

## ABERDEEN CITY COUNCIL

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COMMITTEE	Enterprise, Strategic Planning & Infrastructure
DATE	12 November 2013
DIRECTOR	Gordon McIntosh
TITLE OF REPORT	Internal Waste Implementation Plan
REPORT NUMBER	EPI/13/199

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### 1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

The Council Internal Waste Minimisation Policy (IWMP) was approved by EP& I Committee in March 2013 and Corporate Policy and Performance Committee in April 2013.

The report included a recommendation to establish a plan of waste minimisation actions and thereafter report back to Committee with an annual review of corporate waste measures.

This report presents an Internal Waste Minimisation Plan (Appendix 1) outlining actions to meet the objectives of the policy document and highlighting waste actions currently underway in the Council.

### 2. RECOMMENDATION(S)

It is recommended that the Committee:

- (i) Approve the actions to reduce Council waste set out in the Internal Waste Minimisation Plan.
- (ii) Refer the Internal Waste Minimisation Plan report to all other Service Committees to endorse.

### 3. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Landfill tax, is currently £72 per tonne (2013/ 14) rising to £80 per tonne (1 April 2014), this is to encourage waste producers to produce less waste and recover more value from waste. With increasing landfill charges, waste disposal costs will continue to rise.

The Scotland Act 2012 means that from 2015 the Scottish Parliament will have new financial powers over taxes on disposal to landfill and proposals for this are being developed. It is anticipated that the tax will align with the Scottish Government's Zero Waste Plan and will reflect the changes under the Waste (Scotland) Regulations 2012 which will ban from landfill separately collected recyclates (2014) and biodegradable municipal waste (2021).

The IWMP has an aim to develop a sustainable approach to managing council waste by preventing and reducing waste arising as well as the reuse of waste, as measures before recycling and disposal. This has economic benefits, with a reduction in wasted materials, as well as a reduction in waste collection and disposal costs.

This Council Internal Waste Minimisation Plan (herein referred to as plan), supports the policy, builds upon existing actions and highlights further opportunities to increase efficiencies and reduce waste. It is anticipated that actions will be met from existing budgets. Any instances where a cost implication is identified, will be reported separately to committee by the relevant service.

#### 4. OTHER IMPLICATIONS

The plan supports the IWMP, outlining actions to ensure effective compliance with legislative requirements for waste. These include:

Environmental Protection (Duty of Care) Regulations 1991, which imposes a duty of care on any person who imports, produces, carries, keeps, treats or disposes of controlled waste. This requires the council to ensure there is no unauthorised or harmful deposit, treatment or disposal of the waste and that the escape of the waste is prevented. The transfer of waste must only be to an authorised person and a transfer note signed.

Data Protection Act 1998 under which the Council is responsible for making sure that confidential waste is kept secure and protected against loss and unauthorised access until final destruction.

Special Waste Amendment (Scotland) Regulations 2004, cover waste deemed hazardous under the European Hazardous Waste Directive, including: asbestos, lead acid batteries, electrical equipment containing hazardous components ie televisions, oily sludges, solvents, fluorescent light tubes, chemical wastes, pesticides.

This waste must be segregated, collected by an authorised waste carrier only and collections must be documented and recorded in consignment notes, which are used by the Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA) to track the movement of waste in Scotland.

Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment (WEEE) Regulations 2006 which require the council to dispose of waste electronic and electrical equipment responsibly. This is because it can contain mercury, lead and cadmium which can cause harm to human health and the environment.

Waste Batteries (Scotland) Regulations 2009. This legislation bans the landfill or incineration of automotive or industrial batteries in Scotland.

The Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009 has set targets to reduce green house gas (GHG) emissions by 42% by 2020 and 80% by 2050 and includes specific provision for waste. Part 4 of the Act places duties on public bodies relating to climate change and requires the

Council to act in the way best calculated to contribute to the delivery of the Act's emission reduction targets.

The Animal By- Products (Enforcement) (Scotland) Regulations 2011, set out health rules for dealing with animal by-products not intended for human consumption and restricts what may be done with such products. These regulations refer to the composting of kitchen and canteen waste.

The Waste (Scotland) Regulations 2012 impose a range of obligations in relation to the collection, transport, treatment and disposal of key recyclable materials and have specific implications for business waste, which covers the Council's own internal waste operations. This requires statutory recycling of key waste streams.

## 5.0 BACKGROUND

- 5.1 To allow proper consideration to environmental management responsibilities, and to assist in the minimisation of waste to meet the objectives of the IWMP, actions to reduce waste have been set out in the plan (Appendix 1).

The plan includes practical actions, aligned to the principles of the waste hierarchy, to meet the objectives of the IWMP and to secure a reduction in waste from council buildings, services and operations.

A series of awareness actions are included in the plan to ensure information on waste minimisation, legislative requirements and existing good practice is disseminated to all staff.

- 5.2 The actions within this plan were developed through consultation with officers from relevant service areas and from internal waste workshops held with staff from key service areas which were held in August 2013. The workshops considered the key challenges and opportunities for waste. Challenges include:
- The amount of space and storage required for segregation for the reuse, recycling and disposal of waste.
  - Limited local markets for certain waste streams.
  - The time required to move waste up the hierarchy and resources to procure additional services.
  - Rising disposal costs.
  - Digital/ technology solutions must be fit for purpose.
  - Increasing understanding of the cost savings of waste minimisation and the need for change.
  - The need for more education on waste and solutions.
  - The amount of staff to reach at variety of locations.

Opportunities to minimise waste and ensure a consistent approach to waste were collated and developed into a series of practical actions; these are set out in section 3 of the plan. These actions consolidate work already in development by Services that will have an impact on waste, as well as highlight new opportunities for waste minimisation.

5.3 Council actions and activity to reduce waste are listed by waste stream in Appendix A of the plan.

6. IMPACT

The plan supports the strategic priority of the 5 year Business Plan to “manage our waste better and increase recycling”

Aberdeen – the Smarter City, the administration’s partnership statement includes priorities:

- We will manage waste effectively and in line with UK and European legislative requirements by maximising recycling and reducing waste to landfill, thereby reducing our costs and carbon footprint.
- We will design and construct all new infrastructure to be energy efficient by maximising the use of low carbon technology and materials. We will use recycled materials where appropriate.

7. MANAGEMENT OF RISK

The plan supports the IWMP in mitigating the risk of non compliance with legislative requirements for the recycling and disposal of waste.

8. BACKGROUND PAPERS

Aberdeen City Council Internal Waste Minimisation Policy 2013

Scotland’s Zero Waste Plan -

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Environment/waste-and-pollution/Waste-1/wastestrategy>

WRAP report, “Collecting food waste from small businesses and schools” -

<http://www.wrap.org.uk/sites/files/wrap/SME%20&%20Schools%20Food%20Waste%20-%20Final.pdf>

Strategic Overview of the Waste Prevention Planning Project within Scottish Local Authorities (2008) -

[http://www2.wrap.org.uk/downloads/waste\\_prevention\\_within\\_local\\_authorities.968401af.9789.pdf](http://www2.wrap.org.uk/downloads/waste_prevention_within_local_authorities.968401af.9789.pdf)

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