

**REPORT TO: ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE – 10 JUNE 2013**  
**REPORT ON: DOMESTIC WASTE COLLECTION STRATEGY**  
**REPORT BY: DIRECTOR OF ENVIRONMENT**  
**REPORT NO: 18-2013**

## **1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT**

- 1.1 To advise committee on the Waste (Scotland) Regulations 2012, which were introduced to support the Scottish Government's Zero Waste Plan, and to provide an update on the work being undertaken to respond to the Regulations.

## **2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 2.1 Committee is asked to note the contents of this report and the further development work required to enable the long term waste collection strategy to be developed.

## **3.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 3.1 There are no direct financial implications arising from this report.

## **4.0 BACKGROUND**

### **4.1 Regulatory Position**

- 4.1.1 The Waste (Scotland) Regulations 2012 provide the future strategic direction for the management of waste, including Local Authority statutory requirements. The Regulations require that Local Authorities collect a number of prescribed commodities separately from residual waste where practicable including glass, plastics, metals, paper, card, and food waste.
- 4.1.2 Accompanying the Regulations are a revised set of targets, progress towards which will require a step change in the council's approach to recycling. The revised targets for recycling household waste are:
- 50% by 2013;
  - 60% by 2020; and
  - 70% by 2025.
- 4.1.3 The regulations place a responsibility upon local authorities to:
- collect glass, metals, plastics, paper and cardboard (dry recyclate) separately from other wastes from 1 January 2014;
  - collect food waste separately from other wastes from 1 January 2016;
  - ensure that biodegradable waste is not sent to landfill from 1 January 2021; and
  - ensure that no more than 5% of all wastes are disposed of via landfill by 2025.

### **4.2 Current Service Profile**

- 4.2.1 There are approximately 74,000 properties within the city which are serviced on residual waste collection routes by means of a variety of collection methodologies, including individual wheeled bins, communal on-street containers, and chute-fed waste systems. Approximately 51% of the city's housing stock consists of communal dwellings. Residual waste collection frequencies vary depending on property and

service type. In general, kerbside wheeled bins are collected weekly, whilst communal collections are collected on a more frequent basis, where required.

- 4.2.2 Recycling collection services are not currently fully available citywide, but kerbside services include:

<b>Service</b>	<b>No of Properties</b>
Blue bin - paper & cardboard	55,223 (75%)
Brown bin - garden waste	42,723 (58%)
Box-dry mixed recyclate (DMR)	15,823 (21%)
Burgundy bin - comingled DMR trial	3,381 (5%)
Kerbside caddies - food waste trial	2,858 (4%)

- 4.2.3 The Council's recycling rate for 2010 was recorded as 40.1%. Under previous national guidelines, recycling performance was calculated using all municipal waste arisings. Following the introduction of a revised reporting methodology last year, recycling performance now only applies to household waste. Further, the reclassification of Energy-from-Waste (EfW) residues into the new category of "Recovery", has seen the Council's most recent recycling rate figure "fall" to 32.4% (2011) and this is likely to fall further in 2012/2013 as a result of the EfW plant being off-line. It is worth noting that under the previous recording methodology, the Council's Recycling Rate for 2011 would have been 45.9%. It is clear from the above that significant change is required to achieve the challenging targets now being set.
- 4.2.4 Dundee City Council has one of the best records of all Scottish local authorities for avoiding the disposal of waste to landfill. In 2011, Dundee disposed of 13% of its residual domestic waste to landfill compared with the Scottish average of 56%. This is due to the successful treatment of most of the household waste using the waste to energy plant at Baldovie.

### **4.3 Review of Service**

- 4.3.1 A detailed review of options for the future delivery of the domestic waste collection service is under way. An initial appraisal has been undertaken by the specialist consultant LRS Consultancy Ltd and has identified a number of areas where further work is required to enable a final decision to be taken on the future collection strategy. It is anticipated that this work will take a further 9 - 12 months to complete.
- 4.3.2 There are three main areas requiring further work:

**Tenement and Flatted Property Review** - The high proportion of tenement and flatted properties within the city presents a significant challenge in identifying appropriate and feasible solutions to enable the range of recycling provision to be made in all locations. Staff, funded through Zero Waste Scotland, have recently been engaged to undertake a survey of all of the city's tenement and flatted housing stock. Results from this survey will be used to inform the long term service proposals.

**Dry Mixed Recyclate Material** - Work is being undertaken to identify the most appropriate material mix for collection taking into account existing contracts, future market capacity and the outcome of the Scotland Excel procurement framework for the re-processing of such recyclate materials. The review of DMR is critical to the development of the long term waste strategy as it will inform the most appropriate combination in which these recyclable materials should be collected.

**Operational Methodologies** - In order to develop a collection system capable of achieving the new recycling targets and delivered within the current budgetary limitations, a root and branch review of all collection operations is required. A detailed review of all collection routes, frequencies, working patterns, vehicles and equipment used will be undertaken. The corporate Routesmart software resource

will be utilised to assist in designing the most efficient collection methodologies and routes. All such proposals will be developed in full consultation with the Trade Unions.

#### **4.4 Consultation and Communication**

- 4.4.1 The LCPP network will be utilised to enable a consultation process to be undertaken with communities, residents and elected members on the implications of the new regulations for the collection of recyclates and residual waste in the city. This consultation will be extended to include all interested community groups, residents and tenant associations.
- 4.4.2 It is proposed to mount an education and awareness campaign to reinforce the key messages using all of the various forms of media available. Recycling Information Officers funded through Zero Waste Scotland will provide guidance and information to residents on how best to sort and recycle their waste materials and maximise the new services provided to them. The achievement of the targets for recycling will be as much about engaging our citizens more effectively, as providing the necessary infrastructure to support their efforts.
- 4.4.3 A further report will be brought back to committee for consideration prior to the implementation of any future changes in collection methodology.

#### **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. There are no major issues.

#### **6.0 CONSULTATION**

- 6.1 The Chief Executive, Director of Corporate Services and Head of Legal and Democratic Services have been consulted in relation to this report.

#### **7.0 BACKGROUND PAPERS**

- 7.1 Waste (Scotland) Regulations 2012  
<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ssi/2012/148/contents/made>

Ken Laing  
**Director of Environment**

Kenny Kerr  
**Head of Environmental Protection**

20 May 2013