

ABERDEEN CITY COUNCIL

COMMITTEE	Housing and Environment
DATE	11th March 2014
DIRECTOR	Pete Leonard
TITLE OF REPORT	Recycling service changes and Implications for Mixed Messaging
REPORT NUMBER:	H&E/14/022

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

This report provides an update on existing recycling services, proposed pilot schemes over the next year and the impact these have upon the effective messaging of increasing recycling performance.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

That the committee note the implications of this report and instructs officers to arrange a members' briefing session to explain the changing services.

3. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no financial implications arising from this report. All revenue and capital costs associated with any communications activity or the pilot schemes are covered by existing budgets.

4. OTHER IMPLICATIONS

There are no legal, personnel, property, equipment, Health and Safety or policy implications arising from this report.

The expansion of existing recycling services to encompass a greater array of waste streams and the development of a mixed recycling service will improve Aberdeen City Council's sustainability credentials. This includes working towards increased recycling performance and attaining zero waste to landfill.

5. BACKGROUND/MAIN ISSUES

Over the next year waste service provision for domestic and commercial customers of Aberdeen City Council will be undergoing significant change. The main drivers for these changes are the Waste

(Scotland) Regulations 2012 that introduces statutory obligations on Local Authorities and Businesses to make arrangements for recycling and food waste collections. These obligations mean that there will be a wide range of service changes including:

Commercial Collections

- Provision of food waste recycling for commercial customers;
- Provision of mixed recycling collections excluding glass for commercial customers;
- Provision of source segregated glass recycling collections for commercial customers
- Provision of historic paper/cardboard bundle collections for commercial customers;
- Provision of mixed recycling collections excluding glass for schools;
- Provision of food waste recycling facilities for schools;
- Provision of mixed recycling and food collections as appropriate for other Council properties and community centres.

Household Collections

- Provision of on-street communal limited recycling collections for mixed paper and cardboard as well as mixed plastic bottles and food and drinks cans;
- Provision of on-street communal food waste recycling facilities;
- Mixed recycling with glass communal recycling pilots within Powis and Union Grove;
- On-going provision of mixed food and garden waste collections through the brown bin service; and
- On-going provision of source segregated kerbside recycling services.

With this wide array of services there could be confusion as to what residents and commercial customers should recycle and how to use the service. This period of flux is likely to continue until mixed recycling collections including glass are rolled out city-wide and there is consistency and equal provision of waste services for all households

Members may be approached by constituents regarding the apparent inequalities or inconsistencies of services during the transition from existing services to city wide mixed recycling collections.

In order to ensure that members are aware of all the waste services mentioned above and how they are provided to constituents in their wards, it is proposed that a Members' Briefing be arranged in the Town House.

For each of the service areas, communications will be provided at all time to residents and commercial customers of any changes that may affect them, however, it is recognised that there may be confusion and 'mixed messaging'.

6. IMPACT

Corporate – The development of alternatives to landfill and enhanced recycling will help Aberdeen move to become a Zero Waste City - a key action within the Smarter Environment – Natural Resources Strategic Priority of the Five Year Business Plan.

Public – There will be an impact on the public in relation to these waste service changes. People may become confused as to what systems to use and how. This could lead to increased levels of contamination, potential for a fall in participation which will affect recycling performance and a increase in the volume of enquiries.

7. MANAGEMENT OF RISK

Effort will be made to limit the amount of mixed messaging residents and commercial customers will receive. Members and contact centre staff will be briefed and kept up to date of areas affected. Any marketing material will be developed to provide clear instruction and guidance to residents and commercial customers.

8. BACKGROUND PAPERS

Please refer to the following:

- Waste Strategy Review - Equality and Human Rights Impact Assessment August 2013
- Waste Strategy – Engaging with Stakeholders April 2010

9. REPORT AUTHOR DETAILS

Peter Lawrence, Waste and Recycling Manager
plawrence@aberdeencity.gov.uk or 01224 489331