

**South Ayrshire Council**

**Report by Director of Housing, Operations and Development  
to Service Partnerships Performance Panel  
of 14 May 2024**

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**Subject: Waste Strategy 2021–2031 Progress Report**

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**1. Purpose**

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide the annual progress report of the Council's Waste Strategy from 2021 to 2031 as per the action plan.

**2. Recommendation**

- 2.1 It is recommended that the Panel considers the report and provides feedback to officers.**

**3. Background**

- 3.1 Background was provided in the 2023 Progress Report outlining how dynamic the Waste Industry is, with evolving reprocessing technologies that further drive market demand upon recycle, as well as the Legislative elements surrounding the collection reprocessing and disposal of waste.

- 3.2 The main Legislative driver in relation Local Authorities is the Environmental Protection Act 1990 which places a Statutory Duty upon the Council to arrange for the collection and disposal of household waste and, where requested, to arrange for the collection and disposal of commercial and industrial waste.

- 3.3 On 24 June 2021 Council approved the [Waste Strategy 2021 – 2031](#) and associated Action Plan to:

- Set policies and actions to meet the requirements as set out in the Environmental Protection Act (1990) and Scotland's Zero Waste Plan 2010 and align to the national Circular Economy Strategy 'Making Things Last' (February 2016).
- Establish how to meet the ban on biodegradable waste to landfill in January 2025 as set out in the Waste (Scotland) Regulations 2012.
- Build on the success of the Household Recycling Charter compliant service.
- Meet the objectives set out in the Climate Change Act (2009) and the subsequent 2019/20 programme for government.

- 3.4 Since the approval of the Strategy progress has continued to be made on several action points as noted in [Appendix 1](#).
- 3.5 In relation to Action Point 5 the sale of HWRC at Heathfield to South Ayrshire Council was completed, and the facility has been operating successfully for just over a year. The purchase of this facility has allowed Waste Management to accomplish Action Point 7.
- 3.6 Additionally, the Council has identified an area of land suitable for the development of the Council green waste recycling initiative and has commenced negotiations with the owners.
- 3.7 While the Service has been working to deliver the Actions within the Strategy the Service has had to manage 3 significant tasks, these being.
- In conjunction with East Ayrshire Council the development, issue and award of the contract for the Transfer and Treatment of Residual and Bulky Waste, this is a 10-year Contract with the possibility of further extensions of 3 plus 2 years at the sole discretion of the Councils. Over the 10 years the value of this contract is £39m.
  - The implementation of new processes for the management of Waste Upholstered Domestic Seating (WUDS) in relation to the potential contamination of these items with Persistent Organic Pollutants which were used as flame retardants during the manufacturing process.
  - The development and implementation of the new Garden Waste Collection Service which will commence on 15 July 2024.

#### **4. Proposals**

- 4.1 Members are requested to review the updates on progress towards implementing the outstanding actions relating to the Waste Strategy Action Plan 2021-2031.
- 4.2 Officers will bring a progress report to the Service and Performance panel in March 2024.

#### **5. Legal and Procurement Implications**

- 5.1 There are no legal implications arising from this report.
- 5.2 There are no procurement implications arising from this report.

#### **6. Financial Implications**

- 6.1 Current financial commitments can be met within allocated capital and revenue budgets.

#### **7. Human Resources Implications**

- 7.1 There are no human resource implications related to the content of this paper at this time.

## **8. Risk**

### **8.1 *Risk Implications of Adopting the Recommendations***

8.1.1 There are no risks from adopting the recommendations.

### **8.2 *Risk Implications of Rejecting the Recommendations***

8.2.1 There is a risk that in rejecting the recommendations the Council will jeopardise meeting legislative requirements over the next 10 years including meeting the ban on biodegradable waste to landfill in 2025.

## **9. Equalities**

9.1 The proposals in this report have been assessed through the Equality Impact Assessment Scoping Process. There are no significant positive or negative equality impacts of agreeing the recommendations and therefore an Equalities Impact Assessment is not required. A copy of the Equalities Scoping Assessment is shown in [Appendix 2](#).

## **10. Sustainable Development Implications**

10.1 ***Considering Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA)*** - This report does not propose or seek approval for a plan, policy, programme or strategy or document otherwise described which could be considered to constitute a plan, programme, policy or strategy.

## **11. Options Appraisal**

11.1 An options appraisal has not been carried out in relation to the subject matter of this report.

## **12. Link to Council Plan**

12.1 The matters referred to in this report contribute to the Council Plan, Priority One, Spaces and Places – Moving around and the environment.

## **13. Results of Consultation**

13.1 Consultation has taken place with Councillor Martin Kilbride, Portfolio Holder for Buildings, Housing and Environment, and the contents of this report reflect any feedback provided.

**Background Papers**     **Waste Strategy 2021-2031**

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**Date:** 1 May 2023

## Appendix 1

Key Theme	Action	Measurable Action	Priority	Timescale	Progress	% Complete
Waste Reduction & Prevention	1	Develop and initiate waste aware campaigns to minimise the use of single use plastics within South Ayrshire.	Medium	Medium Term	We continue to provide waste aware talks within schools included in which is the discussion of single use plastics In 2024 will be working on a Comms Team on a Communication Plan relating to the use of single use plastics	60%
	2	Develop a reuse plan to identify and co-ordinate reuse activities including supporting the development of partnerships with third sector organisations.	Medium	Long Term	The Re-Use container continues to be available at Troon however to fully realise this action significant resources, both in relation to staff and volunteers, are required to truly realise the ambition of this action. In 2024 Waste Management will research successful models and develop a business case.	40%
	3	Engage with partner organisations to form and encourage strategies to reduce overall waste arisings	Low	Long Term	Zero Waste Scotland have been working with South Ayrshire on a campaign not only to increase presentation of segregated food waste but also to reduce food waste. This will be an ongoing activity through the life of the strategy.	35%
	4	Conduct composition analysis for all waste streams and participation studies in relation to food waste.	Low	Long Term	This is ongoing and links into different initiatives such as the one outlined in point 3	90%
Infrastructure and Development	5	Develop and build/procure infrastructure to meet South Ayrshire Council requirements for residual waste, recycling and garden waste treatment	High	Medium Term	HWRC and Waste Transfer Station at Heathfield was successfully procured the site and we have successfully operated the site for just over a year. Significant upgrades have been undertaken and we are continuing to develop the site with plans to develop a material recovery facility to the rear of the site. Unfortunately, while a lot of work has been undertaken to progress with the development of a green waste site the identified site has not been purchased and we have not been able to progress.	60%

Key Theme	Action	Measurable Action	Priority	Timescale	Progress	% Complete
Infrastructure and Development	6	Review service provision in line with the introduction of a deposit return scheme	Medium	Medium Term	Scottish Government rescinded its plans for this scheme wishing to align with UK plans which were scheduled to commence in 2025 but have been put back to 2027. We have no guaranteed date when this initiative will become live and so this action will be archived until further information becomes available.	25%
	7	Consider options for Household Waste Recycling Centre provision for Ayr and Prestwick.	High	Medium Term	With the purchase of the Heathfield facility this action is now completed.	100%
	8	Prepare options appraisal/business case for the separation and resale of metals/plastics and cartons stream and direct sale of other recycling streams and review contractual arrangements for recycle materials	High	Short Term	With the purchase of Heathfield we have 6 waste streams have been retendered and these contracts are generating income. Reviewing contracts on a regular basis has now become our business model to take advantage of fluctuating markets. The picking line at Heathfield is currently being repaired and it is anticipated that the first sample loads will be put through this line early summer and we will be able to Annalise the materials salvaged.	50%
	9	Undertake options appraisal and business case relating to household and commercial waste bin infrastructure	Low	Long Term	To save wastage and procurement delays waste management have uniformed the bodies of the domestic bins grey bodies with the appropriate colour lid. Waste management carries a stock of replacement lids. This change has resulted in savings	60%
	10	Work in partnership with the Planning service to forward plan operational requirements of new developments.	Low	Short Term	The policy has been in place for over 12 months and is working well this action is now complete	100%
	11	Develop and implement a booking system for all HWRC's	High	Medium Term	Complete	100%
	12	Consider new digital and technological platforms in service delivery and waste reduction.	Medium	Long Term	We continue to explore new technologies and have procured solar litter bins with in build compaction units. To facilitate to deliver the new Garden Waste Service we have procured two new software system one of which will allow for	80%

Key Theme	Action	Measurable Action	Priority	Timescale	Progress	% Complete
					auto renewal saving significant staff time in administration	
Commercialisation and the Circular Economy	13	Develop a business plan for the commercial expansion of the green waste facility following any infrastructure investment	High	Short Term	Business plan has been completed	100%
	14	Collaborate with the Council's procurement service to maximise material and contractual opportunities	Medium	Long Term	This is an ongoing process and since the purchase of Heathfield we have a much closer working relationship with Procurement.	100%
	15	Review material acceptance policy at Household Waste Recycling Centre's in relation to industrial waste	Low	Medium Term	DEFRA have now confirmed that it is a mandatory duty upon the Authority to accept household waste that is industrial e.g. when some one builds an extension or fits a new bathroom or kitchen. Due to the above this action is now not able to be progressed.	100%
	16	Develop business activity within commercial waste across South Ayrshire	Medium	Long Term	The Commercial team continue to seek and retain commercial customers. In addition, we have continued with healthy numbers of customers disposing of their commercial waste at Heathfield all of which is income generating. This will be an ongoing action	60%
Enhanced Environment	17	Conduct a service review of street cleansing with associated action plan	High	Short Term	This review has been completed and is now in implementation. We are awaiting a LEAM's score to be able to assess if the changes have made a positive impact.	90%
	18	Map all litter bin locations on our streets and in our parks to maximise resources and optimise routing	Low	Short Term	As reported in the previous report the bins in parks and open space are to be mapped this summer	70%
	19	Develop a strategy and programme for all Council premises to be aligned to the household recycling charter	Medium	Medium Term	With the assistance Recycling Improvement Funding waste management have procured and are rolling out segregated internal litterbins to all schools. Working with facilities management and education to ensure that the correct waste streams go into the correct bins.	90%

Key Theme	Action	Measurable Action	Priority	Timescale	Progress	% Complete
					With the above waste have a near 100% of all council buildings suitably equipped to allow employees to correctly recycle the different waste streams.	
	20	Consider options and develop a plan for commercial bin infrastructure in our town centres	Medium	Long Term	Waste management have conducted a significant amount of engagement with different services. Success was actually achieved by positively engaging with each individual commercial customer and identifying a n alternative storage solution for their bins.	100%
	21	Develop options to transfer to an electric or ultra-low emissions fleet in line with the Council's Fleet Strategy	High	Long Term	The service in line with Fleet Management will look at technologies such as hydrogen fueled vehicles prior to 2030. The current options are cost prohibitive, and it is envisaged that the transition of the Fleet will be from 2028 onwards in line with the rolling procurement cycle of our Fleet. Given the fact our current Fleet is double shifted at this point it does not look like a full electric fleet is a viable option from a budgetary perspective, as we would need to double up on all vehicles. The above is what was issued in the previous progress report and the situation remains the same.	0%
	22	Deliver a solution for the ban on biodegradable municipal waste to landfill in 2025	High	Medium Term	Contract has now been awarded for 10years + 5 year contract This action is now complete.	100%
	23	Develop a contamination policy for both householders and commercial properties across South Ayrshire including other Council departments	Medium	Medium Term	A contamination policy for domestic waste has been prepared. Staff are currently working with schools and other Council departments in relation to correct disposal of their waste. While a policy for commercial customers has still to be produced	60%
Communication & Engagement	24	Develop a Waste Engagement and Communications framework which outlines how and when waste	Medium	Short Term	Communication plan is being developed for 2024	50%

Key Theme	Action	Measurable Action	Priority	Timescale	Progress	% Complete
		management will engage with stakeholders and within the Council itself				
	25	Develop new communication methods for engagement with communities, businesses and partner organisations	Medium	Medium Term	This is ongoing but is 100% actioned as per previous report.	100%
	26	Develop an online platform for commercial customers	High	Medium Term	We have had a number of demos and do have a preferred supplier and will progress further once we have initiated the new Garden Waste Service.	60%
	27	Develop educational videos and story boards for the promotion of the strategic objectives within the waste strategy	Medium	Short Term	This is an ongoing action and one where we link in with the Comms Team to develop	70%
	28	Actively promote the SAC MyBins app and continue to develop its functionality	High	Short Term	Promoted through Tenants & Residents Newsletter & SAC Live magazine and social media. Regular updates with App provider to ensure constant development to suit user requirement needs	100%



## South Ayrshire Council Equality Impact Assessment Scoping Template

Equality Impact Assessment is a legal requirement under the Public Sector Duty to promote equality of the Equality Act 2010. Separate guidance has been developed on Equality Impact Assessment's which will guide you through the process and is available to view here: <https://www.south-ayrshire.gov.uk/equalities/impact-assessment.aspx>

Further guidance is available here: <https://www.equalityhumanrights.com/en/publication-download/assessing-impact-and-public-sector-equality-duty-guide-public-authorities/>

The Fairer Scotland Duty ('the Duty'), Part 1 of the Equality Act 2010, came into force in Scotland from 1 April 2018. It places a legal responsibility on Councils to actively consider ('pay due regard to') how we can reduce inequalities of outcome caused by socio-economic disadvantage, when making strategic decisions. See information here: [Interim Guidance for Public Bodies](#) in respect of the Duty, was published by the Scottish Government in March 2018.

### 1. Policy details

Policy Title	Waste Strategy
Lead Officer (Name/Position/Email)	Kenneth Dalrymple – Assistant Director Housing & Operations

**2. Which communities, groups of people, employees or thematic groups do you think will be, or potentially could be, impacted upon by the implementation of this policy? Please indicate whether these would be positive or negative impacts**

Community or Groups of People	Negative Impacts	Positive impacts
Age – men and women, girls & boys	-	-
Disability	-	-
Gender Reassignment (Trans/Transgender Identity)	-	-
Marriage or Civil Partnership	-	-
Pregnancy and Maternity	-	-
Race – people from different racial groups, (BME) ethnic minorities and Gypsy/Travellers	-	-
Religion or Belief (including lack of belief)	-	-
Sex – gender identity (issues specific to women & men or girls & boys)	-	-
Sexual Orientation – person's sexual orientation i.e. LGBT+, lesbian, gay, bi-sexual, heterosexual/straight	-	-
Thematic Groups: Health, Human Rights & Children's Rights	-	-

**3. What likely impact will this policy have on people experiencing different kinds of social disadvantage? (Fairer Scotland Duty). Consideration must be given particularly to children and families.**

Socio-Economic Disadvantage	Negative Impacts	Positive impacts
Low Income/Income Poverty – cannot afford to maintain regular payments such as bills, food, clothing	-	-
Low and/or no wealth – enough money to meet	-	-

Basic living costs and pay bills but have no savings to deal with any unexpected spends and no provision for the future		
Material Deprivation – being unable to access basic goods and services i.e. financial products like life insurance, repair/replace broken electrical goods, warm home, leisure/hobbies	-	-
Area Deprivation – where you live (rural areas), where you work (accessibility of transport)	-	-
Socio-economic Background – social class i.e. parent's education, employment and income	-	-

**4. Do you have evidence or reason to believe that the policy will support the Council to:**

<b>General Duty and other Equality Themes Consider the 'Three Key Needs' of the Equality Duty</b>	<b>Level of Negative and/or Positive Impact (High, Medium or Low)</b>
Eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation	Low
Advance equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not	Low
Foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not. (Does it tackle prejudice and promote a better understanding of equality issues?)	Low
Increase participation of particular communities or groups in public life	Low
Improve the health and wellbeing of particular communities or groups	Low
Promote the human rights of particular communities or groups	Low
Tackle deprivation faced by particular communities or groups	Low

**5. Summary Assessment**

<b>Is a full Equality Impact Assessment required?</b> (A full Equality Impact Assessment must be carried out if impacts identified as <b>Medium and/or High</b> )	<b>NO</b>
<b>Rationale for decision:</b>  There are no equality issues relating to the waste strategy or its potential action plan outcomes and should not affect those with protected characteristics.	
<b>Signed:</b> Fiona Ross – Service Lead Neighbourhood Services  <b>Date:</b> 04 April 2024	