

**Glasgow City Council****Environment, Sustainability and Carbon Reduction City Policy Committee****Report by Executive Director of Neighbourhoods, Regeneration and Sustainability****Contact: Stevie Scott****Ext: 78292****RESOURCE AND RECYCLING STRATEGY 2020-30 - UPDATE****Purpose of Report:**

To update Committee on the progress made to deliver the action plan set out in the Resource and Recycling Strategy 2020-30 and provide an overview of emerging policy changes within the resource industry.

Recommendations:

It is recommended that Committee notes:

- (a) the progress made in delivering the actions committed within the Resource and Recycling Strategy 2020-30 and detailed in Appendix A – Action Plan.
- (b) the strategic priorities for 2022, which are key to delivering the ambitions of the Resource and Recycling Strategy 2020-30.

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 progress made to deliver the action plan set out within the Resource and Recycling Strategy 2020-30 and provide an overview of emerging policy changes within the resource and recycling industry.

2. Background

- 2.1. The Resource and Recycling Strategy (RRS) 2020-30 was presented to the Environment, Sustainability and Carbon Reduction City Policy Committee (Committee) on 2nd February 2021 and subsequently approved by the City Administration Committee (CAC) on 3rd June 2021 (<https://www.glasgow.gov.uk/councillorsandcommittees/agenda.asp?meetingid=17540>).
- 2.2. The RRS responds to the Climate Emergency and seeks to reduce the carbon impact of waste on the environment. This will be achieved by improving the quality and quantity of materials captured for reuse and recycling.
- 2.3. The RRS complements other carbon reduction strategies, such as the Circular Economy Route Map for Glasgow 2020-30 and Climate Emergency Plan.

3. Policy Landscape

- 3.1. Within the resource industry, significant policy changes will fundamentally change what materials are targeted for recycling and how this material is then collected and processed.
- 3.2. These policy changes were detailed to Committee within the report and presentation provided in February 2021, and include:
 - Charter for Household Recycling and Associated Code of Practice
 - Deposit Return Scheme for Single-use Drinks Containers
 - Circular Economy Bill
 - Extended Producer Responsibility for Packaging Waste
 - Landfill Ban on Biodegradable Material
- 3.3. Since the RRS was approved at Committee, work has also been initiated on the Scottish Government Route Map :A plan for waste targets to 2025 and beyond, which in addition to the policy interventions noted above, is a strategic plan aiming to reduce waste, contribute to meeting 2025 targets and develop actions post 2025, which will identify how the waste and recycling industry will contribute towards net zero to 2030 and beyond. The Route Map has seven key work packages including, household recycling and disposal. Organised by Zero Waste Scotland and the Scottish Government, pre-consultation

workshops to discuss potential intervention strategies were held late in 2021 with stakeholders from 31 organisations. Local authorities were represented by officers from the Waste Managers Network and CoSLA. A consultation on the Route Map is expected in April 2022 with publication of the plan anticipated in September 2022. As it becomes available, further information on the Route Map will be accessible on the following link.

<https://zerowastescotland.org.uk/content/route-map-plan-waste-targets-2025-and-beyond>

- 3.4. The RRS takes cognisance of this changing policy landscape and aligns the council to the direction of travel within the wider resource industry.

4. Key Achievements

- 4.1. The Covid-19 pandemic had an unprecedented impact on the resource industry and delivery of front line services.
- 4.2. Despite this challenging backdrop, Neighbourhoods, Regeneration and Sustainability has already delivered key actions set out within the RRS, following approval by the CAC on 3rd June 2021. These achievements are provided in full within Appendix A – Action Plan, with prominent highlights noted below.
- 4.3. The council achieved a significant increase in recycling and landfill diversion performance during calendar year 2020, compared against 2019, with a 4.9% increase in household recycling and 20% increase in landfill diversion. This has been accomplished through collection service reform projects, staff training and awareness, contract management and targeted infrastructure and technology investments across the service.
- 4.4. The council has started the move towards alignment with the Charter for Household Waste Recycling by introducing a 3-weekly residual waste collection service for main door properties; previously a 2-weekly service. This change is aimed at driving recyclable material away from residual waste bins and complements the council's transition towards the Charter as committed within the RRS.
- 4.5. The council has also been working closely with the Scottish Government and other partnership agencies, including Zero Waste Scotland, with an ambition to establish the council as a strategic provider of recycling processing services in Scotland. This will require investment in new processing infrastructure and for us to align council services to the Charter for Household Recycling. It is hoped that investment will be supported by grant funding through the RIF.
- 4.6. A new online booking system was launched in 2021 for access to the council's material transfer stations and is now in use by the largest six Registered Social Landlords in Glasgow, including Wheatley Group, Sanctuary and Govan Housing Association. The system controls how and when customers deliver material to council facilities, assisting with the operational management of these

facilities. The booking system for Glasgow City Council residents using the household waste recycling centres is due to be introduced later in 2022.

- 4.7. The delivery and implementation of technology solutions and procedures to improve service delivery and data management within the council's material transfer and recycling facilities, including:
 - Development of new weighbridge software and work instructions
 - CCTV & Automated Number Plate Recognition (ANPR)
- 4.8. A reuse event was hosted at the council's Shieldhall HWRC on 23rd and 24th October 2021 in partnership with the council's Waste Electronics and Electrical Equipment processing supplier, Valpak. This reuse event was successful by minimising the production of waste, maximising the longevity of the materials left by members of the public, while supporting a local charity, Starter Packs. Follow up events will be planned for 2022.
- 4.9. Development of a recycling bin contamination policy aimed at improving the quality and quantity of recyclables targeted for separate collection. Subject to Committee approval, it is anticipated that this will be delivered in the final quarter of 2022.
- 4.10. Staff engagement and training has been a key focus in 2021, which includes the development of training films for operational staff; the first aimed at managing contamination within recycling bins. This engagement will continue into 2022 and see the introduction of new electronic equipment to broadcast key recycling messages to frontline staff based within operational facilities.

5. Strategic Project Priorities

- 5.1. Several strategic projects are now underway following approval of the RRS at CAC on 3rd June 2021. An update in respect of each project is provided below.
- 5.2. Options Appraisal – Alignment with the Charter for Household Recycling
- 5.3. In conjunction with Zero Waste Scotland and external consultants, Eunomia, an options appraisal is being undertaken which is assessing options to change the council's recycling and waste collection services to align with the requirements of the Charter for Household Recycling and its associated Code of Practice. This will also assist with ensuring council services align with the requirements of the proposals for Extended Producer Responsibility on packaging waste, which will impact future funding models for packaging.
- 5.4. An initial options assessment report has been produced which has investigated the performance and cost for aligning the council's kerbside properties with the Charter for Household Waste and associated Code of Practice. A further detailed review is underway which is assessing options for flatted properties.

5.5. The final report is expected in April 2022. Following a NRS review an update report containing key recommendations for both kerbside and flatted properties will be reported to Committee later in the year.

5.6. Recyclables Processing Infrastructure

5.7. In order to support the recommendations of the above options appraisal, the council has engaged the services of an external advisor, SLR, to develop options for new processing infrastructure capable of achieving high recycling capture rates for material targeted by any new collection model.

5.8. This project is closely aligned to the council's wider depot review, ensuring that any proposed investment complements the council's property strategy.

5.9. It is also envisaged that any investment will ensure the council has modern and versatile facilities to meet the demands of the service and future policy changes within the industry and is capable, if required, of providing recycling processing solutions to other Scottish Local Authorities.

5.10. Recycling Improvement Fund

5.11. The Scottish Government created a £70m fund, available over 5 years, to assist with meeting 2025 recycling targets.

5.12. The council considers this fund to be critical in supporting delivery of the strategic projects detailed above and plans to submit an application for funding in respect of these projects.

5.13. Stage 1 Expressions of Interest have been submitted which cover:

- Further alignment of collection services to the requirements of the Charter for Household Recycling and its associated Code of Practice. This is likely to include new waste / recycling containment for households and bring parity of service across property types.
- Development of a new Material Recovery Facility to process the change in composition of materials collected and improve material quality
- Upgrade of Household Waste Recycling Centres to include re-use centre
- Review of public collection points

5.14. Communications

5.15. External and internal communication plans are being implemented to assist improving the quality and quantity of materials captured within recycling services.

5.16. Officers have worked closely with STV Creative and developed a recycling campaign, 'Rubbish Talking', which will be broadcast on television and radio.

The TV campaign commenced on Monday 17 January and will last six weeks, with three two-week bursts in January, February, and March 2022, airing morning, afternoon and early evening/primetime. The campaign will also be supported via the use of the BT digital street hub advertising units and the Council's social media platforms.

- 5.17. In line with the report to the City Administration Committee in June 2021, preparations are underway to hold a resource and recycling summit with key stakeholders and further, more localised meetings, building on National Standards for Community Engagement, are also proposed for 2022. These events will bring together local communities with frontline team members and council officers to inform the strategy moving forward and work together to manage waste. It is anticipated the outputs from the Options Appraisal, on future waste and recycling services, will assist to inform these discussions.
- 5.18 Furthermore, meetings have been held with Education Services about improving recycling within the schools and how the Resource and Recycling Strategy can complement the Children's Climate Charter. Council officers attended the Young Persons Forum in December to discuss how recycling is currently managed within schools and how this could be developed, and further discussions are proposed for early 2022.

6. Policy and Resource Implications

Resource Implications:

Financial: There is no direct financial impacts in providing this update, although implementing actions within the strategy will require funding from internal and external sources, which will include submissions to the Recycling Improvement Fund.

Legal: No legal implications on the update of the strategy, but compliance with existing and new legislation will be required throughout the duration of this strategy.

Personnel: No personnel impacts have been determined at this time.

Procurement: There are no procurement implications at this time. The procurement of new contracts for the management of waste and purchase of infrastructure will be required throughout the duration of the strategy and subject to separate reports to Committee.

Council Strategic Plan: A Sustainable and Low Carbon City – The actions within the strategy are aimed at

preventing waste, increasing the use and longevity of materials and increasing the quantity and quality of materials collected for recycling. This will contribute to conserving resources and energy and assist the city to mitigate the impacts of waste on climate change and work towards carbon neutrality by 2030. Specifically, the strategy will contribute towards priority 64 - Improve the city's cleanliness and recycling rates and residents' satisfaction with these issues.

Equality and Socio-Economic Impacts:

Does the proposal support the Council's Equality Outcomes 2021-25? Please specify.

Yes – generally supportive.

What are the potential equality impacts as a result of this report?

A screening report EQIA has been undertaken when strategy was initially drafted. No negative impacts identified. Additional EQIAs may be required as different aspects of the strategy are implemented.

Please highlight if the policy/proposal will help address socio-economic disadvantage.

No negative impacts are anticipated.

Climate Impacts:

Does the proposal support any Climate Plan actions? Please specify:

The strategy seeks to increase the quantity and quality of materials collected for recycling and reduce the impact of climate change.

What are the potential climate impacts as a result of this proposal?

The strategy is seeking to reduce the impacts waste has on the environment.

Will the proposal contribute to Glasgow's net zero carbon target?

Yes. Reducing waste, maximising the longevity of resources, and increasing recycling will contribute towards Glasgow meeting a net zero carbon target.

Privacy and Data Protection Impacts:

No data protection impacts identified.

7. Recommendations

7.1. It is recommended that Committee notes:

- (a) the progress made in delivering the actions committed within the Resource and Recycling Strategy 2020-30 and detailed in Appendix A – Action Plan.
- (b) the strategic priorities for 2022, which are key to delivering the ambitions of the Resource and Recycling Strategy 2020-30.