



Subject:	Interim Waste Action Plan 2015-16
Date:	9 th June 2015
Reporting Officer:	Tim Walker, Head of Waste Management
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Is this report restricted?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Is the decision eligible for Call-in?	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>

1.0	Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues
1.1	At the Health and Environmental Services Committee meeting on 4 March 2015, members noted the successful conclusion of the “ <i>Towards Zero Waste</i> Action Plan (TZWAP) 2012-2015. This plan established a series of tasks aimed at improving Belfast’s recycling rate which increased from 32% in 2012 to a provisional 44% for 2015. The plan provided the Service with an annual programme of work, with the longer term goal of reaching a 50% recycling rate and a 35% landfill diversion rate by 2020, as required by European law.
1.2	The Waste Management Service intends to explore and investigate the options which will assist in improving the sustainability and management of the city’s waste. This is a detailed piece of work which will require careful consideration and engagement, particularly given the financial challenges presented to the council in the short to medium term.
1.3	In order to bridge the gap between the former Zero Waste Action Plan and this new strategic waste plan, the Service has developed an interim Waste Action Plan for 2015/16 which outlines the next steps required to successfully manage the city’s waste over the first year of Local Government Reform. This Interim Waste Action Plan 2015/16 is the

	subject of this report and the “plan on a page” is attached as Appendix I.
2.0	Recommendations
2.1	The Committee is requested to approve the Interim Waste Action Plan 2015/16.
3.0	Main report
	<p><u>Key Issues</u></p> <p><u>Overall Performance</u></p> <p>3.1 The delivery of the projects within the original Towards Zero Waste Action Plan 2012-15 resulted in a significant increase in the recycling rate over the 3 year period from 32% in 2012 to a provisional figure of 44% in 2015.</p> <p>3.2 In the Interim Waste Action Plan 2015/16, covering the first year of LGR, it is expected that due to a number of issues (detailed below), the recycling rate will decrease slightly. The Waste Management Service will take a number of steps to address these issues which will contribute to a recycling rate of around 40%.</p> <p>3.3 Overall, the amount of household waste is increasing. Following the recession and six years of declining waste arisings, 2014 saw an increase of 4% in the amount of household waste generated. This increase in overall waste arisings is being experienced across N.Ireland and the latest DOE data indicates that this increase is being sustained.</p> <p>3.4 The increase in waste arisings, both in general and as a result of LGR, has had a knock on effect on the city’s recycling rate. Where previously a 1% recycling rate equated to around 1,200 tonnes, this now equates to around 1,400 tonnes of recyclable waste.</p> <p>3.5 Under LGR, around 21,000 households transferred to Belfast City Council from Castlereagh, Lisburn and North Down. Preliminary field work indicates that not all households from the new areas have had access to the same recycling services and level of engagement as Belfast residents. As a result, it may take several months for the current recycling systems to embed within the transferring areas and longer for the desired behavioural change to come to fruition.</p>

3.6	<p>One of the initiatives contained within the Zero Waste Action Plan was the collection of glass from households in the blue bin area. Due to its recyclability, the Council recognised the important role this would play in delivering the Plan and, following on from a previously unsuccessful attempt by arc21 to procure a collection service, Waste Management started its own procurement exercise. It was anticipated that, once fully introduced, this initiative would contribute an additional 2.5% to the Council's recycling rate. However, members may recall, at the Shadow Strategic Policy and Resources Committee (SSPR) on 20th March 2015, it was agreed not to award the tender for the provision of a kerbside glass collection scheme. This decision was made on the basis of value for money and level of risk associated with the bids.</p>
3.7	<p>Taking into account the increase in household waste arisings, the non-award of the glass contract and the pressure on service budgets, the 2015/16 recycling rate is projected at around 40%. Further details are available in Appendix 2.</p> <p><u>Interim Waste Action Plan 2015/16</u></p>
3.8	<p>The Interim Waste Action Plan outlines the new tasks which the Service intends to undertake throughout the year. It is important to note that the existing recycling schemes i.e. the "business as usual" are fundamental in contributing to the overall recycling levels and require significant resourcing to ensure their success. A summary of the business as usual projects and their contribution to the recycling rate is contained in Appendix 3.</p> <p><i>Improvements to kerbside schemes</i></p> <p><i>Introduction of food waste collection and wheeled stacker box (3,000 hh)</i></p>
3.9	<p>There are around 3,000 households in the west of the city which currently only operate a two bin system i.e. dry recycling bin and residual bin. As such these households do not have the opportunity to compost their food waste. At the SSPR meeting of 28 November 2014 members agreed that a new, innovative, collection scheme would be introduced to this area. This will involve the dry recyclable bins being replaced with "wheelie stacker boxes". In addition, these households will be provided with a caddy system (internal caddy for kitchen and external caddy for kerbside collection) for weekly food collection. This scheme will mean that the households will have access to a food waste collection and at the same time the households will have an increased range of materials which can be</p>

recycled, including glass. This project is due to commence in Q3, 2015/16. Appendix 4 provides further information on the stacker box system.

Apartment recycling

3.10 In general, apartments present particular issues in relation to recycling due to a myriad of factors; communal bins, space restrictions, agent/ownership of property, single chute systems etc. During the introduction of the box scheme to the inner city in 2013 the Service introduced recycling to over 280 apartment complexes resulting in a significant improvement in recycling facilities for residents.

3.11 Arising from LGR there are a number of apartment complexes which require appropriate waste systems. The Service will work with stakeholders with the aim of assessing these sites and introducing recycling schemes into these sites as appropriate. Following on from this a similar exercise will be conducted in the outer city.

Improve Recycling Opportunities at Recycling Centres

Mattress Recycling

3.12 A procurement exercise is currently under way to provide a mattress recycling service for those mattresses disposed of at the HRCs. This project has been ring-fenced to “supported organisations”, an organisation where over 50% of the workforce are registered with disabilities. Not only will this project reduce waste to landfill but it will also provide employment opportunities and increased social inclusion for a particular sector within our community.

Household Recycling Centre & Civic Amenity Site Review

3.13 The Service proposes to examine the provision of Household Recycling Centres (HRCs) and Civic Amenity Sites (CA sites) in the new council area. It will take cognisance of the economic climate and provide strategic direction in terms of the optimal network of facilities which will contribute to the council’s cleaner, greener, sustainable city theme within the Belfast agenda.

Bring Sites

3.14	<p>The council provides over 45 mini “bring sites” across the city for glass recycling. There are also additional facilities provided at supermarket car parks for glass and other materials, including cans and textiles.</p>
3.15	<p>Given the non-award of the glass kerbside collection tender, the Service will focus on increasing the number of such sites and this will be supported by increased promotional effort.</p>
3.16	<p><i>Develop New Recycling Campaigns & Community Based Recycling Initiatives</i></p> <p>The Service’s Education and Promotions section will be a key component in engaging and communicating recycling messages directly with householders and other members of the public. A one year Interim Behavioural Change Plan will be developed by the section to support the projects contained in the Interim Waste Action Plan and to ensure continued participation in existing kerbside schemes. This plan will contain the following;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Resource Advisors - promote the various recycling services that are available to residents, particularly in the areas which transferred as part of LGR as feedback indicates that specific waste related challenges exist in certain areas which are likely to require targeted efforts and expenditure . Resource Advisors will also be focusing attention on areas of the city which have yet to fully engage with the existing kerbside schemes. These will be selected on the basis of participation, yield and contamination. ▪ Advertising - the Section will review its current advertising campaign (Recycle Here...Save money here) and consider refreshing the advertising panels on the refuse collection vehicles. ▪ a small budget for Zero Waste Community Grant Scheme in 2014/15 assisted in on the ground community based recycling projects—we therefore intend to review the evaluation returns of this scheme in order to quantify the contribution it made to the “reduce, re-use, recycle” message and identify learning that we can mainstream. ▪ Family fun days - through partnerships with local organisations, the Service will

carry out a light touch promotion of recycling through a series of “family fun days”.

- Food waste - the recent characterisation study noted that food waste is the single most important item of recyclable/compostable waste in the residual bin, making up around 25% of the weight, a specific campaign will be developed to tackle this waste.

Internal waste and Recyclables from Cityscape

3.17 We will continue to roll out the internal recycling scheme across Belfast City Council premises. We will use our own waste calculator (developed in-house) to identify costs associated with waste, recycling rate and carbon footprint for separate premises and services. We will promote the internal recycling scheme and identify opportunities to expand and improve upon the existing scheme.

3.18 We will work with colleagues across the Council to ensure that, where feasible and financially viable, recycling collections are captured from the city’s events programme.

Outcomes

An Attractive and Sustainable Place

3.19 The actions contained within the plan are aimed at supporting a cleaner, greener city for people to live, work in and visit. It also enhances the reputation of the council.

3.20 By continuing to divert waste from landfill, we are contributing towards the reduction in the amount of methane (a potent greenhouse gas) being released into the atmosphere, as well as landfill leachate which has the potential to pollute groundwater.

3.21 Application of the waste hierarchy, with the preferred options of waste prevention, followed by re-use, recycling and energy recovery, before landfill disposal sets the order of priorities for waste management. This helps manage our waste in such a way that it minimises the risk to human health or the environment, integral to creating an attractive and sustainable city.

3.22 We are providing good quality recyclable materials to local industry and completing the

recycling loop. As well as contributing to the circular economy (prolonging the value of materials), this also reduces the need to harvest virgin materials and helps preserve our natural resources and reduce our carbon footprint.

Business and Economy

3.23 The Green Alliance report (Feb 2014) "*More Jobs, less carbon*" states that through recycling around 5-10 jobs are supported per thousand tonnes of material processed in contracts to the 0.1 jobs supported when this material goes to landfill. Based on this source the council supports in the region of 520 jobs through its various recycling initiatives.

3.24 We will continue to support social enterprises and communities and to enhance skills and employability within the field of waste management.

3.25 We will maintain our partnerships with local universities, institutions and schools, providing work experience and research projects within the service and encouraging waste management as a career choice. We will continue to support European student Programmes, such as Intern Europe and the Leonardo Programme, encouraging students to choose Belfast as a world class learning destination.

3.26 We will also maintain our national and international connections, with organisations such as WRAP, CIWM and ReNew to help support and develop the waste industry at a worldwide level and to lead by example within the field of waste management.

3.27 We will strengthen business relationships and promote good practice within the realms of waste management, clean technology, health and safety and sustainability with our contractors and partners.

Healthy People and Communities

3.28 The Interim Waste Action Plan 2015/16 contributes towards creating a healthier Belfast. By linking the importance of healthy eating and lifestyles (e.g. portion control, buying less food and using left-overs) to our recycling programmes, we help our communities see real cost and health benefits to participating in recycling schemes.

3.29	Our current educational and outreach workshops, particularly those delivered in social deprived parts of the cities, reach communities that traditionally have not fully engaged with the recycling programmes before.
3.30	We engage with our communities, schools, residents, businesses and partners on an ongoing basis and through a variety of media (from door knocking exercises to our Eco Schools funded programme). We involve our residents and service users in our decision making processes and welcome customer feedback and comments on all of our provisions. We conduct regular customer surveys and incorporate our findings in our waste planning process.
3.31	<p><u>Financial & Resource Implications</u></p> <p>The activities included in the interim Waste Action Plan 2015/16 can be realised from the Departmental budget. The Department proposes to commission a value for money review of the recycling operations which, amongst other areas, will examine the provision of Household Recycling Centres (HRCs) and Civic Amenity Sites (CA sites).</p>
3.32	<p><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications</u></p> <p>Any changes to service provisions will be subject to screening under the council's Equality Screening Process.</p>
4.0	Appendices – Documents Attached
	<p>Appendix 1 – Summary Interim Waste Action Plan 2015/16</p> <p>Appendix 2 – Table outlining waste tonnages from transferred areas.</p> <p>Appendix 3 – Chart outlining breakdown of the recycling rate</p> <p>Appendix 4 – Details of the Stacker box system</p>