

Zero Waste Update

Purpose

1. To provide the Executive Group with an update on policy and projects towards meeting the outcomes of the Scottish Government's Zero Waste Plan.

Recommendations

2. The Executive Group are invited to note the update provided.

SNP Manifesto

3. Prior to the Scottish Government election, the SNP published a detailed manifesto and it is reasonable to expect that much of it will form the upcoming Programme for Government. Items relevant to the waste agenda are;
 - A commitment to continuing to progress targets to recycle 70% of all of Scotland's waste by 2025 and end the disposal of biodegradable municipal waste to landfill by 2020.
 - A commitment to continue with the targets of reducing food waste by a third by 2025.
 - The intention to give further consideration to proposals for a deposit and return scheme
 - The intention to bring forward a Circular Economy and Zero Waste Bill to build the circular economy, promote recycling and take action to meet food waste targets.
 - The intention to bring forward a Good Food Nation Bill to draw together all aspects of the Scottish Government's work on food and drink – including food standards, public procurement and food waste.

Legislation update

4. The UK Government recently repealed certain sections of the Environmental Protection Act 1990 for England, in the process accidentally repealing those sections for Scotland also. This means that the legislative support for Street Litter Control Notices and Litter Abatement Notices no longer exists. Therefore Scottish local authorities no longer have the authority to issue these notices. The Scottish Government has written to the UK Government to ask that these powers are urgently reinstated and has informed all Scottish local authorities of the situation.

Scottish Materials Brokerage

5. Work continues to develop a coherent approach to local authority waste and recycling contracts across Scotland. The first phase is focusing on residual waste and it is likely that the first contracts will be advertised towards the end of the summer. Following that, work will begin on developing contracts for glass recycling. The success of the Brokerage will be dependent on local authorities fully engaging with the process and working together to make sure that commercial contracts which represent best value for all participants are developed.

Household Recycling Charter and Code of Practice

6. Following agreement from COSLA Leaders in November 2015 to approve the Household Recycling Charter and associated Code of Practice, eight councils have now agreed to sign the Charter although only one – Falkirk – have announced this publically. A further eleven are actively progressing the issue through their committee structure with a positive recommendation to sign. Therefore over half of Scotland's local authorities are now fully

engaged with this initiative. COSLA and the Scottish Government are working together to develop a governance structure that will ensure that the implementation and funding of the Charter are properly scrutinised and that all activities associated with it are in keeping with the overall strategic objectives. Following a short hiatus due to the Scottish elections, this work is expected to continue over the next few months.

Targeted communications around littering

7. Zero Waste Scotland have produced a set of communications materials and messages targeted at addressing littering behaviours at various locations. Recent research indicates that littering behaviour is affected by a number of factors including location, amenity, time of day, social situation, audience and perception of individual litter types. As a result, a new toolkit of context-specific communication messages and materials has been developed, based on available evidence and consumer testing, that will resonate best with the relevant target audiences in different contexts to encourage behaviour change. The materials supplied can be adapted to incorporate council specific information, logos and styles.

Circular Economy funding

8. Zero Waste Scotland recently announced a fund to support small and medium sized businesses to develop circular economy businesses and solutions and to promote resource efficiencies across community and third sector organisations. The money is provided by European Regional Development Funding matched by the Scottish Government. This initiative is directly linked to the implementation of the Scottish Government's Circular Economy Strategy and their Manufacturing Strategy.

Local Environmental Quality

9. Keep Scotland Beautiful are developing a strategy around a focus on Local Environmental Quality as a driver for their activities, identifying the widespread impacts of poor environmental quality, including litter, and the connections between this and poor mental health, social inequalities and deterioration in community spirit.

Conclusion

10. Members are requested to note the updates provided.

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