

Transport and Environment Committee

10.00am, Thursday, 10 August 2017

Waste and Cleansing Service - Performance Update

| | |
|--------------------------|-----------|
| Item number | 8.2 |
| Report number | |
| Executive/routine | Routine |
| Wards | All wards |

Executive Summary

This report updates the Committee on the performance of the Waste and Cleansing service.

The update includes progress in reducing the amount of waste sent to landfill and increasing the amount of waste recycled in 2016/17. It also outlines proposed actions to further reduce the amount of waste landfilled and increase the amount recycled throughout the 2017/18 period.

In relation to cleanliness the report provides the results from the cleanliness of city surveys and a summary of the work and initiatives being carried out to improve cleanliness.

Links

Coalition Pledges
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Waste and Cleansing - Performance Update

1. Recommendations

- 1.1 It is recommended that the Transport and Environment Committee:
 - 1.1.1 Notes the contents of this report in respect to landfill, recycling and cleansing performance; and
 - 1.1.2 notes the proposed actions to reduce the amount of waste sent to landfill, increase the amount of waste recycled and the initiatives being undertaken to improve cleanliness.

2. Background

Landfill and recycling

- 2.1 The previous Capital Coalition Pledge 49 outlined the Council's commitment towards increasing recycling levels across the city and reducing the proportion of waste going to landfill. This includes targets to reduce the annual landfill tonnage to 118,000 tonnes and to increase the percentage of waste that is recycled to 50%.
- 2.2 Significant progress in implementing the changes required to deliver service improvements and landfill savings have been made since the initial introduction of managed weekly collections in September 2012, the implementation of an enhanced kerbside recycling service (completed in November 2015), and the gradual increase of communal recycling facilities in high density and tenemental housing areas.

Cleanliness

- 2.3 A range of Performance Indicators (PI's) is used throughout the year to monitor the standard of cleanliness across Edinburgh's streets and open spaces. These PI's are addressed at alternating times throughout the calendar year, and consist of Local Environmental Audit Management System (LEAMS) surveys (three per year), Cleanliness Index Monitoring System (CIMS) assessments (quarterly), Confirm on Demand performance reports (monthly)
- 2.4 The Council has two principal targets in relation to cleanliness - a Cleanliness Index target of 72 and a target of 95% of streets achieving an acceptable level of cleanliness. However, the statutory performance indicator for cleanliness is LEAMS.

3. Main report

Waste arisings

- 3.1 The city generated less waste in 2016/17, with waste arisings reducing by 1.6% compared to 2015/16. Overall, 214,399 tonnes of waste were produced (Figure 1).
- 3.2 The total waste arisings were 1.1% higher than forecast at the beginning of 2016/17.

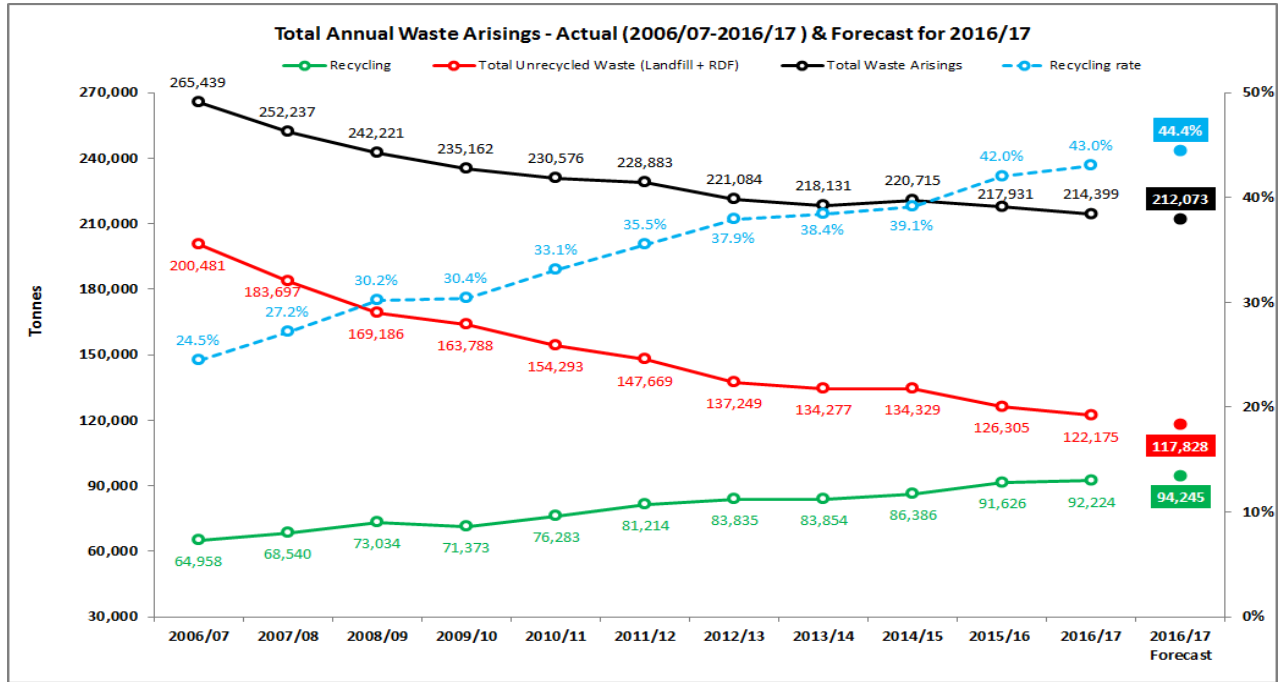


Figure 1: Actual and forecast annual waste arising by year, and by outlet

Unrecycled waste

- 3.3 Waste which cannot be recycled is disposed of as landfill waste or diverted as refuse derived fuel (RDF). Any waste treated as RDF will be included in waste arisings data, and is counted as having been disposed rather than recycled.
- 3.4 In total 122,175 of unrecycled waste was collected in 2016/17 of which 117,843 was disposed of via landfill and 4,322 diverted via RDF. This is 3.3% less than 2015/16 and 3.7% higher than forecast.

| Unrecycled Waste: Landfill and RDF | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|--|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|---------|
| Year | Apr | May | Jun | Jul | Aug | Sept | Oct | Nov | Dec | Jan | Feb | Mar | Total |
| Unrecycled 2014/15 | 11,365 | 11,453 | 11,303 | 12,173 | 11,185 | 11,684 | 11,347 | 10,032 | 11,069 | 11,687 | 9,817 | 11,212 | 134,329 |
| Unrecycled 2015/16 | 10,956 | 10,293 | 11,116 | 10,211 | 11,863 | 10,514 | 10,870 | 8,907 | 10,368 | 10,435 | 10,338 | 10,435 | 126,305 |
| Unrecycled 2016/17 | 9,728 | 11,429 | 10,075 | 9,565 | 10,690 | 10,479 | 10,173 | 10,039 | 10,839 | 10,766 | 8,967 | 9,425 | 122,175 |
| % Difference previous year | -11.2% | 11.0% | -9.4% | -6.3% | -9.9% | -0.3% | -6.4% | 12.7% | 4.5% | 3.2% | -13.3% | -9.7% | -3.3% |
| Forecast | 10,114 | 10,115 | 10,142 | 10,170 | 10,616 | 9,531 | 9,923 | 9,084 | 9,214 | 10,508 | 8,808 | 9,603 | 117,828 |
| Diff btwn actual and forecast (tonnes) | -386 | 1,314 | -68 | -605 | 74 | 947 | 250 | 955 | 1,624 | 259 | 159 | -177 | 4,347 |
| % diff btwn actual & forecast | -3.8% | 13.0% | -0.7% | -5.9% | 0.7% | 9.9% | 2.5% | 10.5% | 17.6% | 2.5% | 1.8% | -1.8% | 3.7% |

Table 1: Unrecycled waste: actual, forecast, % difference.

- 3.5 The City of Edinburgh and Midlothian Council are working together to deliver a sustainable solution for the disposal of non-recycled waste which aims to cease the disposal of waste via landfill by 2018. More information can be found at www.zerowastefuture.com

Recyclable Waste

- 3.6 The 2016/17 citywide recycling rate for 2016/17 was 43%, against the previous Capital Coalition Pledge 49 target of 50%. This will represent a 1% improvement on the 42% achieved in 2015/16.

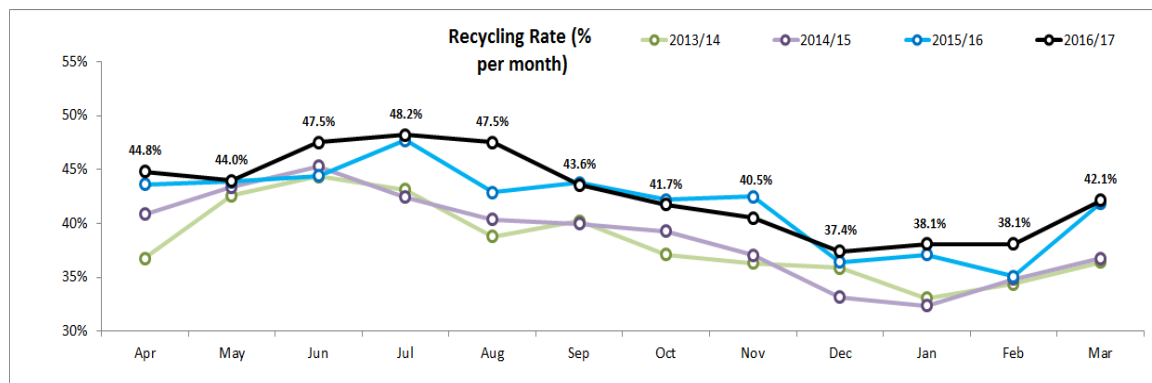


Figure 2: Monthly recycling rates by year

- 3.7 Multiple recycling collections are provided in the city to cater for differing needs of households and housing types. A breakdown of recycling tonnages by collection scheme is provided in Table 2 below:

| Recycling - Collection Stream Summary | | | | |
|--|---------------|---------------|--------------------|-------------|
| Recycling Stream | 2015/16 | 2016/17 | 15/16-16/17 Change | |
| | Tonnes | Tonnes | Tonnes | % change |
| Garden Waste - kerbside | 22,664 | 23,200 | 536 | 2% |
| Kerbside Recycling - green bin & blue box | 20,095 | 21,459 | 1,365 | 7% |
| Community Recycling Centres | 20,310 | 18,667 | -1,643 | -8% |
| Food Waste | 8,769 | 9,364 | 595 | 7% |
| Recycling Banks (glass,paper,textiles,books) | 5,902 | 5,265 | -637 | -11% |
| Packaging bins - on street communal | 4,112 | 5,434 | 1,323 | 32% |
| Other streams (Bethany, Bike Station, Fresh Start, Remade & Collected Trade) | 4,089 | 4,830 | 741 | 18% |
| Mechanised Street sweepings | 3,131 | 2,685 | -445 | -14% |
| Paper - wheeled bins | 1,475 | 647 | -828 | -56% |
| Manual Street sweeping | 1,079 | 671 | -408 | -38% |
| Total Recycling | 91,626 | 92,224 | 598 | 0.7% |
| Recycling rate | 42.0% | 43.0% | 1.0% | 2.3% |

Table 2: Recycling by stream - 2015/16 & 2016/17

- 3.8 Table 2 shows that improvements in recycling performance have been seen in both the kerbside recycling service, and food waste recycling service with year to date increases on the same period last year of 7% and 8% respectively. Other services with significant year to date increase include on street communal packaging bins (32%) and 'other streams' (18%).
- 3.9 Manual Street Sweepings are down by 38% due to much of the city's Street Cleansing arisings being sent directly to landfill earlier in the year whilst arrangements were made for the reconfiguration of an outlet in the East of the city. This was completed in March 2017. This means that waste collected on street and from litter bins is now once again being sorted prior to disposal to allow for around 30% these materials to be recovered and recycled.
- 3.10 The amount of waste recycled at Community Recycling Centres (CRC's) is down by 8%. This can in some part be attributed to the reduction in total city wide waste arisings of 1.6%.
- 3.11 Further initiatives to improve the recycling performance at CRC's are planned for 2017/18. The new CRC improvement plan is aimed at identifying the operations or employee skills that could be improved to encourage smoother procedures, more efficient workflow and to enhance the customer experience at each CRC site. In addition, it will aim to ensure that visitors are provided with adequate information and instruction to ensure they dispose of their waste materials appropriately.

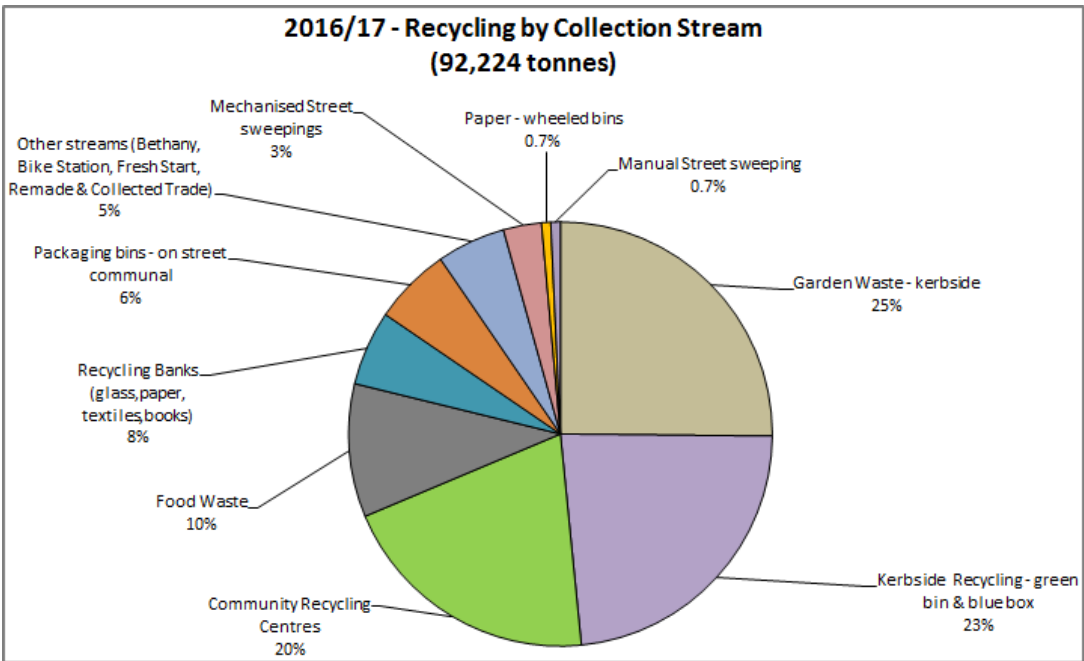


Figure 3: Recycling by stream/service

Recycling: Food Waste

- 3.12 Increases continue in the tonnage of food waste collected for recycling, with an increase of 7% collected in 2016/17 compared to the previous year.

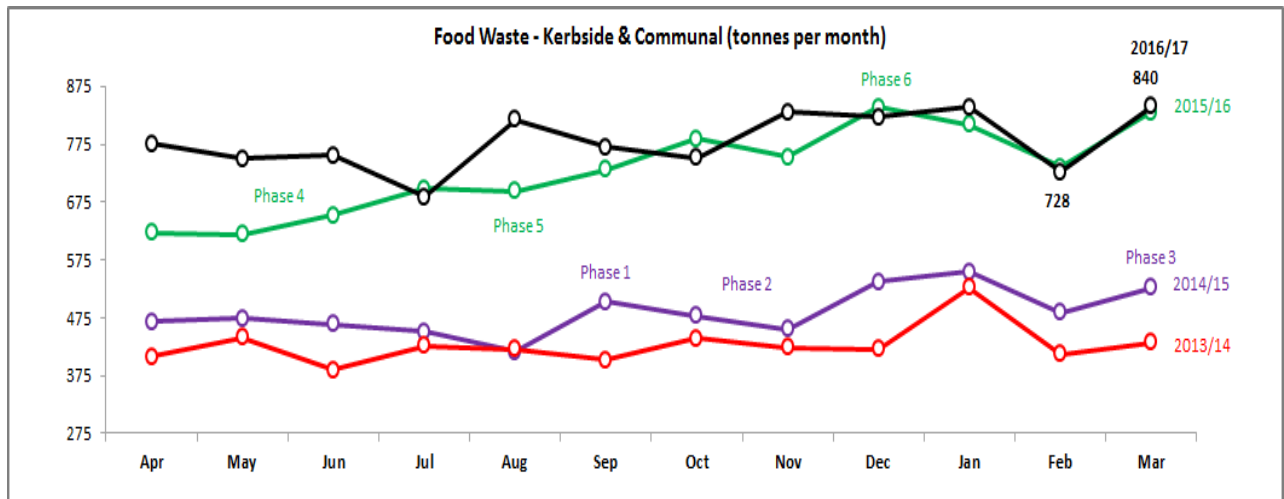


Figure 4: Combined food recycling tonnages by month

Kerbside Recycling

3.13 Similarly, the kerbside recycling service continues to demonstrate an upward trend. In 2016/17, 21,459 tonnes of waste were recycled using the green bin and blue box service. This was 7% (1,365 tonnes) more than the previous year.

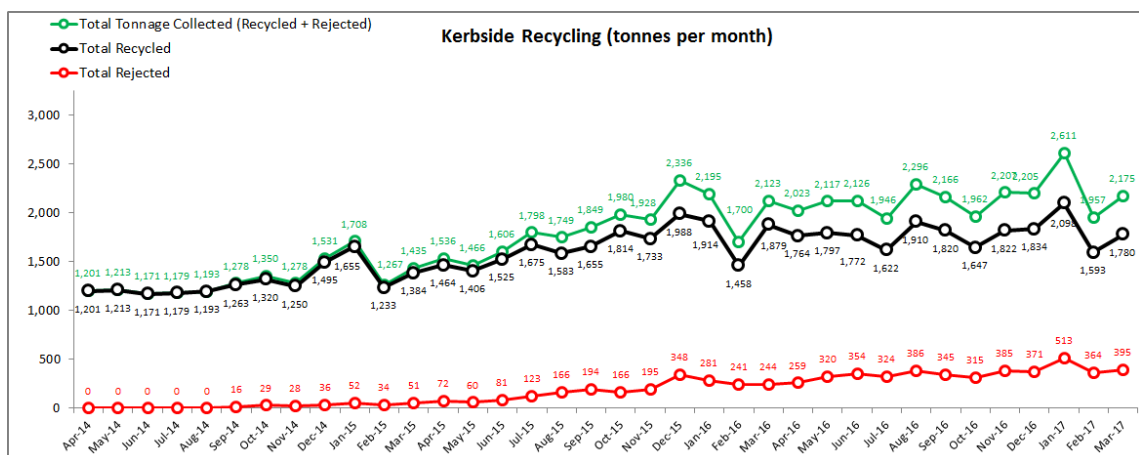


Figure 5: Kerbside green bin and blue box recycling tonnages by month

3.14 Following the roll out of this service to mainly low density households (i.e. mainly to detached and semi-detached housing stock) a priority for the year ahead will be enhancements to the communal bin services provided for blocks of flats, and in particular on street recycling points in high density areas.

Cleanliness

3.15 This report details the full year LEAMS result (The statutory performance indicator). The National Statutory Performance Indicator (SPI) result comes out at 93.9% (% sites at an acceptable standard), for our benchmarking group, the SPI result is 92.0%. For Edinburgh, our full year score was 92.4%. The citywide CIMS score

assessed by Keep Scotland Beautiful in March and June 2017 were both 68 with 93.4% and 94% of streets respectively surveyed assessed as clean.

- 3.16 At 87%, June city-wide performance for street cleansing enquiries resolved within timescale meets the minimum 85% target. 87% is notably improved on last year's June performance (77%), but slightly lower than the previous month's performance (94%).
- 3.17 There was a significant decrease (-28%, -451 enquiries) in the number of enquiries received in June (1,157 enquiries) compared to the previous month (1,608). This was mainly owing to a drop in enquiries for: dumping and fly-tipping (-304 enquiries) and dog fouling (-41).
- 3.18 In addition, there were 40% fewer enquiries (-762) in June 2017 compared to June 2016 (1,919). This follows a fall in enquiries for: dumping and fly-tipping (-314), litter (-115), street cleaning (-95) and bin full (-70).

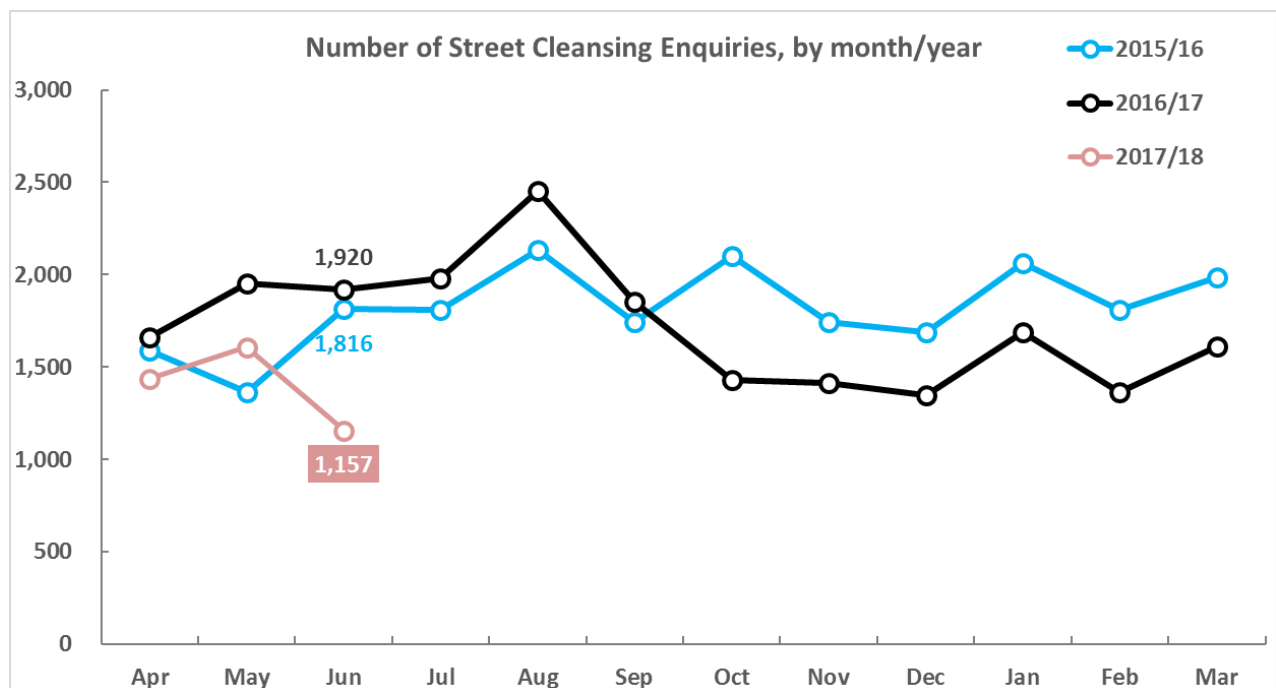


Figure 6: Number of Street Cleansing enquiries, by month/year

The year ahead

- 3.19 Key activities in the coming year remain focussed on our key objectives of minimising landfill, maximising recycling and enhancing the cleanliness of the city and a number of examples are given below.
- 3.20 The use of technology (in particular Routesmart) will deliver enhanced service reliability and efficiency across all services, waste collections, mechanical sweeping and the servicing of litter bins.

- 3.21 The proposed programme of enhancements to waste collection systems in communal bin areas will seek to enhance the streets (in terms of siting) while minimising bin overflows and further enhancing recycling in those areas.
- 3.22 This year will see the first anniversary of the opening of our food reprocessing facility at Millerhill while work is ongoing to deliver the second phase of the facility which will receive residual waste from both The City of Edinburgh and Midlothian Councils and use it as a fuel, replacing our current use of landfill.
- 3.23 As part of the Waste and Cleansing Improvement Plan there is an ongoing review of the delivery of Street Cleansing in the city and how the service is delivered. This will involve reviewing the current fleet and equipment and the balance between mechanical cleaning mobile squads and the potential introduction of further barrow beats.
- 3.24 The Trade Waste Compliance team will continue to tackle abuse of household waste collections by businesses, with focussed engagement of those businesses who previously used the Council's trade waste service to ensure that they have correct arrangements in place, management of the exemption scheme for commercial glass and food recycling bins, and engagement of businesses to ensure that their waste collection services remain adequate during the period of the festivals.
- 3.25 Waste and Cleansing Services will work with Localities to support the delivery of their Community Litter Action Plans.

4. Measures of success

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

5. Financial impact

- 5.1 Unrecycled material is currently disposed of landfill or as RDF. In addition, there are charges associated with transporting landfill waste by rail from the transfer station at Powderhall to the landfill site at Dunbar, or to other disposal points.

| | 2015/16 | 2016/17 |
|----------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Landfill | £12,594,622 | £13,771,162 |
| RDF | £1,233,165 | £346,847 |
| Freight and Haulage | £1,124,123 | £1,720,084 |
| Total | £14,951,910 | £15,838,093 |

Table 3: Disposal Expenditure 2015/16, 2016/17

- 5.2 A reduction in the use of RDF in 2016/17 related to market conditions, which meant an increase overall in the cost of landfill.

6. Risk, policy, compliance and governance impact

- 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 requirements that require to be taken into account.

7. Equalities impact

- 7.1 There are no direct equalities impacts resulting from this report.
- 7.2 The Waste Management service meets the public sector duty to advance equal opportunity by taking account of protected characteristics in designing services, and by seeking to make recycling services more accessible to all citizens.

8. Sustainability impact

- 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.

9. Consultation and engagement

- 9.1 Consultation and engagement is carried out as new services are rolled out and this work continues to respond to customer enquiries around service changes, to both support and encourage residents to maximise the use of recycling services.

10. Background reading/external references

Not applicable

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11. Links

Coalition Pledges

Council Priorities

**Single Outcome
Agreement**

Appendices None