

# Transport and Environment Committee

10am, Tuesday, 13 January 2015

## Landfill and Recycling

<b>Item number</b>	7.13(a)
<b>Report number</b>	
<b>Executive/routine</b>	
<b>Wards</b>	All

### Executive summary

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This report updates the Committee on performance in reducing the amount of waste being sent to landfill and increasing recycling.

Total waste arisings are 3% higher than the same period in 2013/14. A recent benchmarking review with other Scottish Local Authorities shows that this is consistent with current trends.

Waste sent to landfill in the period April - October is down 3.5% on the same period in 2013/14. The projected tonnage of landfill to year end is 129,000 tonnes. This would be a reduction of 2.7% on waste sent to landfill in 2013/14 but is 4000 tonnes higher than initially predicted for the financial year 2014/15.

The amount of waste recycled in the period April - October has increased by 1.2% over the same period in 2013/14.

Phase 1 of the new kerbside recycling service is showing a 60% higher recycling yield and 30% landfill waste reduction on the new routes.

### Links

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<b>Coalition pledges</b>	<a href="#">P44, P49, P50</a>
<b>Council outcomes</b>	<a href="#">CO17, CO18, CO19</a>
<b>Single Outcome Agreement</b>	<a href="#">SO4</a>

## Landfill and Recycling

### Recommendations

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- 1.1 It is recommended that Committee notes the contents of the report.

### Background

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- 2.1 At the meeting of the Transport and Environment Committee on 15 January 2013, members requested regular updates on performance in reducing the amount of waste sent to landfill and increasing recycling.

#### Landfilled Waste and Recycling

- 2.2 Capital coalition Pledge 49 outlines the commitments towards increasing recycling levels across the city and reducing the proportion of waste going to landfill. This includes targets to reduce annual landfill tonnage to 118,000 tonnes (from 132,564 tonnes in 2013/14), and to increase the percentage of waste that is recycled to 50%.
- 2.3 Significant progress in implementing the changes required to deliver both service improvements and landfill savings have been made, including the implementation of managed weekly collections in September 2012 and the kerbside recycling redesign which commenced roll-out in September 2014.

#### Complaints

- 2.4 At the meeting on 27 August 2013, members requested that the performance reports also include updates on complaints made about waste services.
- 2.5 There are 236,000 properties in Edinburgh which receive multiple refuse and recycling collections. On average there are approximately 90,000 collections a day and 460,000 collections a week. Current complaint targets are based on the the number of collections carried out, but are not adjusted for seasonal variation.

### Main report

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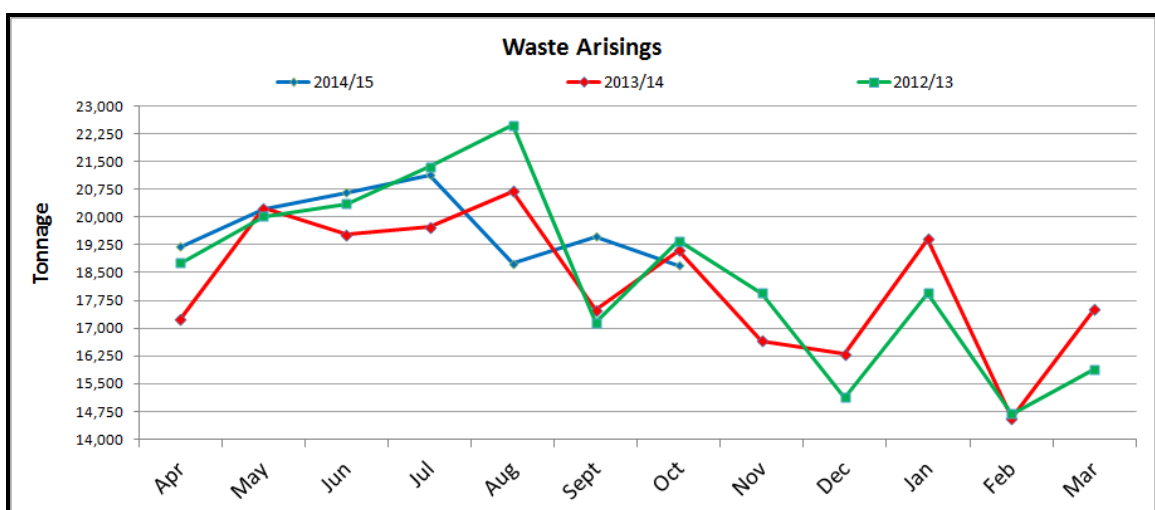
#### Waste Arisings

- 3.1 The tonnage of total waste has been falling in recent years, with consistent reductions in waste arisings experienced since 2010/11 (Table 1). Given this recent pattern, it was anticipated that waste arisings would fall by approximately 2.2% in 2014/15.

Year	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15 (predicted)	2014/15 (forecast)
Tonnage total waste (waste arisings)	235,162	230,576	228,883	221,084	218,481	213,693	221,000
% change		-2.0%	-0.7%	-3.4%	-1.2%	-2.2%	3.4%

Table 1: Waste arisings 2009 onwards

- 3.2 However, this year to date (April to October), waste arisings are currently 3% higher than for the same period in 2013/14 (Chart 1). A recent benchmarking review with other Scottish Local Authorities has highlighted that this change from a pattern of decreasing waste arisings, is consistent with current trends, with a number of Local Authorities reporting either static or increasing waste arisings this financial year.
- 3.3 Although it is difficult to identify the specific reasons for the increase in waste being collected, a number of factors may be contributing to this, including the economic recovery, and the possible increase in the misuse of domestic bins by traders as a result of recent legislation requiring waste to be segregated. The latter may require increased enforcement action to tackle any misuse. Discussions will also be held with other local authorities and relevant agencies, to consider the experiences of other Councils and identify reasons for increases in waste being collected across the country.
- 3.4 It is now predicted that end of year waste arisings will be greater than the 218,481 tonnes recorded in 2013/14, and year end waste arisings of 221,000 tonnes are forecast. This is approximately 7,300 tonnes more than anticipated prior to the start of financial year 2014/15 (Table 1). Whilst this anticipated increase has negatively impacted on the original estimate for landfill tonnage, a reduction on landfill tonnage compared to 13/14, and an increase in the recycling rate, is forecast.



Year	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Total
2012/13	18,762	20,015	20,352	21,365	22,483	17,148	19,347	17,951	15,126	17,954	14,681	15,900	221,084
2013/14	17,250	20,231	19,529	19,726	20,699	17,490	19,102	16,658	16,306	19,405	14,562	17,522	218,481
2014/15	19,207	20,224	20,660	21,144	18,746	19,466	18,692						
% difference	10.2%	0.0%	5.5%	6.7%	-10.4%	10.2%	-2.2%						

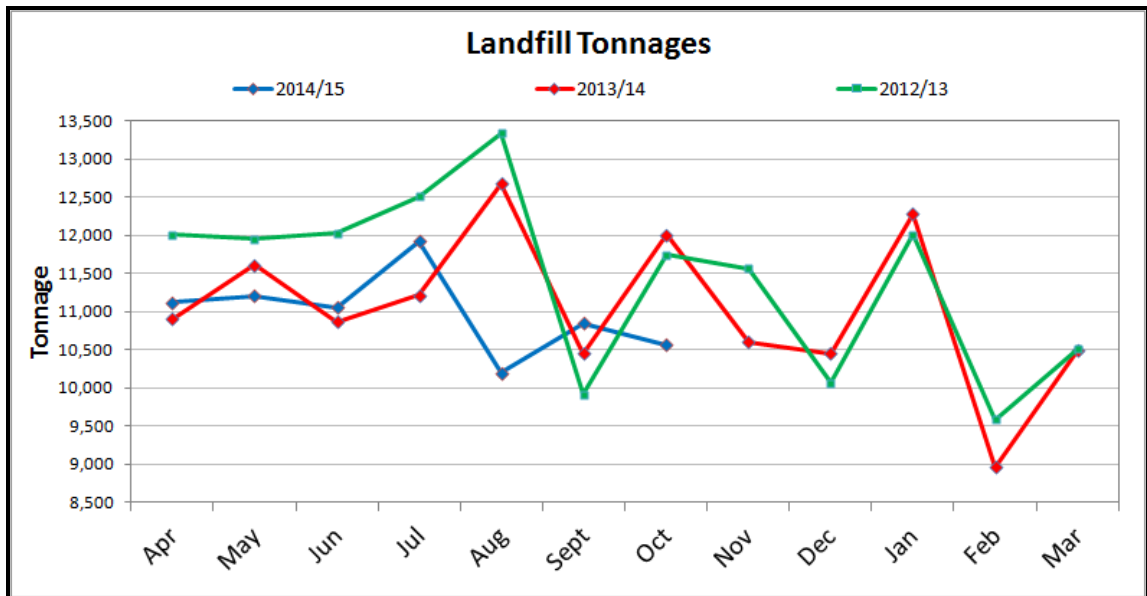
Chart 1 – Waste arisings 2012/13 – 2014/15

### Landfill Waste

- 3.5 Landfill tonnage to date (April to October 2014) is 76,932 tonnes. This is a reduction of 2,826 tonnes, or 3.5%, on the same period in 2013/14 (Table 2).
- 3.6 The projected tonnage of landfill to the year end, taking into account seasonal fluctuations, is 129,000 tonnes. This would be a reduction of 2.7%, or 3,564 tonnes on the year 2013/14. However, due to anticipated year end increases in waste arisings, it is above the 124,956 tonnes initially predicted for financial year 2014/15.

	YTD Apr-Oct 2014	YTD Apr-Oct 2013	YTD Apr-Oct Difference		14/15 Pledge Target	14/15 Year End Forecast	13/14 Year End Actual	Forecast difference to 13/14	
			Tonnes	%				Tonnes	%
Landfill	76,932	79,759	-2,826	-3.5%	118,000	129,000	132,564	-3,564	-2.7%

Table 2: Landfill Tonnages – actual YTD and anticipated 14/15



Year	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar
2013/14	10,907	11,619	10,871	11,220	12,676	10,455	12,011	10,606	10,454	12,284	8,967	10,494
2014/15	11,119	11,206	11,061	11,928	10,202	10,849	10,566					
% difference	1.9%	-3.6%	1.8%	6.3%	-19.5%	3.8%	-12.0%					

Chart 2: Landfill comparison by month and year

## Recycling

- 3.7 The percentage of waste recycled (including street sweepings) between April and October 2014 was 41.6% compared to 40.4% for the same period in 2013/14 (Table 3 and Chart 3). Based on these figures, and taking into account seasonality factors, it is currently anticipated that the end of year recycling rate for 2014/15 will be 40.6%, a 1.3% increase over the 39.3% achieved in 2013/14.

	YTD 2014 (Apr-Oct)		YTD 2013 (Apr-Oct)		Difference	
	Tonnes	% Rate	Tonnes	% Rate	Tonnes	% Rate
Recycling	57,629	41.6%	54,268	40.4%	3,361	1.2%

Table 2: Percentage of waste recycled 2013/14 & 2014/15

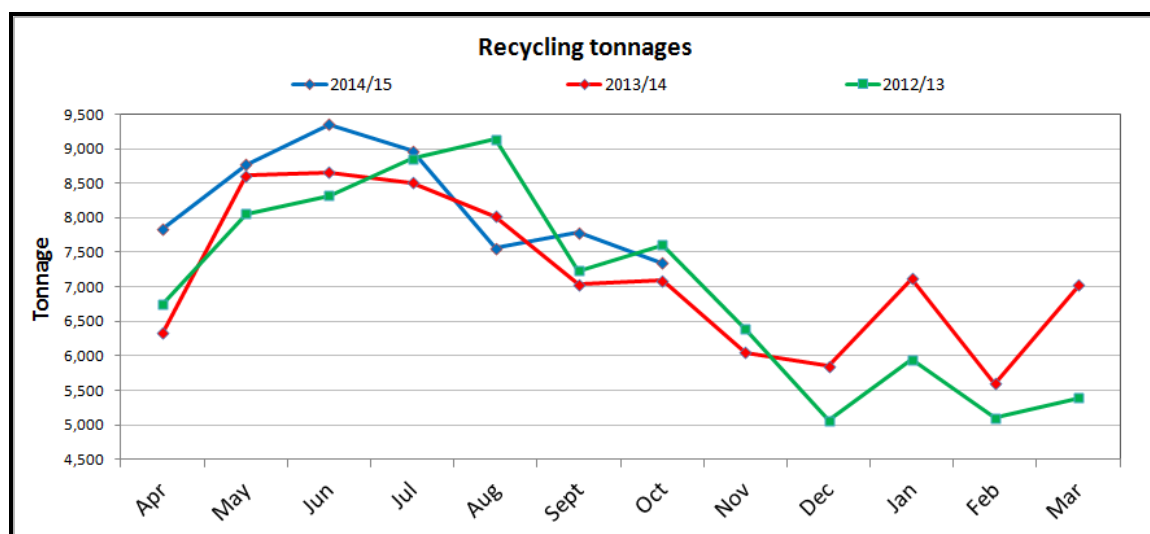


Chart 3: Recycling Tonnages 12/13, 13/14 & 14/15

- 3.8 The first two phases of a five phase programme to roll out a new kerbside bin and box recycling service (a replacement to the existing red and blue box service) to 140,000 residents has commenced. This is a major change to recycling provision in the city, with the first phase rolled out to 20,000 households in September 2014 and the second phase to a further 20,000 households in November 2014.
- 3.9 The new bin/box service simplifies the recycling process for kerbside residents and increases the range of materials collected. The full roll-out will be completed by October 2015. It is anticipated that once fully rolled out, the new service will

increase the overall citywide recycling rate to in excess of 46%. This figure, which is based on anticipated yields prior to the service commencing, will be subject to continuous review now the new service has commenced.

- 3.10 As can be seen in Chart 5, residents have engaged positively with the new service and participation has increased as householders have become more familiar with it. In October, the first full month of the new service, an average of 71% of all households in Phase 1 presented their recycling bin. Further, initial data suggests that recycling yields for the new service are 60% higher than when residents were using red and blue boxes; with recycling yields increasing from an average of 1.9kg/hh/wk to between 3 and 3.5kg/hh/wk following introduction of the new service. More information regarding the engagement work undertaken with householders is detailed in section 9.1.

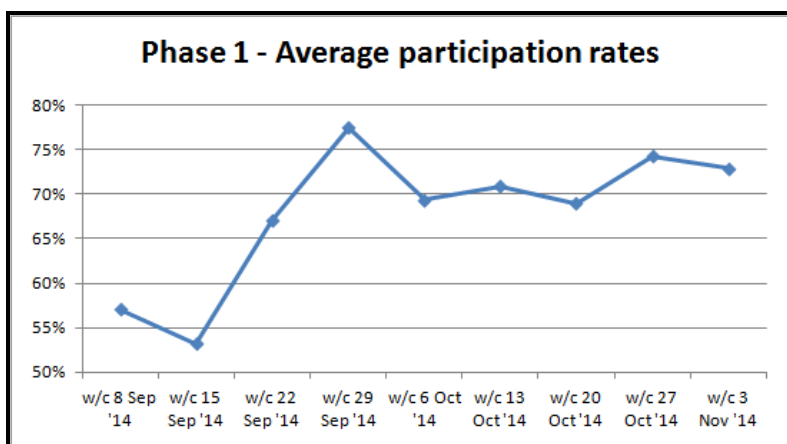


Chart 5: New recycling service participation rates

- 3.11 As part of the new kerbside recycling service, a new 140 litre landfill wheeled bins has been introduced to households across the Phase 1 and Phase 2 refuse routes. Early indications are that this is having a positive effect on reducing landfill, with landfill tonnages reducing by 30% since the start of the service on the new recycling routes in Phase 1, from an average of 7.7kg per household per week to 5.3kg (Chart 6).

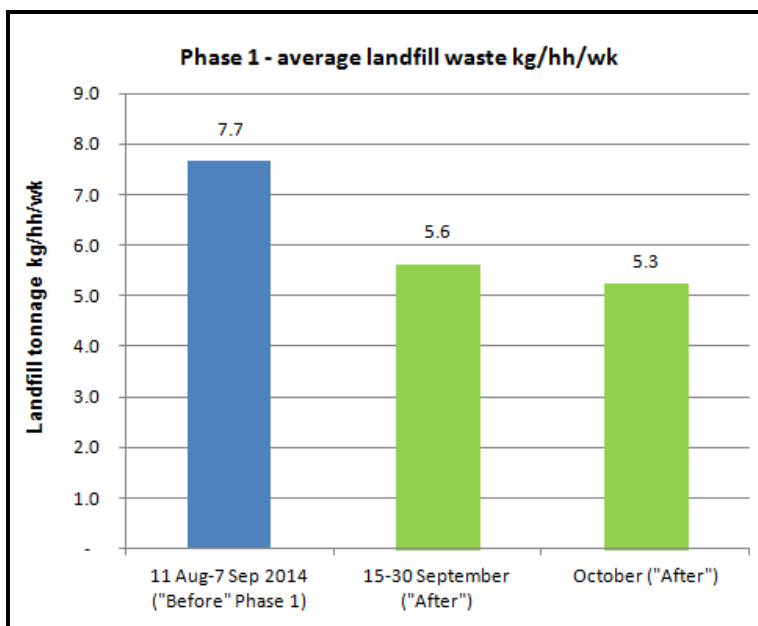


Chart 6: Average landfill reduction, new recycling service routes

3.12 Table 3 provides further details on the overall recycling tonnage collected for the period April to October, broken down by recycling collection scheme.

<b>Scheme</b>	<b>Apr- Oct 2014/15</b>	<b>Apr - Oct 2013/14</b>	<b>YTD Difference</b>	<b>% difference</b>
Kerbside Blue/Red Boxes	8142	8444	-301	-3.6%
Kerbside New Recycling Service	397	n/a	397	n/a
Garden Waste	18778	15960	2818	17.7%
Food Waste	3255	2921	335	11.5%
Recycling Banks (textiles, books, glass & paper banks)	3972	4029	-56	-1.4%
Packaging Banks	2133	1837	297	16.1%
Communal Paper bins	1091	1147	-57	-4.9%
Trade	2291	2670	-379	-14.2%
CRC	12823	12313	510	4.1%
Special Uplifts	2437	1951	486	24.9%
Other	289	325	-36	-11.2%
Street Sweepings	2019	2671	-652	-24.4%
<b>Total Recycling</b>	<b>57629</b>	<b>54268</b>	<b>3361</b>	<b>6.2%</b>

Table 3: Year to date (April - August) recycling by collection scheme 2014/15 & 2013/14

- 3.13 Year to date, food waste has continued the increase experienced in recent months and has shown an 11.5% increase in tonnage collected. Food waste has been the subject of a specific campaign in early 2014, focused on increasing the use of the service, with particular emphasis placed on overcoming perceptions relating to cleanliness, convenience, and the need to divert even small amounts of food waste.
- 3.14 A large increase has been recorded against kerbside collected garden waste compared to 2013. There has been a particularly high demand for the service this year, and the tonnage of waste collected is 17.7% greater than for the same period last year (April to October).
- 3.15 On street packaging recycling has also shown an increase in use, with tonnage increasing by 16.1%.
- 3.16 Community recycling centres (CRC) have experienced a 4.1% increase in recycled tonnage to date. It was anticipated that a new contract to extract recyclable materials deposited in the residual (landfill) waste skips at CRC sites would increase the recycling tonnage by 2750 tonnes this financial year. However, the amount of recyclable material in this waste stream is not as high as anticipated, and it is now forecast that 1200 tonnes will be recycled via this

contract that would, in previous years, have been sent to landfill. The contractor is able to process 90% of the remaining residual waste as refuse derived fuel. Whilst this does not contribute to recycling rates, it does divert waste from landfill.

3.17 This Committee requested that further work be undertaken to identify the most effective and affordable option for enhancing and expanding communal recycling provision in the high density and tenemental housing areas of the city. Waste Services will be piloting different approaches to communal recycling commencing towards the end of the financial year 2014/15. A report to Committee on 18 March 2014, Enhancing Communal Recycling Services, identified two pilots to be taken forward.

- Pilot 1 – change and simplify the materials which can be placed in a communal recycling bin (combining paper and ‘packaging’ [plastic bottles, cardboard, cans]) and provide glass recycling.
- Pilot 2 – in areas where side loading 3200 litre residual/landfill bins are used, change the mix of materials as in Pilot 1 above, and also increase recycling capacity and reduce landfill capacity.

## Complaints

3.18 Weekly complaint numbers since 2012 are detailed in Chart 7. The service experienced an increase in complaints in August 2014, due to a rise in complaints regarding missed kerbside collections of residual and food waste. To improve route efficiencies in refuse collection, new larger routes were rolled out across both these services in the week commencing 11 August 2014. The food waste service in particular suffered from disruption and experienced high complaint volumes due to a number of factors which included shift changes for crews.

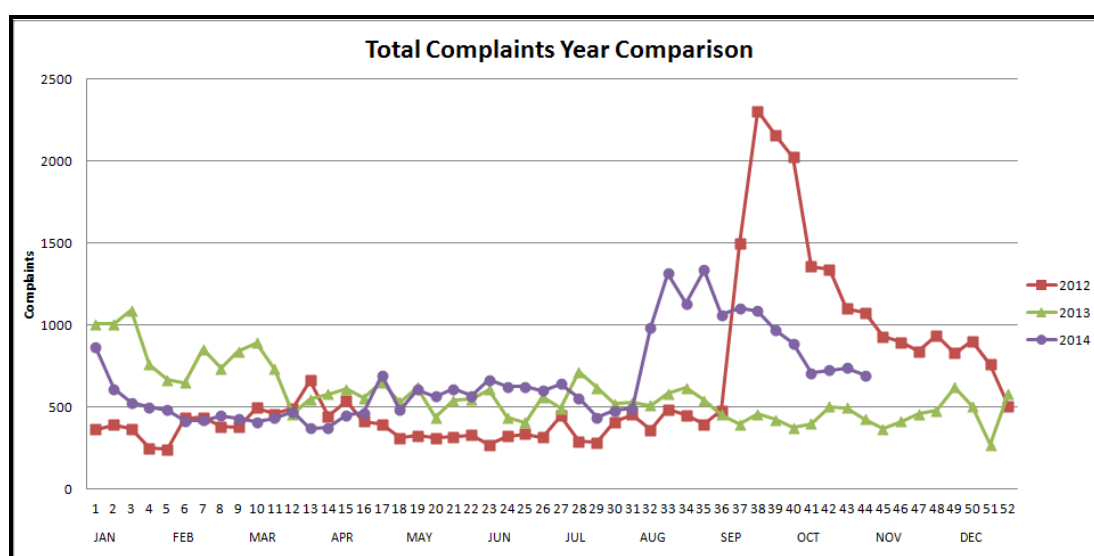


Chart 7: Total complaints per week 2012 – 2014



- 3.19 On average between April and October 2014, there were 721 complaints a week, 38% more than for the same period last year. With approximately 460,000 collections a week, this translates to 0.16% of collections resulting in a customer complaint.
- 3.20 The service has implemented the following measures to reduce complaint numbers:
- each waste collection service is monitored on a daily basis to ensure that critical, route specific issues which are causing disruption are identified and addressed quickly;
  - an additional resource is utilised to assist food collections when required. A dedicated crew has been resourced to deal with missed collections and reduce waiting times; and
  - repeat complaints into the service are monitored on the day of collection by front line supervisors to ensure continuity of service and to reduce the need of further escalations.
- 3.21 It is anticipated that by implementing these measures there will be a reduction in complaint numbers and a continued improving picture over the next few months. This should ensure that the current decreasing trend in complaint numbers (Chart 7) will be maintained.

## Measures of success

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- 4.1 Achievement of the Council's targets for increasing recycling and reducing landfill.

## Financial impact

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- 5.1 Although the tonnage of waste landfilled is forecast to exceed the budget target, the end of year landfill tonnage is predicted to reduce by 2.7% compared to 2013/14 performance.
- 5.2 Officers are working to implement budget management measures to offset and mitigate any overspend.

## Risk, policy, compliance and governance impact

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- 6.1 The information contained in this report is a review of the current performance of landfill and recycling. This report does not impact on any existing policies and no risks have been identified pertaining to health and safety, governance or compliance. Further, there are no regulatory implications that require to be taken into account.

## Equalities impact

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- 7.1 The Council is meeting its public sector duty to advance equal opportunity for residents to recycle by using a range of communications methods. Written information is available through leaflets and electronic media. Road shows and door knocking visits provide face to face contact with residents and visits from recycling advisers are available on request. All material can be translated on request. Consultation was carried out via demographically representative focus groups and via on line and written questionnaires to ensure that a full and representative range of views were obtained. Assistance with the presentation of recycling and waste containers is available for those who require it to ensure everyone has access to these services. The above has ensured that information is available for all within the equality and rights framework.

## Sustainability impact

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- 8.1 Increased recycling will help to divert waste from landfill and support the achievement of greenhouse gas reduction targets, and reductions in local environmental impact.

## Consultation and engagement

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- 9.1 Engagement and communications work is ongoing for the new kerbside recycling service. Support for the first two phases of implementing the new service to 40,000 households has included comprehensive targeted communications for residents, briefings for key stakeholders and community groups, events, and door to door engagement. As of November, the service has engaged with more than 665 people through a series of 30 events in areas of the new service.
- 9.2 Communications on the new recycling service have been well received by residents and a survey carried out in November for residents on Phase 1 found that 82% agreed or strongly agreed that the information that they received about the new service was easy to understand. Of the 188 respondents, 79% agreed or strongly agreed that the new service has made it easier for them to recycle
- 9.3 On routes in the second phase of the roll-out, recycling advisors have been working along side crews on both the recycling and residual routes. This has assisted the service in dealing with any immediate issues householders may have and accurately identifying householders who would benefit from further guidance in utilising the new recycling service fully. More than 2000 properties that were recorded as putting the wrong items in the recycling bin have been visited, to provide further advice and support.
- 9.4 For areas of high density, such as flats and tenements with shared bins, a communications and engagement strategy is being developed for the pilot

projects that will be running in the last quarter of the financial year. This will include monitoring and evaluation to ensure residents feedback is captured as to any changes that may be implemented in future.

## Background reading/external references

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N/A

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## Links

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<b>Coalition pledges</b>	<b>P44</b> – Prioritise keeping our streets clean and attractive <b>P49</b> – Continue to increase recycling levels across the city and reducing the proportion of waste going to landfill <b>P50</b> – Meet greenhouse gas targets, including national target of 42% by 2020
<b>Council outcomes</b>	<b>CO17</b> – Clean – Edinburgh’s streets and open spaces are free of litter and graffiti <b>CO18</b> – Green – We reduce the local environmental impact of our consumption and production <b>CO19</b> – Attractive Places and Well maintained – Edinburgh remains an attractive city through the development of high quality buildings and places and the delivery of high standards and maintenance of infrastructure and public realm
<b>Single Outcome Agreement</b>	<b>SO4</b> – Edinburgh’s communities are safer and have improved physical and social fabric
<b>Appendices</b>	N/A