

APSE Scotland Waste and Recycling advisory group

9th February, Golden Lion Hotel, Stirling

Minutes of this meeting

1. Introduction and welcome

Councillor Peter Craig of South Lanarkshire Council welcomed all to the meeting.

2. Attendance and apologies

See attached.

3. Minutes of Previous Meeting held 17th November 2017

The minutes of the previous meeting were deemed to be a true and accurate record.

4. Matters Arising

There were no matters arising.

5. Recycling and the Circular Economy in North Ayrshire

Robert Robb, Assistant Waste Resources Manager at North Ayrshire Council delivered a presentation on waste resource circular economy opportunities. Setting clear strategy and policy can drive the circular economy and maximise resource recovery. The five key work streams of the North Ayrshire Environmental Sustainability & Climate Change Strategy 2017 – 2022: affordable warmth, a green economy, transport and travel, natural and built environment, and sustainable operations. The 2018-2022 Waste Strategy is prioritised in line with the waste hierarchy, signed Household Waste Charter and modelling potential options, with a transitional approach to C.O.P.

This approach includes supporting partnership working with the public and private sectors, as well as partnerships with the third sector. This includes:

- a partnership with Clyde Valley Residual Waste Treatment (5 councils, 190,000 tonnes with pre-treatment and energy recovery)
- partnership working with neighbouring Councils and local businesses
- community benefit clauses in contracts
- bulky waste reuse partnership with Cunninghame Furniture
- supporting new reuse hubs and developing proposals for a community composting facility on Arran

Robert provided the circular process behind the Clyde Valley Residual Waste Partnership, Organic Waste Recycling and the Bulky Waste Reuse Partnership. These are all available in the presentation slides ([click here](#)).

For local authorities, there are many benefits of the circular economy including:

- delivering better social, environmental and financial outcomes for the community
- growing our economy by stimulating local investment, increasing employment and regenerating local areas
- helping local people obtain skills
- creating opportunities for income generation and cost avoidance
- avoiding public health concerns by protecting and enhancing the local environment through sustainability and maximising resource reuse and recovery

Robert answered several questions on the types of furniture collected at recycling centres, funding contingencies, landfill, the benefits to the Council, and how people get referred from social work and welfare.

6. Exploring initiatives to reduce waste, improving recycling, random drug and alcohol testing for operatives and their new ENVAC underground waste system

Shaun Morley, Interim Director of Public Realm at London Borough of Barking and Dagenham delivered a presentation on a range of initiatives underway at his authority. Barking and Dagenham has 74,350 households and the borough produces roughly 65 thousand tonnes of domestic waste per year. Last year they recycled 22,640 tonnes, putting their recycling rate at 26%.

Their service faces several key challenges including a growing population, a demographic shift and high levels of deprivation. They also have issues with side waste (8752 households at least once a year), contamination in the residual waste bin, MRF rejection rates of over 40%, and a 25-year disposal contract that provides little incentive to increase recycling, as a single blended rate is paid for all collected waste delivered for treatment whether this is for recycling or disposal.

There are also difficulties in the collection of waste including: the presentation of waste, access on narrow roads, space issues with many properties having no driveway or front garden, and flats above shops having multiple bins.

The Council is doing many different things to combat these issues.

- Waste minimisation campaign – delivered 215 community outreach events including roadshows, public talks, reuse workshops. Engaged with 19,300 people directly.
- Engaging with hard to reach groups such as youth groups and new residents with language barriers.
- Contamination campaign – a door-to-door educational campaign.
- No side waste policy and enforcement – a warning letter sent out to residents, and a fixed penalty notice of £80 for side waste offences.
- Slim your bin communication campaign – 1 tonne of waste toured the whole borough to help residents visualise how much waste they produce. More information can be found at www.slimyourbin.com
- Bin rationalisation initiatives – the team either stopped or swapped around 1038 bins in the borough which led to a diversion or reduction of 712.4 tonnes of waste each year (e.g. swapping 2x140L bins for 1x240L bin).
- Paid garden waste service - £40 per year fortnightly service, 7,400 residents subscribe. Delivers savings of £220,000.
- ENVAC Underground Waste Collection – consultation is in process to introduce an underground pneumatic waste collection system.

- Supported and assisted local delivery of national campaigns (e.g. Recycle Week, Big Tidy Up, Clean for the Queen, etc).

The Council is aiming to achieve the London average recycling rate of 32% by 2020, to have 6% year on year household waste reduction, to achieve 700 commercial customers by 2020, to achieve a 99% collection rate for residents and commercial services for the period 2016-2020, to change collection methods and explore opportunities of using twin stream vehicles, and to address some of the current concerns with the ELWA waste disposal contract which is due for renewal in 2027.

Shaun also answered questions on the Council's drug and alcohol testing policy for safety-critical employees in waste. The process is a 6-weekly random selection of 10 to 15 people, with the Council's occupational health service doing the swab, and a local laboratory doing the testing. The Council's definition of safety-critical includes anyone that can drive a council vehicle (so this includes senior staff like managers and it also includes any agency workers that fit this description).

7. Discussions

The group held a discussion on the advantages and disadvantages of various shift patterns, with attendees sharing their experiences of working under different patterns and the experience of leading their workforces through shift pattern changes (e.g. from 5 day working to 4 on, 4 off).

There were also discussions around suitable speakers for the upcoming APSE Scotland Fleet, Waste and Grounds seminar.

8. APSE update

Garry Lee, Acting Principal Advisor from APSE Scotland provided a short update on the recent work of APSE, including the latest trend analysis briefings and upcoming publications, and provided dates of upcoming seminars and training events.

9. Date of next meeting

The date of the next meeting is to be decided following the next Scottish AGM, most likely to take place in June 2018.

Attendees

Name	Council
Garry Lee	APSE
Paul Raeper	Dundee City Council
Jeff Halkett	Dundee City Council
Malcolm Rae	East Ayrshire Council
Douglas Gardiner	East Ayrshire Council
Abbey Young	East Ayrshire Council
Stephen Dickie	East Dunbartonshire Council
Henry Kelly	East Dunbartonshire Council
Michelle Thompson	East Renfrewshire Council
Lyall Rennie	East Renfrewshire Council
Danielle Moore	East Renfrewshire Council
Derek McCathie	Falkirk Council
Shaun Morley	London Borough of Barking and Dagenham
Steven Andrews	North Ayrshire Council
Robert Robb	North Ayrshire Council
Gary Mooney	Scotland Excel
Craig Douglas	South Lanarkshire Council
Bob Black	South Lanarkshire Council
Cllr Peter Craig	South Lanarkshire Council
Jamie McCarthy	West Lothian Council

Apologies

Alan Millar	Argyll & Bute Council
Charlie Kelly	South Lanarkshire Council
Dougie McKay	Tayside Contracts