

# Report

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Report to:	<b>Community Services Committee</b>
Date of Meeting:	<b>17 May 2016</b>
Report by:	<b>Executive Director (Community and Enterprise Resources)</b>

Subject:	<b>New Household Recycling Charter and Code of Practice</b>
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## 1. Purpose of Report

1.1. The purpose of the report is to:-

- ◆ advise the Committee of the Scottish Government's new Household Recycling Charter and associated Code of Practice.

## 2. Recommendation(s)

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

- (1) that the Council supports, in principle, the new household Recycling Charter and Code of Practice; and
- (2) to note that a report will be submitted to a future meeting of this Committee outlining the implications, timescales and resources to comply with the Charter and Code of Practice.

## 3. Background

3.1. In 2014, a Zero Waste Taskforce was convened to review the management of public sector waste services in order to provide an effective feedstock for Scotland's circular economy. A key recommendation from the Taskforce was that local authorities should be empowered and enabled to move towards consistent recycling collection systems. This approach had been set out within a new Charter for Household Recycling and associated Code of Practice. A copy of the Charter is included as an appendix 1 to the report.

## 4. Charter for Household Recycling and Code of Practice

4.1. The overall objectives behind the Charter for Household Recycling and Code of Practice are to improve recycling performances and fulfil the aim of developing a consistent national system of collection. By working together, and through this consistent approach, local authorities would realise benefits such as:-

- maximising high quality materials
- achieving high quantities of recycling and minimising non-recyclable waste
- encouraging participation from citizens
- cost effective services

4.2. The Scottish Government views the Charter and its Code of Practice as an opportunity to influence waste services that can deliver genuine efficiencies and cost savings to individual local authorities throughout Scotland. To become part of this government initiative, local authorities are asked to commit to the implementation of the Charter and Code of Practice through the following governance framework.

1. A Council commits its support towards the Household Recycling Charter and Code of Practice.
2. A local authority submits a transition plan to Zero Waste Scotland detailing how it intends to meet the criteria of the Charter.
3. An evaluation is made by Zero Waste Scotland of the transition plan.
4. Following the evaluation, a local authority could be asked to develop an implementation plan which would be evaluated by a strategic group (as yet not defined).
5. Following agreement as to the availability of the implementation plan, a formal offer of support to a local authority could be made.

4.3. The Household Recycling Charter and its Code of Practice advocates adoption of recycling in the following manner:-

1. Paper and cardboard are to be collected separately.
2. Plastics, cans and metal containers (such as aerosols) are to be collected separately.
3. Glass to be collected separately.

The Council's currently collects the recycle waste streams:-

1. Paper and cardboard are collected separately.
2. Plastics, cans and metal containers (such as aerosols) are co-collected with glass.

It should be noted that the Council collects different recycle waste streams from flatted properties (i.e. paper, cardboard, plastics, cans and metal containers are collected together). A separate discussion will be required to determine the feasibility of complying with the Code of Practice in respect of flats within South Lanarkshire.

4.4. It is important to note that whilst the Council proposes to support, in principle, the Household Recycling Charter and Code of Practice, it is only committing itself to considering change when it makes business sense to do so. Signing of the Charter is a voluntary exercise but does come with an expectation that, in time, a local authority will implement a Code of Practice compliant service. There is, however, no preset delivery timeline in place for this and, as such, would allow the Council's own new kerbside collection service to be fully implemented before any research work is undertaken in terms of the cost to change to the proposed Code of Practice. In the meantime, it is appropriate for the Leader of the Council and the Chief Executive to sign the charter.

## **5. Employee Implications**

5.1. There are no employee implications relative to the report.

## **6. Financial Implications**

- 6.1. There are no financial implications relative to the report at this moment in time.
- 6.2. However, it has been recognised by the Scottish Government, that there will be a cost to move from our new collection service to a system that allows us to collect the material streams as set out in the Charter. The Council is not in a current position to finance this service charge.
- 6.3. A further report will, however, be submitted to the Committee which will outline the financial implications relative to the adoption of the new Code of Practice.

## **7. Other Implications**

- 7.1. None

## **8. Equality Impact Assessment and Consultation Arrangements**

- 8.1. This report does not introduce a new policy, function or strategy or recommend a change to existing policy, function or strategy and, therefore, no impact assessment is required.
- 8.2. At this point in time there was no requirement to undertake consultation on the content of the report.

**Michael McGlynn**

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

**4 May 2016**

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

- ◆ Sustainable Development

### **Previous References**

None

### **List of Background Papers**

Copy of Code of Practice (Appendix 1 of report)

### **Contact for Further Information**

If you would like to inspect the background papers or want further information, please contact: - Stephen Kelly, Head of Facilities, Waste and Grounds Services

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## Charter for Household Recycling in Scotland

This Charter is a declaration of our organisation's intent to provide services that deliver local and national benefits, encouraging high-levels of citizen participation in waste prevention, recycling and reuse.

We, as leaders in local government and the main providers of services to households, acknowledge that significant progress has been made in achieving greater value from recycling and reusing household waste over the past 10 years. We also acknowledge that further progress is required to achieve better national and local outcomes.

We welcome the opportunity to make a commitment to our future waste, recycling and reuse services that will build on the progress achieved to date to ensure that waste is considered a resource and our services support sustainable employment and investment within the Scottish economy.

We recognise the opportunities of a more circular economy and better resource management to support sustainable employment and investment in the economy for the benefit of Scotland and its local communities.

We commit:

- To improve our household waste and recycling services to maximise the capture of, and improve the quality of, resources from the waste stream, recognising the variations in household types and geography to endeavour that our services meet the needs of all our citizens.
- To encourage our citizens to participate in our recycling and reuse services to ensure that they are fully utilised.
- To operate our services so that our staff are safe, competent and treated fairly with the skills required to deliver effective and efficient resource management on behalf of our communities.
- To develop, agree, implement and review a Code of Practice that enshrines the current best practice to deliver cost effective and high-performing recycling services and tell all of our citizens and community partners about both this charter and the code of practice.

Signatories

.....Council Leader

..... Chief Executive

Scottish Ministers welcome this declaration and will work in partnership with the signatories and their representatives to support the delivery of these commitments.

.....  
Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs, Food and Environment

To achieve this, we will do the following:

### Designing our services

1. We will design our household collection services to **take account of the Code of Practice (CoP)** for the variety of housing types and geography in our community. In doing so, over time, **we will establish common collection systems, as appropriate**, for paper, card, glass, plastics, metals, food and other commonly recycled materials deemed feasible (e.g. textiles, small WEEE, nappies) across Scotland.
2. We will ensure that **all citizens have access to services** for recycling to include paper, card, glass, plastics, metals and food. Thus, we will ensure that all citizens, whether at the kerbside or within their local community, are provided with adequate volumes of containers in line with the Code of Practice (CoP).
3. We will ensure that our household collections give **consistent definition of materials** (paper, card, glass, plastics, metals and food) that can be competently recycled in line with the Code of Practice (CoP). Thus, we will eradicate discrepancies on what can and cannot be recycled in different localities across Scotland.
4. We will **reduce the capacity provided for waste that cannot be recycled** to give the appropriate motivation to our citizens to recycle. Thus, we will ensure that all citizens, whether at the kerbside or within their local community, are limited to non-recyclable (i.e. black bag/general waste/residual waste) waste volumes in line with the established Code of Practice (CoP).

### Deliver consistent policies

5. We will ensure that our local policies, in line with the Code of Practice (CoP), encourage citizens to recycle by **reducing the collection of waste that cannot be recycled (i.e. excess waste/side waste)**.
6. We will ensure that our local policies **provide citizens with sufficient capacity for their waste**, recognising that some households will produce more waste than others, in line with the Code of Practice (CoP).
7. We will ensure that our local policies **direct our collection crews to not collect containers for waste that cannot be recycled that clearly contain recyclable materials** (including paper, card, glass, plastics, metals and food) in line with the Code of Practice (CoP).
8. Where citizens have not followed our collection advice and policies, we will ensure our **policies for communicating and taking corrective action are delivered consistently** in line with the Code of Practice (CoP).
9. We will ensure that policies for **bulky or excess waste encourage citizens to recycle and reuse, where this is practicable to do so**.

### Operating our services

10. We will **collect household waste when we have said we will** and ensure materials are managed appropriately upon collection.
11. We will manage materials so that the **highest possible quality is attained and we seek to accumulate value** by working with partners to encourage inward investment for our economy.
12. We will **record complaints and alleged missed collections** and ensure that we respond to these in line with the Code of Practice (CoP).
13. We will **listen to special requests or challenges** that citizens are having in relation to household waste collections and ensure that we respond to these in line with the Code of Practice (CoP).

14. We will deliver services so that they **take account of current policies with regards to environmental crime, litter and flytipping** in line with the Code of Practice (CoP).
15. We will deliver services so that our **staff and citizens are not endangered or at risk from harm** in line with the Code of Practice (CoP).

### **Communicating our services**

16. We will **clearly explain to all citizens** what services we provide by providing information on a regular basis. This will take recognition of different housing types, collection routes and service availability and be as specific to each property as necessary, in line with the Code of Practice (CoP).
17. We will **deliver service information directly** to citizens periodically in line with established Code of Practice (CoP).
18. Where we need to **change our services for any reason, we will communicate with citizens directly.**
19. We will **provide clear instructions to citizens on what can and cannot be recycled**, giving clear explanations where materials cannot be competently recycled.
20. We will communicate with citizens when they have not understood our services to **improve awareness and reduce contamination of recyclable materials.**
21. We will **record accurate information** on the amount of waste collected and the destinations, as far as practicable, of these materials in order to give confidence to citizens that it is being properly managed.

## **Citizens**

To aid with the delivery of this charter and the Code of Practice, we expect our citizens to participate in the recycling, re-use and non-recyclable waste services that we deliver, using them in accordance with the policies communicated to them, and hence assisting in improving both the quality and the quantity of materials provided for recycling.

## **Partners**

In committing to this charter we request that our partners in national and local government, the resource management industry, retailers, manufacturers, packagers, the third sector and others provide leadership and support in helping us deliver this commitment.

This charter is a clear statement of local government's intent to encourage high-levels of citizen participation in waste prevention, recycling and reuse. All of our partners will have a part to play in utilising the influence they have on our citizens to compliment this intent.

Furthermore, our partners are requested to assist the development of the Code of Practice by providing expertise, information and evidence wherever possible.

The following commitments have been given by each of our partners:

### **Scottish Government**

- To provide the leadership in supporting the delivery of this commitment.
- To provide the necessary policy framework to support local government in delivering the commitments in this Charter and the associated Code of Practice
- To liaise with partners to support the local government delivery of this commitment.
- To support the national behaviour change process required to deliver the foundations of a circular economy

### **Zero Waste Scotland**

- To provide the evidence, research, benchmarking and examples required to deliver the commitments in this Charter and the associated Code of Practice.
- To provide support, advice and guidance to local government that allows successful implementation of changes to services.

### **SEPA**

- To advise local government on the regulatory impacts of the commitments in this Charter and the associated Code of Practice.
- To regulate waste and recycle processors to ensure compliance with relevant legislation, particularly with respect to achieving appropriate destinations and markets for material.

### **Retailers, brands and packaging manufacturers**

- To provide information to inform specifications for local government that will encourage consistent collections.
- To provide technical, public relations and consumer behaviour advice to local government and its partners.
- To consider what resources, 'in kind', including behaviour changing measures, or financial, they can provide to support the delivery of the Charter.
- To inform, advise and guide local government and its partners on the technical scope of this Charter and related Code of Practice

### **The resource management industry**

- To provide information to inform specifications for local government that will encourage consistent collections which consistently achieve high quality recycling and reuse.
- To support local government by providing targeted information and data that allows them to reduce contamination and improve public participation and confidence in recycling and reuse.
- To provide leadership and public support for the Charter and the related Code of Practice.

### **The third sector**

- To provide leadership within the Third Sector on waste prevention, recycling and reuse and work in partnership with local authorities to develop the Code of Practice and support the effective delivery of the commitments in the Charter.
- To work with the Scottish Government and local authorities to promote effective communication with communities, groups, organisations and individuals on waste prevention, recycling and reuse and facilitate engagement in the design and development of services in line with the commitments in the Charter.
- To encourage and support practical action by communities, groups, organisations and individuals at a local level on waste prevention, recycling and reuse in line with the commitments in the Charter.