

**Waste Management Working Group  
Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> September 10am  
Via Teams**

Present: Cllrs: Cllr Argyle, Cllr Calder, Cllr Ewenson, Cllr McKail, Cllr Mollinson, Cllr Gifford (sub for Cllr Roy)

Officers: Ros Baxter, Yvonne D’Ambruoso, Caroline Roff, Diane Rotherham, Darren Fryer, Andrew Sheridan, Peter Stanworth, Michelle Simmons, Chris Smith, Chi Coe, Rachel McKay (minute taker)

Apologies: Philip McKay, Cllr Roy, Diane Rotherham

	<b>DISCUSSION</b>	<b>ACTION</b>
<b>1.</b>	<b>Declaration of Members Interests</b>	
	None	
<b>2.</b>	<b>Resolution – Public Sector Equality Duty</b>	
	No issues raised	
<b>3.</b>	<b>Minute of Meeting of WMWG of 16<sup>th</sup> June 2021</b>	
	Minute noted as accurate	
<b>4.</b>	<b>HRC Service Design Review – Caroline Roff</b>	
	<p>There is a review underway being led by the Change team. There is a lot of work being done which is looking at feedback from customers through different mediums such as Facebook and feedback enquiries. Customers have been contacted to see what kind of improvements they suggest.</p> <p>The scope of review has been narrowed down due to timescales, only the booking system and limit systems are included.</p> <p>The review is due to be finished by end of November then a report will note all responses and go to ISC in January 2022.</p> <p>A survey will be posted online which will be available for completion by as many stakeholders as possible. Following some initial changes to the booking system in August, there have been less enquiries.</p> <p>Ros added that the scope had been narrowed down as agreed by ISC but has not been narrowed further. Two elements of the review</p>	

	<b>DISCUSSION</b>	<b>ACTION</b>
	<p>are the systems and how they are working as well as options for trade waste disposal.</p> <p>Caroline said that the booking system was introduced because of covid. The benefits include reduction of traffic queuing onto main roads, particularly at larger sites such as Inverurie and Peterhead. The customers have more freedom to access skips and opportunity to put materials in right ones. Staff can also get a lunchbreak due to less cars coming in.</p> <p>Another benefit is having contact details for those who are booked to come, if site has to shut then an auto e-mail can be sent to customers to save a wasted journey.</p> <p>Stats – car counter data – drop of 50%. Tonnages have only dropped 12% - there are more cars coming in with full load. Fewer visits equal additional environmental benefits.</p> <p>Most sites are not fully booked and have availability on the day or day after.</p> <p>Ros asked about the research with other councils who are taking away the booking system. Caroline responded that there were 10 responses of 30. Four councils had no booking system. Six of them had a booking system implemented for vans or trailers or all sites. Three are keeping for vans and trailers. Moray Council had a booking system for all recycling centres, it has been taken away from smaller recycling centres and kept in Elgin. This has resulted in traders sneaking in to smaller sites that no longer have the booking system.</p> <p>South Ayrshire Council are putting in a booking system and find that the neighbouring councils' traffic are coming in. Hoping to get more responses from other councils. Many people have found benefits of booking.</p> <p>Cllr Argyle commented that people who go to the recycling centre on a regular basis must put in their details in every time and if there is a way for details to be remembered, such as autofill.</p> <p>Cllr Gifford and Cllr Argyle said that there has been not a single e-mail about the system changes in August.</p>	

	<b>DISCUSSION</b>	<b>ACTION</b>
	<p>There are benefits to putting materials into the proper skips and no pressure to rush. It has solved traffic stacking problems particularly in Inverurie.</p> <p>Cllr Gifford also noted that with e-mail registration gathering data, then it may not be too difficult to gather postcodes and see how far people are travelling.</p> <p>Cllr McKail noted that the Westhill recycling centre been much easier to book of late. The booking system controls trade waste and cross traffic, as Westhill had people from Kingswells and Aberdeen coming in to dispose with waste. Agreed with system remembering details.</p> <p>Cllr Ewenson agreed that with the drop off in number of visits, the tonnages do not correspond with that. Also agreed with re-entering details and having details saved for next time. The detail would be useful of collecting postcodes to avoid waste from different local authorities.</p> <p>Caroline noted that the system checks if your postcode is in Aberdeenshire, if it is not, then the system will not let you book an appointment, so no cross-border waste should be coming in. Looking into auto filling and how it can be done. Another is date and time being put in first, before details as date and time customer wants may not be available. Another comment made is 15-minute time slot is not long enough, as originally it was 30 minutes, but customers were coming in the first 5-10mins and the rest was quiet, leading to traffic spreading problems. The number of complaints have lowered since August.</p> <p>Ros noted that it was useful to have positive feedback. There is survey going out and there will be an opportunity for comments. Focus on improvements being made to the booking system and hoping the changes have addressed some more issues.</p> <p>There will be a workshop running with different stakeholders, including Elected Members.</p> <p>Michelle noted that what is not advertised very well is garden waste at satellite sites and more information needed. Also, booking a slot within the hour cannot be done and if there can be ways to amend that. The workshop will address these issues.</p>	

	<b>DISCUSSION</b>	<b>ACTION</b>
	<p>Cllr Argyle asked Michelle to let them know about the workshop.</p> <p>Cllr Ewenson mentioned that before the booking system there were concerns about how charities would manage before with restrictions of visits. Litter picks have been done in Inverurie and has worked very well.</p> <p>Cllr Mollison asked if a constituent could come in cycling to a recycling site with a trailer and the response received was if the customer came in midday when pedestrian access is open, it would be possible.</p> <p>Cllr Argyle thanked Caroline for her presentation.</p>	
<b>5.</b>	<b>Recycling Data Before and After Covid – presented by Ros Baxter</b>	
	<p>Kerbside recycling streams, recycling centre and impact of Covid. 2019 data is published, 2020 and 2021 is not validated yet and not for circulation.</p> <p>2019 = 15,000 tonnes 2020 increased by 472 tonnes. 2021 showing an increase of a further 400 tonnes.</p> <p>Food waste Tonnage collected in 2019 - 7,147 There was an 11% increase in 2020 Slight drop in 2021 however still reflects an increase on 2019 tonnages.</p> <p>Glass recycling 6,100 tonnes are collected for recycling annually 2019 – 5,965 tonnes of glass. Increased by 12.75% in 2020 with 6,726 tonnes. 2021 tonnage is like 2020 when compared against the same period. HRC's were closed March 24<sup>th</sup> to 1<sup>st</sup> June 2020. Opened during further lockdowns and restrictions. Feb 2021 decreased in tonnage due to weather but increased in March and April.</p>	

	<b>DISCUSSION</b>	<b>ACTION</b>
	<p>Recycling data 2019 – 31,680 tonnes 2020 – 21,902 tonnes, decreasing 30% 2021 – increased, but down compared to 2019.</p> <p>Cardboard, textiles, electricals, cooking oil, scrap metal back to similar tonnage levels compared to pre-covid. Garden waste and wood improved since 2020, remain low compared to pre covid.</p> <p>Household materials, soil, rubble, plasterboard may have been trade waste. Garden waste has remained low as people may have found an alternate such as home composting.</p> <p>Residual waste</p> <p>2019 – 71,301 tonnes. 2020 – 69,400 – 2,000 tonnes drop, most of which are at recycling centres. 2021 – 41,447 – 1,000 tonnes less compared to 2019.</p> <p>Impact on recycling rate 2020 anticipated to be 40.6% compared to 44% in 2019. Reduced 3.5% of recycling rate since 2019, because of the decrease of rubble and heavy material such as soil and garden waste.</p> <p>In main household recycling food and drinks increased, and food waste has increased.</p> <p>DIY waste dropped significantly with rubble, soil and wood particularly poor in comparison.</p> <p>Tonnages for household recycling continue to remain at an increased level, whilst DIY waste continues to remain at reduced tonnages compared to pre-covid.</p> <p>Initial findings show householders may have changed habits or lifestyles in terms of kerbside recycling materials. The 3 weekly system is still to go ahead. The increase in food waste is good as more people may participate in food waste scheme.</p>	

	<b>DISCUSSION</b>	<b>ACTION</b>
	<p>Cllr Argyle thanked Ros for the presentation and highlighted how difficult it is to look at the broad percentage and whether it is good or bad. Cllr Argyle asked where other authorities are and if they are experiencing drops as well.</p> <p>Ros replied that Aberdeen City have seen a 4% decrease last year. They have had an increase in residual waste compared to Aberdeenshire.</p> <p>Cllr Gifford asked if there has been a decreased drop off in garden and residual waste, has there been an increase in waste centres of other materials?</p> <p>Caroline replied that 18 businesses are recorded as using the trade drop off service across Aberdeenshire, similar to what has been before, and the same companies use the service regularly.</p> <p>Ros noted that the service should be advertised more widely.</p> <p>Cllr Ewenson noted that when the statistics are made public, that the tonnages and the drop offs is not seen as more fly tipping and the message gets out loud and clear.</p> <p>Ros noted that there were increases in fly tipping when recycling centres were shut during the first lockdown in 2020, this reduced during summer 2020. There was a spike in fly tipping cases in Feb/March 2021 and normal levels from pre-covid are now back. The fly tipping cases are monitored every month.</p> <p>Cllr Argyle noted that the information is not to be circulated outside the group.</p>	
<b>6.</b>	<b>3 Weekly 3 Bin Collection Cycle Update – Ros Baxter</b>	
	<p>Stage 2 application was submitted in May. Various delays at ZWS end have meant we do not yet have a decision on the funding. This means we will have to postpone the report to the ISC in November. Procurement and recruitment cannot be started until we know about funding. It is unlikely we will be able to run a pilot due to time constraints.</p> <p>The implementation was to start in June 2022 but if implementation runs into July 2022, then the service may not complete all of depots before the winter period and may have to run into 2023.</p>	

	<b>DISCUSSION</b>	<b>ACTION</b>
	<p>Cllr Argyle noted that it was very frustrating regarding the funding applications.</p> <p>Ros noted that the board who approve any funding requests is made up of Scot Gov, CoSLA and multiple organisations. Zero Waste Scotland have been pushing for application decisions and are also frustrated. ZWS passed the application through Stage 1 and then it is put to the board.</p> <p>Cllr Calder thanked Ros for presentation and asked has the end of pilot been made public to Cruden Bay and Mintlaw?</p> <p>Ros said the pilot with the current bins and 3 weekly cycles would not be stopped in the three current locations, but there would have been a pilot with the 3 bins if time permitted.</p> <p>Cllr Calder asked if the only delay is the new size of bins.</p> <p>Ros informed that we need a decision on funding before procurement of bins can be made, the timeline and implementing a pilot is not likely to be feasible with the delay in decision.</p> <p>Cllr Mollison asked has consideration been given to how news has been communicated and what's the future plan?</p> <p>Ros noted there is briefing note coming to Cllrs about how the news will be circulated. Cllr Argyle added that before info goes out publicly it goes to Members first.</p>	
<b>7.</b>	<b>Date of Next Waste Management Working Group Meeting</b>	
	<p>Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> December 2021 at 10.00am (via Teams).</p> <p>Cllr Argyle thanked everyone for attending the meeting.</p>	