

REFERS TO AGENDA ITEM 5 (b)
FALKIRK COUNCIL

Subject: ZERO WASTE STRATEGY 2012-2022
Meeting: ENVIRONMENT AND COMMUNITY SAFETY COMMITTEE
Date: 19 MARCH 2013
Author: DIRECTOR OF DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 Members will recall from previous reports to committee in October 2011 and January 2012 the requirement to update the Council's existing waste strategy to ensure continual compliance with the Zero Waste Plan and subsequent release of supporting regulations. The purpose of this report is to present members with the draft strategy for approval and to highlight the key issues addressed in the strategy.

2. CONSIDERATIONS

- 2.1 A new Zero Waste Strategy is required to address the legislative and policy changes introduced by Scotland's Zero Waste Plan and the Waste (Scotland) Regulations 2012.
- 2.2 On 24 January 2012 members approved the public consultation exercise on a Zero Waste Strategy 2012-2022: Main Issues Paper and this exercise was conducted during 2012. This report presents a finalised Zero Waste Strategy 2012-2022 for consideration by the Committee (See Appendix A). During the development of the final strategy consultation responses, which were generally supportive with some technical points, were given due consideration and, where appropriate, incorporated into the strategy document.
- 2.3 The legislative thrust, and therefore that of the strategy, is to support climate change policy, improve resource use and encourage economic benefit from waste reduction and resource use.
- 2.4 The strategy has been jointly developed with Clackmannanshire Council and the work has been funded by Zero Waste Scotland as a template of good practice for other local authorities. Falkirk is already one of the top performing authorities in Scotland with a recycling rate of 53.1% for the year to 31 March 2012.
- 2.5 The strategy focuses on the main challenges to improve from this position on the path to zero waste and resource efficiency, setting out policy objectives and actions to address the challenges through seven key issues:
- I) The climate change impact of waste
 - II) Preventing waste and improving resource efficiency
 - III) Providing leadership on moving to a zero waste society
 - IV) Optimising the Council's waste services for the future
 - V) Maximising the economic benefit for a zero waste society
 - VI) Ensuring the correct resources and waste management infrastructure
 - VII) The management of non-recyclable waste.
- 2.6 Scotland's original Zero Waste Plan introduced a step change in the thinking and approach to waste within Scotland. Policy focus has moved away from addressing municipal waste through avoiding its landfill, to the more ambitious aim of moving towards a Zero Waste Society.

- 2.7 Falkirk's Zero Waste Strategy seeks to demonstrate the Council's aspiration to achieve a zero waste society and to maximise the economic benefits this can bring for the communities of Falkirk. The new strategy is a high level policy document to influence future actions and is expected, in due course, to be followed by more detailed implementation and operational plans through the Council's service planning framework.
- 2.8 Translating the vision into action through Falkirk's Zero Waste Strategy will be challenging. The behaviour of all members of our community will be affected by new measures such as food waste collections, mandatory waste separation and rising costs. Equally, the Council's services will have to adapt to the changes in collection systems and new requirements for waste separation, which will affect the Council both as a waste collector and as a waste producer.
- 2.9 The strategy sets out the strategic direction for waste and resource efficiency within the Council's control for a period of up to 10 years. It incorporates recent legislative and statutory guidance changes, most notably the Waste (Scotland) Regulations 2012 that introduce amongst other things:
- I) Mandatory food waste collections (currently being implemented)
 - II) Landfill bans on specific material
 - III) Mandatory separate recycling collections from commercial premises
- 2.10 Operationally it will be essential for the Council to encourage community support for the zero waste journey by using continuous education and awareness raising messages and offering assistance where needed to understand the reasons why climate change, resource use and waste reduction are important issues for Falkirk and society as a whole.
- 2.11 A significant quantity of the waste the Council collects is not currently captured by recycling services because of a failure by some householders to participate fully with the Council's recycling services. This situation must be addressed and improved upon as it will help to avoid future costs, meet future targets and allow the Council to be compliant with landfill bans. As an example, those that do not participate in recycling services drain resources and in 2011/12 the authority could have prevented over £600,000 in waste treatment costs if the services had been fully utilised.

3. IMPLICATIONS

Financial

- 3.1 The financial implications of measures contained in the strategy will be reported to Members as these come forward. The introduction of the separate food waste collection is being funded through a grant award from Zero Waste Scotland which ends in 2015.

Legal

- 3.2 The strategy and subsequent actions will ensure compliance with the Waste (Scotland) Regulations 2012.

Policy

- 3.3 The new strategy is consistent with the Strategic Community Plan, Single Outcome Agreement and Corporate Plan. Both the Forth Valley Area Waste Plan 2003 and Strategic Outline Case 2006 will be superseded by the new Zero Waste Strategy.

Personnel

- 3.4 None

4. CONCLUSION

- 4.1 This new Zero Waste Strategy is an ambitious document which has the aim of continuing Falkirk's position as one of the leading authorities in Scotland in relation to environmental performance. The Council has come a long way since its original plans of 2003 and 2006 to a position that now sees it recycle over 50% of its waste. But the next steps in the journey are equally challenging and rewarding. By maximising how we manage, collect and process resources Falkirk's communities can continue to excel in the commitment to become a more sustainable society, while at the same time ensuring we reduce and limit the increasing costs associated with the misuse of ultimately scarce resources.

5. RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that the Committee:

- 5.1 notes and endorses the Council's new 10 year Zero Waste Strategy 2012-22.
- 5.2 notes the intention to bring more detailed implementation and operational plans to Committee to help deliver on the actions contained within the strategy.
- 5.3 agrees to forward this report to the Policy and Resources Committee for its consideration and approval.

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DIRECTOR OF DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

DATE: 3rd January, 2013

Contact Name(s): Robin Baird ext 0437

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

- | | |
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| 1 | Zero Waste Strategy 2012-2022 Consultation Responses |
| 2 | Scotland's Zero Waste plan |
| 3 | Zero Waste (Scotland) Regulations 2012 |
| 4 | Forth Valley Area Waste Plan 2003 |
| 5 | Strategic Outline Case 2006 |
| 6 | Environment & Community Safety Report 25 October 2011 |
| 7 | Environment & Community Safety Report 24 January 2012 |