at events held across the city.	Undertake a series of case studies on events held in the city which carry out best practice on plastics reduction, in order to inform policy and practice for future events. This will build	Glasgow City Council – NS, Glasgow Chamber of Commerce	<p>GCC has engaged major events organisers to identify lessons learned in terms of sustainability. Specifically in regard to SUP, in 2023/24 GlasGlow successfully replaced most single use plastic food and drinks packaging with biodegradable alternatives.</p> <p>NRS continue with the GCC Events Team, Major Events suppliers and Glasgow Life to</p>		It is proposed that this action is consolidated with Action 5, remains open and integrated with CE Action Plan/Action 17 – Circular Events.

		on innovative practice in the circular economy, including work with the SEC.		<p>develop Sustainable Events Guidance for event's organisers. This will be shared at committee in August 2024.</p> <p>A reporting framework for Major Events is in development and will be trialed as part of the Sustainable Events Guidance. The reporting framework will include emissions monitoring. This framework will enable events suppliers to compare and reflect on their emissions impact and inspire further impact reduction action.</p>		
20	Support pilot projects, research and development on SUP alternatives and promote circular practices across the city on plastics.	Support pilot projects to address the issue of plastics. This will include supporting a pilot of the innovative "Bubble Barrier" in the River Clyde. Continue to support pilot projects looking to SUP alternatives. Seek funding, where available, to support research and/or pilot projects for circular work with regards to plastics. Ongoing.	Glasgow City Council – NS, Glasgow Chamber of Commerce, University Sector	Glasgow City Council have been progressing a project which aimed to install a litter fence 'boom' on the River Clyde to capture waste prior to it entering the marine environment. The first stage of this project, which is now complete, consisted of a study to confirm there were no UXO (unexploded ordnances, bombs) in the proposed site location. The outcomes of this study identified multiple 'anomalies' in the river, and it was not possible to confirm within the scope of the study that these were not UXO. The proposed location had initially been selected from multiple other potential locations that were later ruled out during stakeholder engagement. Due to lack of alternative locations and inability to provide confirmation that there were no UXO in the site location, Glasgow City Council has taken the decision to no longer pursue the project.		It is proposed that this action remains open and is integrated with CE Action Plan/Action 11 – Packaging and Waste Reduction.
21	Design and undertake a targeted communications campaign designed to inform and educate citizens and visitors on how to reduce, reuse and recycle	A targeted communication campaign to be delivered in support of the vision of this strategy. This will be focused on both	Glasgow City Council, KSB, Visit Scotland	Regular communications to residents on the council's recycling services to increase participation in services and quality of materials captured are regularly carried out as part of the Resource and Recycling Strategy's action to promote behaviour change. Similarly, through the Resource and Recycling Strategy, all national communication campaigns such as		It is proposed that this action remains open, to be delivered by the Resource and Recycling Strategy. Updates will be reported through the

	their individual plastic use.	residents and visitors to the city. Ongoing.		<p>Recycle Week and Scottish Government Climate Change are supported through the council's digital waste channels.</p> <p>Communication on the new twin stream recycling service highlights the additional plastic materials (pots, tubs, trays, soft plastics) targeted for collection.</p>		Environment & Liveable Neighbourhoods City Policy Committee and the Net Zero and Climate Progress Monitoring City Policy Committee through the Circular Economy Route Map.
22	Undertake research on the viability of smart recycling schemes that offer incentives for positive recycling practices.	Prepare and produce a detailed report on the viability of a smart recycling scheme that offers incentives to members of the public. By May 2020.	Glasgow City Council – NS, Scottish Government, ZWS	<p>Scotland's Deposit Return Scheme (DRS) is delayed until October 2025 at the earliest. This is to align with schemes in the rest of the UK. In April 2024, the UK Government announced a revised timeline for the launch of a nationwide Deposit Return Scheme by October 2027.</p> <p>Glasgow City Council introduced twin stream recycling collection infrastructure to flats in three areas during the last six months of 2023. The new system has expanded the range of materials collected and has increased the collection frequency allows for these property types, improving the quality of recyclables collected. In October 2023, a report was presented to the Environment & Liveable Neighbourhoods City Policy Committee highlighting the options considered for introducing a twin stream recycling service to all flats across the city. Work will be undertaken in 2024 to determine the collection infrastructure installed in each area.</p> <p>The twin stream recycling service is also being introduced to kerbside properties. From</p>		It is proposed that this action remains open and is integrated with CE Action Plan/Action 11 – Packaging and Waste Reduction.

				<p>March 2024, starting in the north west of the city, c.120,000 houses will receive the new service, which is anticipated to take 12 months to roll out and due for completion by March 2025.</p> <p>Any new smart recycling schemes would need to take these developments into consideration and align with them. These are ongoing and delayed until October 2027 at least.</p>		
23	Promote and endorse the Refill initiative across the city.	Develop a communications campaign which highlights opportunities to refill water bottles.	Glasgow City Council – NS, Refill, Visit Scotland	This action was completed by April 2023 review .	Complete	N/A
24	Support the delivery of a COP that incorporates plastic-free principles and eliminates single use plastics.	Work with the organisers of COP26 in Glasgow.	Glasgow City Council - Corporate Services, COP organisers	This action was completed by April 2023 review .	Complete	N/A