



**REPORT TO: ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND INFRASTRUCTURE
SERVICES COMMITTEE ON 4 DECEMBER 2018**

SUBJECT: WASTE MANAGEMENT - HOUSEHOLD RECYCLING CHARTER

**BY: CORPORATE DIRECTOR (ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT,
PLANNING AND INFRASTRUCTURE)**

1. REASON FOR REPORT

- 1.1 This report asks Committee to consider the adoption of the Scottish Government's Household Recycling Charter and the revised Kerbside Collection Policy
- 1.2 This report is submitted to Committee in terms of Section III (F) (24) of the Council's Scheme of Administration relating to determining arrangements for waste management, street sweeping, refuse collection and refuse disposal including recycling.

2. RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 **It is recommended that the Committee agree the adoption and signing of the Household Recycling Charter and related Code of Practice together with adoption of a revised Kerbside Collection Policy.**

3. HOUSEHOLD RECYCLING CHARTER

- 3.1 In December 2013 the COSLA Convention agreed to participate in a joint Scottish Government/COSLA Zero Waste Taskforce. The mission statement for the taskforce is:

'The taskforce will agree a series of recommendations to create the conditions to transform the management of public sector waste into an effective feedstock for an economy that has high participation in recycling; supports the emergence of new industries; maximises cost benefit to local authorities; and de-risks public and private investments'.

- 3.2 One of the work streams was progressed through a series of workshops facilitated by Zero Waste Scotland and attended by representatives from

COSLA, SOLACE, Scottish Government and the Waste Managers Network. This work led to the recommendation for a Household Recycling charter supported by a Code of Practice (CoP). The text of the Household Recycling Charter was endorsed by COSLA Leaders in August 2015.

The Charter addressed:

- Designing services (e.g. consistent collections and materials collected).
- Delivering consistent service policies (e.g. action when contamination occurs).
- Operating services (e.g. reliable collections and addressing difficulties).
- Communicating services (e.g. clear instructions about how to use services and avoid contamination).

3.3 A copy of the Household Recycling Charter and the Code of Practice are shown in **APPENDIX 1**.

3.4 There are currently only 5 Local authorities in Scotland that have not signed up to the charter. The benefits to Moray Council signing the charter is to demonstrate that we are complying with a consistent approach to collection methods across Scotland and that we will have access to funding should we decide to introduce any further changes to our collection regime that deliver improvements to our recycling rates.

4. CODE OF PRACTICE

4.1 What are the implications?

4.1.1 There are a number of compulsory and desirable elements contained within the Code of Practice (CoP). The compulsory elements are considered to be the minimum level of compliance with the CoP.

4.1.2 The first of the essential requirements which we don't currently comply with is the **Specification of Core Materials** in that we currently collect cartons (the most commonly used name for these is Tetrapacks) within our paper based collection at the kerbside. To comply we would have to separate this at our sorting facility in Moycroft this would be too costly requiring additional staff and conveyers for this material to be separated out.

However during recent discussions with Zero Waste Scotland (ZWS) they have indicated that non-compliance with this element would not restrict Moray Council in signing the charter as we already have high recycling rates and meet most of the other criteria. In addition the forthcoming Deposit Recovery Scheme will result in a review of the charter which may amend the essential elements. ZWS provide financial support to local authorities to meet the charter requirements and Moray Council could apply for this funding. If it was

felt that it was still too onerous for the Council to comply with the revised charter at that point we would still have the option of opting out of the charter.

4.1.3 The second of the compulsory requirements which are not reflected in our current policy is **Recycling Contamination** as follows:

The council shall ensure that all collection crews are trained on what materials are accepted for recycling, the safe system of work for monitoring contamination, and any action resulting from the detection of contamination. Where the contamination of dry recycling bins is severe the recycling shall not be collected as it will have a detrimental impact on quality of the whole load collected. Definitions of Low Moderate and Severe contamination are given in the CoP.

While we do provide training to staff we do not have a policy for non – collection of bins that are contaminated. The CoP defines compliance with this element as follows:

“When collecting dry recycling the collection crew shall:

I. Check for contamination of the container with unacceptable materials (refer to 3.5.1).

II. Provide communication to citizens if unacceptable materials are presented so that they understand the range of materials that can be collected for recycling and the impact that contamination can have.

c) The recycling shall not be collected if contamination is severe as it will have a detrimental impact on the quality of the whole load collected. “

In addition to the above staff will contact the householder to explain why the bin was not collected due to severity of contamination and provide support to ensure compliance with the policy. This is consistent with current practice, however is not explicit in our current policy and therefore needs updated and committee approval to demonstrate compliance with the CoP.

Definitions of contamination are contained in the CoP and have been incorporated into the Kerbside Collection Policy, see **APPENDIX 2**.

4.1.4 The third compulsory requirement which we don't comply with is on **Additional Capacity**. Our current policy states that only 5 or more people or with more than one child in nappies will get a larger bin. The CoP changes this to:

If the property is lived in by 6 or more people or there are 2 or more children in nappies additional capacity for non-recyclable waste may be provided. The decision will be based upon completion of a waste diary for an agreed period of time (e.g. 1 collection cycle for no-recyclable waste) where the resident will be asked to record the wastes that they place in both recycling and non-recyclable waste containers.

A waste diary pack will be sent to the resident with instructions for completion and, where appropriate, a visit from a council officer shall be provided to assist with the diary completion.

Upon completion and submission of the waste diary, a council officer shall review this and where appropriate, the officer will visit the resident to provide further advice on what can be recycled and ways of reducing waste.

If the council assesses that the resident requires additional capacity for non-recyclable waste then they shall deliver an additional or larger container. The provision of additional capacity shall be time-limited and a review shall be carried out at the end of the agreed time limit.

This change in policy will only apply to new applications following adoption of the revised policy for additional bins that meet the criteria. Households that currently have an additional bin will retain this unless their circumstances change.

- 4.1.5 The recent introduction of the council's collection of residual waste every 3 weeks has allowed us to comply with the essential requirement on reducing capacity and the desirable element on providing a maximum of 80litres per week (we provide 240l per 3 weeks).
- 4.1.6 There are a number of 'desirable' elements within the CoP which we don't currently meet but as these are currently only desirable and have not been taken into account.
- 4.1.7 There will be no additional costs to the Council to comply with the essential elements of the Recycling Charter as outlined in section 4 of this report.
- 4.1.8 **APPENDIX 2** provides an updated policy to reflect the changes required to meet the code of practice. The changes to the proposed new policy document are covered in sections 4 and 8 and are underlined.

5. SUMMARY OF IMPLICATIONS

(a) Moray 2023: A Plan for the Future/Service Plan

Adoption and signing of the Household Recycling Charter would be in accordance with corporate objectives in respect of economic development, protecting the natural environment and working with householders to further increase the volume of waste that is recycled.

(b) Policy and Legal

Signing the Household Recycling Charter and adoption of the Code of Practice is purely voluntary and the Council has the option to opt out at any time.

(c) Financial implications

There are no financial implications.

(d) Risk Implications

As the Council complies with the majority of the CoP already it is not anticipated that there will be any additional risk.

(e) Staffing Implications

There will be no additional staffing resources required to comply with the CoP.

(f) Property

There are no property implications.

(g) Equalities

None.

(h) Consultations

The following officers have been consulted and their comments incorporated into the report: The Head of Legal and Democratic, The Principal Accountant, The Equal Opportunities Officer, The Environmental Protection Manager, The Waste Management Officer and Committee Services Officer (L Rowan) have been consulted and comments have been incorporated into the report.

6. CONCLUSION

- 6.1 The Council currently comply with the majority of the compulsory requirements of the Code of Practice barring those indicated in 4.1.2 to 4.1.4 which can be easily accommodated. There will be no financial implications for the council. Therefore it would be prudent to sign the Household Recycling Charter and thereby adopt the Code of Practice together with the revised Kerbside Collection Policy.**