

South Ayrshire Council

**Report by Depute Chief Executive and Director
of Housing, Operations and Development
to Service and Performance Panel
of 7 March 2023**

Subject: Waste Strategy 2021–2031 Progress Report

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 The Waste Management sector within the United Kingdom has been evolving rapidly over the past decade. This is due to a number of factors such as market demand in relation to recycle, reprocessing and legislative requirements, notwithstanding the financial constraints local authorities face whilst having a legislative responsibility for the collection, disposal and reprocessing of household waste.
- 3.2 The Council has a statutory duty under the Environmental Protection Act 1990 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.

4. Proposals

4.1 Since the approval of the strategy progress has been made on a number of action points as noted in [Appendix 1](#).

4.2 Two of the key actions within the strategy are actions 5 and 7 where the service is required to:

- Develop and build/ procure infrastructure to meet South Ayrshire Council requirements for residual waste, recycling, and garden waste treatment.
- Consider options for Household Waste Recycling Centre provision for Ayr and Prestwick.

4.3 The Council is currently in negotiation to purchase a suitable facility to meet South Ayrshire Council requirements for residual waste and recycling. The Council has also identified a piece of land suitable for the expansion of our green waste recycling and has commenced negotiations with the owners.

4.4 Members are requested to review the updates on progress towards implementing the outstanding actions relating to the Waste Strategy Action Plan 2021-2031.

4.5 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 A capital budget allocation of £12 million has been approved in line with the infrastructure requirements identified within the Waste Strategy.

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 Commitment 6 of the Council Plan: A Better Place to Live/ Enhanced environment through social, cultural and economic activities.

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: 24 February 2023

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	Widespread social media communication campaign carried out to promote ban on single use plastics.	50%
	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	Re-use container in place at Troon HWRC for collection by Cunninghame Recycling. Promotional work carried out in Wallacetown, Ayr. Currently looking at options in our recycling centres.	40%
	3	Engage with partner organisations to form and encourage strategies to reduce overall waste arisings	Low	Long Term	We are in regular contact with Zero Waste Scotland and APSE to develop strategies for the reduction of waste arisings. The Waste Aware Team continue to engage with Community Groups and Educational Facilities.	25%
	4	Conduct composition analysis for all waste streams and participation studies in relation to food waste.	Low	Long Term	Compositional Waste Analysis and Food Waste participation study now completed. A compositional waste analysis will now be undertaken bi-annually.	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	Infrastructure for residual waste to be developed on purchase and takeover of HWRC and Waste Transfer Station at Heathfield. Planning to develop Heathfield to include Material sorting facility for recycling. Negotiations taking place to procure land for green waste recycling for garden waste.	50%
	6	Review service provision in line with the introduction of a deposit return scheme	Medium	Medium Term	Currently reviewing service provision prior to scheme rollout in August 2023 whereafter any	25%

Key Theme	Action	Measurable Action	Priority	Timescale	Progress	% Complete
Infrastructure and Development					changes to service will be introduced.	
	7	Consider options for Household Waste Recycling Centre provision for Ayr and Prestwick.	High	Medium Term	Proposed purchase and takeover of HWRC & Waste Transfer Station at Heathfield expected in March 2023	85%
	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 recyclate materials	High	Short Term	New contracts for recycle were put in place November 2022. Further contract tenders will be investigated on purchase of the HWRC and Waste Transfer Station at Heathfield	35%
	9	Undertake options appraisal and business case relating to household and commercial waste bin infrastructure	Low	Long Term	Not commenced	0%
	10	Work in partnership with the Planning service to forward plan operational requirements of new developments.	Low	Short Term	A policy paper has been prepared for discussion with the Planning service.	80%
	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	In-Cab Technology has been installed in our refuse collection vehicles. The go live commenced in December 2022 and we are currently making minor adjustments to the system. We will be exploring other technological solutions throughout the lifetime of the strategy.	80%

Key Theme	Action	Measurable Action	Priority	Timescale	Progress	% Complete
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	Work on the business plan is at an advanced stage. A site has been identified as a preferred option and is currently being pursued with a view to potential purchase.	80%
	14	Collaborate with the Council's procurement service to maximise material and contractual opportunities	Medium	Long Term	The service has engaged with the Procurement team and are discussing and developing future contracts. Regular meetings are in place to ensure maximum returns from Waste and Recycling Contracts	75%
	15	Review material acceptance policy at Household Waste Recycling Centre's in relation to industrial waste	Low	Medium Term	The service is currently researching Policy & Procedures in other local authority areas to appraise different approaches and successes.	20%
	16	Develop business activity within commercial waste across South Ayrshire	Medium	Long Term	The Commercial Waste Team in engaging with our customer base and actively seeking new customers to maximise revenue. We are also exploring commercial options with the imminent purchase of the Heathfield Household Waste Recycling facility.	50%
Enhanced Environment	17	Conduct a service review of street cleansing with associated action plan	High	Short Term	This review is currently underway and could take up to 8 months to complete.	35%
	18	Map all litter bin locations on our streets and in our parks to maximise resources and optimise routing	Low	Short Term	This process is complete from a Waste Management perspective with bin locations mapped on the GIS system. Mapping in Parks and Open Spaces will commence with the introduction of a new Parks app in April	70%

Key Theme	Action	Measurable Action	Priority	Timescale	Progress	% Complete
Enhanced Environment					2023.	
	19	Develop a strategy and programme for all Council premises to be aligned to the household recycling charter	Medium	Medium Term	A strategy has been developed and a business case is being prepared with regards to the funding required. A pilot was undertaken at Heathfield Primary with the results incorporated into the overall strategy.	40%
	20	Consider options and develop a plan for commercial bin infrastructure in our town centres	Medium	Long Term	Significant work has been undertaken by the Project Implementation Team to take forward. Meetings with key stakeholders will be taking place in the next phase of the project.	50%
	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.	0%
	22	Deliver a solution for the ban on biodegradable municipal waste to landfill in	High	Medium Term	Work has commenced in conjunction with East Ayrshire Council to procure a solution to the landfill ban in 2025. We currently have a	70%

Key Theme	Action	Measurable Action	Priority	Timescale	Progress	% Complete
		2025			contract which takes us to April 2024 with the option of an extension. We are actively looking at potential solution and will tender for a solution during 2023. Whilst the current contract meets the landfill ban it is not deemed a long-term solution, therefore the action is not sitting at 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 has been prepared and will be brought to Cabinet in May 2023.	90%
Communication & Engagement	24	Develop a Waste Engagement and Communications framework which outlines how and when waste management will engage with stakeholders and within the Council itself	Medium	Short Term	Waste Aware are now more active in community and in educational facilities. Communication Plan developed for 2023	40%
	25	Develop new communication methods for engagement with communities, businesses and partner organisations	Medium	Medium Term	Use of Social Media, MyBin App and Sky Ads being utilised to engage with communities, businesses and partners	100%
	26	Develop an online platform for commercial customers	High	Medium Term	Project Team in place to move forward. Information received from other local authorities and software being considered.	20%
	27	Develop educational videos and story boards for the promotion of the strategic objectives within the waste strategy	Medium	Short Term	Videos relating to the service and in particular to reduce contamination are now available on our Website.	65%

Key Theme	Action	Measurable Action	Priority	Timescale	Progress	% Complete
	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 – kenneth.dalrymple@south-ayrshire.gov.uk

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:

General Duty and other Equality Themes Consider the 'Three Key Needs' of the Equality Duty	Level of Negative and/or Positive Impact (High, Medium or Low)
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

Is a full Equality Impact Assessment required? (A full Equality Impact Assessment must be carried out if impacts identified as Medium and/or High)	NO
Rationale for decision: There are no equality issues relating to the waste strategy or its potential action plan outcomes and should not affect those with protected characteristics.	
Signed : Kenneth Dalrymple, Assistant Director of Housing & Operations	
Date: 08 February 2023	