

# Report

7

Report to:	<b>Community Services Committee</b>
Date of Meeting:	<b>16 September 2014</b>
Report by:	<b>Executive Director (Community and Enterprise Resources)</b>

Subject:	<b>Single Use Carrier Bags Charge (Scotland) Regulations 2014</b>
----------	---

## 1. Purpose of Report

1.1. The purpose of the report is to:-

- ♦ advise the Committee of the Single Use Carrier Bags Charge (Scotland) Regulations which will take effect on 20 October 2014

## 2. Recommendation(s)

2.1. The Committee is asked to approve the following recommendation(s):-

- (1) that the content of the report be noted.

## 3. Background

3.1. The Single Use Carrier Bags Charge (Scotland) Regulations 2014 come into force on 20 October 2014 requiring all retailers (food and non food) to charge a minimum of 5p for each new single-use carrier bag (including paper, those made from some plant based materials and plastic).

3.2. Scotland currently uses 750 million bags every year.

3.3. The purpose of the charge is to encourage shoppers to think about reusing bags to prevent litter, reduce waste and improve Scotland's environment.

## 4. Implementation of the legislation

4.1. The legislation will:

- require retailers to charge at least 5p for single use carrier bags
- provide a technical definition for bags covered, including material (plastic, paper and other plant/starch based material)
- apply to all retailers, regardless of type or size
- require retailers to keep and publish records, including on the use to which the net proceeds were put
- provide a list of bag types and purposes that will be exempted from the charge

4.2. This charge is not a tax but will see retailers donating the proceeds to charity. The Scottish Government and delivery body Zero Waste Scotland have been working closely with retailers at all stages of the process and will continue to do so in the run up to October 20 and beyond.

- 4.3 Advice on the legislation is available for retailers via a web site at:  
<http://carrierbagchargescotland.org.uk/>
- 4.4 The Trading Standards Service will be the enforcing authority responsible for this new legislation and the legislation comes into force on 20 October 2014.
- 5. Employee Implications**
- 5.1. There are no employee implications in relation to the new legislation. Trading Standards staff will monitor compliance during planned routine inspections.
- 5.2 Environmental Services anticipates that there will be a high level of compliance with the new legislation and that formal enforcement action will not be required on a regular basis.
- 6. Financial Implications**
- 6.1. There are no financial implications introduced by this legislation.
- 7. Other Implications**
- 7.1. The reduction in use of disposable bags, which it is hoped the new mandatory charge will lead to, will have a range of environmental benefits including more efficient use of natural resources, prevention of litter and reduced landfilling of waste. These outcomes will support a number of strategic objectives in the Council's Sustainable Development Strategy.
- 7.2. The Council's duties in relation to the new regulations will be aligned with other regulatory functions and as such there are no additional risk management implications.
- 8. Equality Impact Assessment and Consultation Arrangements**
- 8.1 This report does not introduce a new policy, function or strategy and, therefore, no impact assessment is required.
- 8.2. The measures contained in the regulations were part of the Scottish Government's 'Safeguarding Scotland's Resources' consultation from July to September 2012. The original consultation was reopened for further comment alongside a Strategic Environmental Assessment which was undertaken from February to March 2013. 94% of respondents supported charging for carrier bags.

There is no need for additional consultation at a local level but Environmental Services' staff will be able to provide information to retailers affected by the regulations if required.

**Colin McDowall**  
**Executive Director (Community and Enterprise Resources)**

Date 18 August 2014

**Link(s) to Council Objectives/Values**

- ◆ Improve the quality of the physical environment

**Previous References**

- ◆ None

**List of Background Papers**

- ◆ Single Use Carrier Bag Charge (Scotland) Regulations 2014

**Contact for Further Information**

If you would like to inspect the background papers or want further information, please

contact:- Craig Brown Environmental Services Manager

Ext: 4403 (Tel Number 01698 454403)

E-mail: [Craig.M.Brown@southlanarkshire.gov.uk](mailto:Craig.M.Brown@southlanarkshire.gov.uk)