

EAST RENFREWSHIRE COUNCILCABINET29 November 2018Report by Director of EnvironmentKERBSIDE RECYCLING SERVICE - UPDATE REPORT**PURPOSE OF REPORT**

1. The Cabinet has requested to be updated on progress with the Council's 4 wheeled bin service and progress towards improved recycling rates.

**RECOMMENDATIONS**

2. The Cabinet is asked to:
- (a) Note the current position regarding the increased recycling rate for the 2017 calendar year; and
  - (b) Note that the 4 wheeled bin service has achieved and exceeded its aims in terms of financial savings and reduction in the amount of residual (household) waste going to landfill for the 2017 calendar year.

**BACKGROUND AND REPORT**

3. The Council has traditionally operated one of the best performing kerbside collections in the country, and for the second year running East Renfrewshire Council have been ranked the top performing Council in Scotland. Our 2017 rate is 67.1%, compared to the national average of 45.6%. ERC is one of only two Scottish Councils currently exceeding 60% and the first to achieve over 65%.

4. The recycling rates for the past 7 years (as assessed by the Scottish Environment Protection Agency – SEPA) have shown a year on year improvement. Details are as follows:

<b>Year</b>	<b>% Household Waste Recycled</b>
2011	53.1 %
2012	54.2 %
2013	55.7 %
2014	56.1 %
2015	56.4 %
2016	60.8 %
2017	67.1%

5. The Scottish Government's Circular Economy Strategy (2016) sets a target of 60% of household waste to be recycled/composted or prepared for re-use by 1 January 2020. Our current recycling levels show that we are successfully exceeding this target three years in advance of the effective target date.

6. In addition to the improvement in recycling performance, we have seen year on year reductions in the amount of household (residual waste) being transferred to landfill. In 2016, 17,923 tonnes were collected from households, this was a reduction from the previous year (2015) where 20,273 tonnes were collected. For year 2018 these figures have reduced once again to 14,146 tonnes.

7. The improvements in recycling rates and the reduction in the amount of residual waste collected puts East Renfrewshire Council in a position of strength to meet future targets.

8. The Council has also, through the Clyde Valley Partnership, positioned itself to meet the ban on residual waste going to landfill which comes into effect on 1 January 2021. From July 2019 the Council will commence sending commissioning waste from Greenhags to the Waste to Energy plant, at Dunbar, East Lothian, via a sorting facility at Bargeddie, Glasgow. The sorting plant will further enhance the Council's recycling figure.

9. One area of concern, however, for the Council is the diminishing processing capacity for recyclates at both home and abroad as the market struggles to deal with an overload of material. This has inevitably led to an increase in recycling gate fees, and credits for recycling materials are rapidly reducing and in some cases becoming a cost. This is a National and International problem, particularly in the case of plastics, and Zero Waste Scotland are aware of Council's concerns.

## **FINANCE AND EFFICIENCY**

10. The implementation of this service required capital purchase of 65,000 x 240 litre bins at a cost of £1.35 million. The payback period was based on the assumption of £300,000 over a 5 year period from 1 April 2017.

11. The resulting increases in recycling rates and the subsequent reduction in residual tonnage have resulted in not only a change to recycling habits of residents and subsequently supported the initial Capital expenditure on the new bins as outlined in point 10 above, but it also has allowed the service to achieve enhanced savings associated with the new service, which are now confirmed at just over £400,000, for the year 2017/18.

12. Furthermore, the introduction of new collection bins which superseded the previous unpopular system of boxes and bags has enabled the process of collections to be more effective. The number of complaints against the service has reduced and residents have bought-in to the process of recycling to a higher than anticipated level.

## **CONSULTATION**

13. The financial reporting has been undertaken in consultation with the Finance Business Partner (Environment).

## **PARTNERSHIP WORKING**

14. The Waste management service works in conjunction with many stakeholders, partner organisations and contractors to achieve this very high level of recycling performance.

## IMPLICATIONS OF THE PROPOSALS

15. There are no implications in terms of staffing, property, legal, IT, equalities and sustainability.

## CONCLUSIONS

16. The initial Capital investment has resulted in the effective implementation, management and delivery of the new kerbside collection service.

17. The new service continues to be successful for both the Council and our residents and has resulted in East Renfrewshire Council being assessed by SEPA as the top recycling council in Scotland for the second year running.

18. The overall project has strengthened our position to deal effectively with further changes which include the residual waste to landfill ban in 2021.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

19. The Cabinet is asked to:

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- (b) Note that the 4 wheeled bin service has achieved and exceeded its aims in terms of financial savings and reduction in the amount of residual (household) waste going to landfill for the 2017 calendar year.

Director of Environment

Further information and background papers can be obtained from Andrew Corry, Head of Service on 0141 577 3458, email: [andrew.corry@eastrenfrewshire.gov.uk](mailto:andrew.corry@eastrenfrewshire.gov.uk)

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