

Transport and Environment Committee

1 November 2016

Landfill and Recycling

Item number	8.5
Report number	
Executive/routine	
Wards	All

Executive Summary

This report updates the Committee on performance in reducing the amount of waste sent to landfill and on increasing the amount of waste recycled for the period July - September 2016.

The total arisings of waste in this period were 56,970 tonnes, a decrease of 3.4% on the same quarter in the previous year.

The amount of waste disposed of to landfill or refuse derived fuel (RDF) in this period is 30,183 tonnes a 7.4% decrease compared to the same period last year.

There were 26,787 tonnes of waste recycled in this reporting period, an increase of 1.5% compared to the same period in 2015/16. The year to date recycling rate increased to 46.2%, an increase of 1.9% on the same period last year.

The forecast end of year recycling rate for 2016/17 is 44.4%, an increase of 2.4 percentage points on the 42% achieved in 2015/16.

Links

Coalition Pledges [P44, P49, P50](#)

Council Priorities [CO17, CO18, CO19](#)

Single Outcome Agreement [SO4](#)

Landfill and Recycling

1. Recommendations

- 1.1 It is recommended that Committee notes the contents of this report.

2. Background

Landfill and recycling

- 2.1 Capital Coalition Pledge 49 outlines 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, and 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.

Complaints

- 2.3 There are 243,000* residential dwellings in Edinburgh which receive multiple refuse and recycling collections. On average there are approximately 480,000 collections a week. Current complaints targets are based on the number of collections carried out, but are not adjusted for seasonal variation.
- 2.4 The figures also include complaints that may be made in error, for example where a resident has not presented their bin and misses the collection or presents their bin on the incorrect day, and then contacts the Council to report a missed collection.

* source: Corporate Address Gazetteer

3. Main report

Waste arisings

- 3.1 Year to date waste arisings are 114,138 tonnes, 2.2% less than in the same period last year.

3.2 It is forecast that the total arisings for 2016/17 will be 210,857 tonnes, a 3.2% reduction on the 217,931 tonnes collected in 2015/16.

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

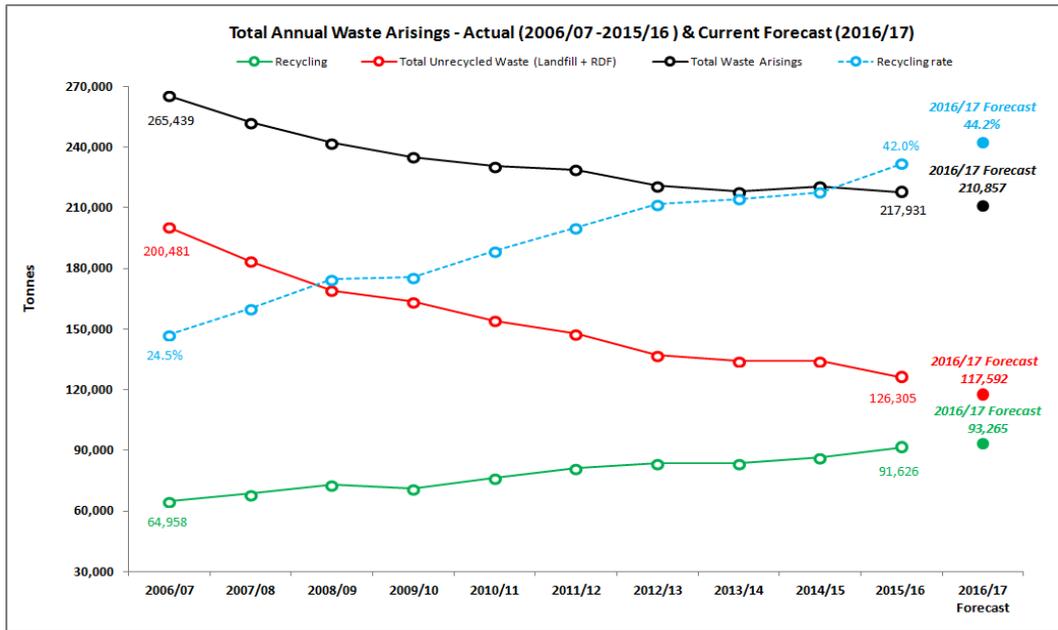
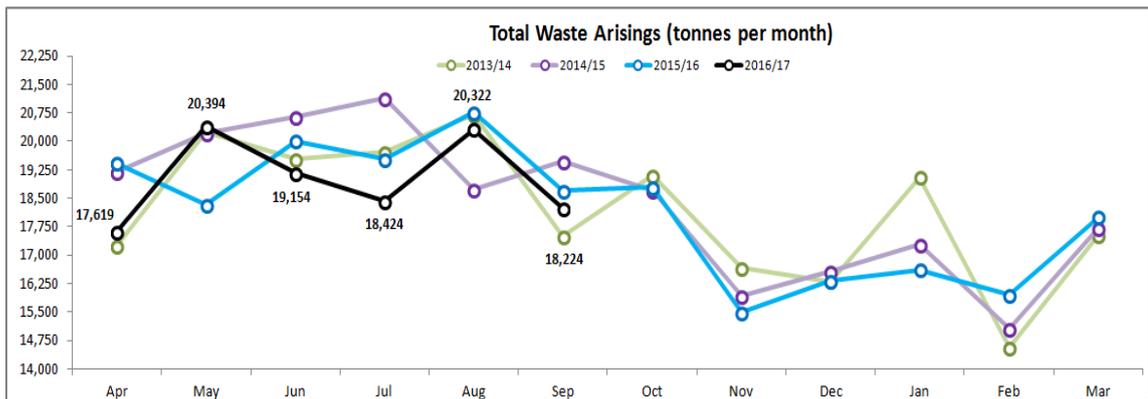


Table 1: Annual waste arisings by month

Year	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Total	YTD
2013/14	17,250	20,231	19,529	19,726	20,699	17,190	19,102	16,658	16,306	19,053	14,563	17,523	218,131	114,925
2014/15	19,208	20,224	20,659	21,144	18,716	19,166	18,692	15,936	16,563	17,285	15,062	17,728	220,715	119,448
2015/16	19,124	18,333	20,003	19,533	20,759	18,694	18,796	15,489	16,326	16,618	15,953	18,003	217,931	116,746
2016/17	17,619	20,394	19,154	18,424	20,322	18,224								114,138
% difference previous year	-9.3%	11.2%	-4.2%	-5.7%	-2.1%	-2.5%								-2.2%

Figure 2: Waste arisings by month



Unrecycled waste

3.4 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

arising data, and is counted as having been disposed rather than recycled, but does not attract Landfill Tax.

- 3.5 At present, due to market conditions, the majority of waste which is not recycled will be sent to landfill. It is currently assumed that this will continue throughout the year.
- 3.6 It is forecast that 115,603 tonnes of unrecycled waste will be disposed of via landfill in 2016/17. This is 2,397 tonnes less than the Capital Coalition Pledge 49 which has a target of reducing landfill tonnage to 118,000 tonnes.

In the year to date 61,357 tonnes of unrecycled waste has been collected. This is 5.5% less than the same period in the previous year and 1.1% higher than forecast.

Table 2: Unrecycled waste: actual, forecast, % difference.

RESIDUAL - LANDFILL & REFUSE DERIVED FUEL				
Year	Jul	Aug	Sept	YTD
Unrecycled 2014/15	12,173	11,185	11,684	69,163
Unrecycled 2015/16	10,211	11,863	10,514	64,953
Unrecycled 2016/17	9,506	10,630	10,047	61,357
% difference previous year	-6.9%	-10.4%	-4.4%	-5.5%
Forecast	10,170	10,616	9,531	60,689
Diff btwn actual and Forecast (tonnes)	-663	14	515	669
% diff btwn actual & Forecast	-6.5%	0.1%	5.4%	1.1%

Recyclable waste

- 3.7 The citywide recycling rate for 2016/17 is currently forecast to be 44.4%, against the Capital Coalition Pledge 49 target of 50%. This will represent a 2.4 % improvement on the 42% achieved in 2015/16. The year to date recycling rate is 46.2%, increase of 1.9%.

Table 3: Monthly and YTD Recycling Rates 2013/14 - 2016/17

Year	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	YTD
2013/14	36.8%	42.6%	44.3%	43.1%	38.8%	40.2%	38.4%
2014/15	40.8%	43.4%	45.3%	42.4%	40.3%	40.0%	39.1%
2015/16	43.6%	43.9%	44.4%	47.7%	42.9%	43.8%	44.4%
2016/17	44.8%	44.0%	47.7%	48.4%	47.7%	44.9%	46.2%
% points difference on previous year	1.2%	0.11%	3.3%	0.7%	4.8%	1.1%	1.9%

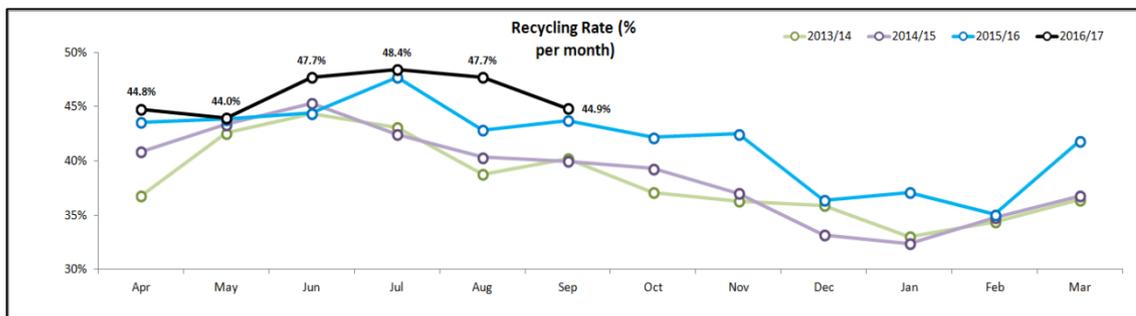


Figure 4: Monthly recycling performance by year

3.8 A breakdown of recycling tonnages by collection scheme is provided in Table 4 below:

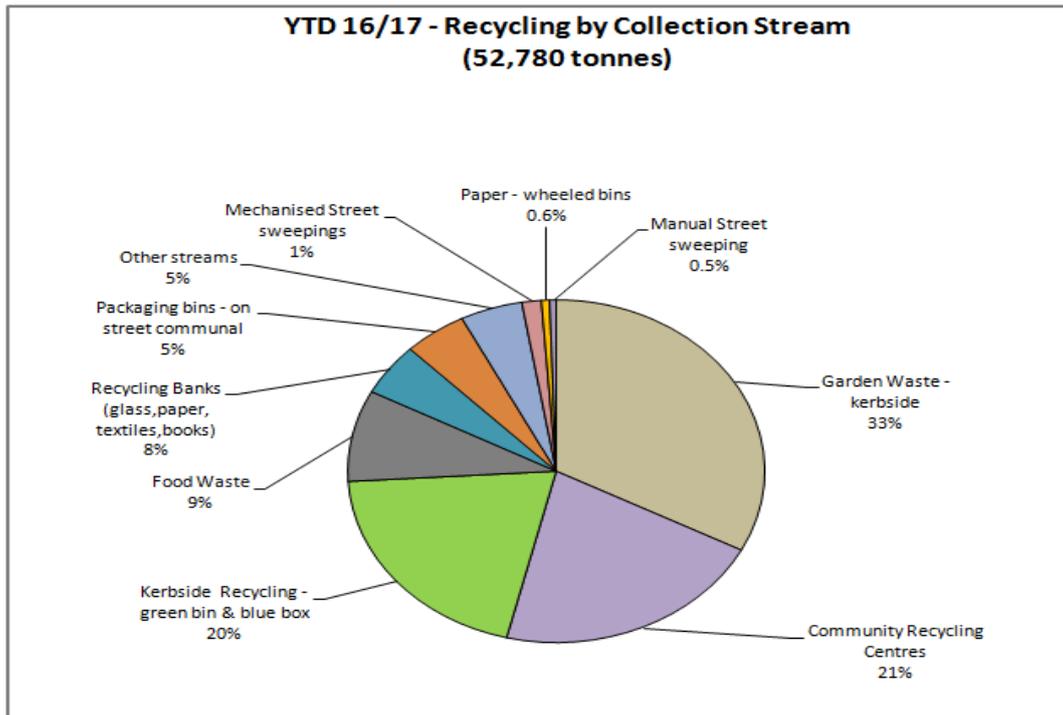
Table 4: Recycling by stream - YTD 2015/16 & 2016/17

Recycling - Collection Stream Summary							
	Sep-15	Sep-16	Change	YTD (2015/16)	YTD (2016/17)	YTD Change	
Recycling Stream	Tonnes	Tonnes	Tonnes	Tonnes	Tonnes	Tonnes	% change
Garden Waste - kerbside	2,297	2,551	253	16,355	17,215	860	5%
Community Recycling Centres	1,957	1,711	-246	12,102	11,198	-905	-7%
Kerbside Recycling - green bin & blue box	1,655	1,807	152	9,309	10,673	1,364	15%
Food Waste	731	770	39	4,018	4,553	535	13%
Recycling Banks (glass,paper,textiles,books)	501	434	-68	3,065	2,615	-449	-15%
Packaging bins - on street communal	299	463	164	1,819	2,581	762	42%
Other streams	324	387	63	1,958	2,543	585	30%
Mechanised Street sweepings	184	0	-184	1,742	797	-945	-54%
Paper - wheeled bins	171	55	-116	996	333	-664	-67%
Manual Street sweeping	61	0	-61	429	272	-156	-36%
Total Recycling	8,181	8,178	-3	51,793	52,780	988	1.9%
Recycling rate	43.8%	44.9%	1.1%	44.4%	46.2%	1.9%	4.2%

*At the time of writing, street sweeping tonnages were not available.

3.9 Table 4 shows that improvements in recycling performance have been seen both in the kerbside dry mixed and glass recycling service, and food waste recycling service with year to date increases on the same period last year of 15% and 13% respectively.

Figure 3: Recycling by stream/service



3.10 There have again been issues with mechanical street cleaning arisings not being diverted for recycling and these issues have been highlighted with the Council's contractor in order that they can investigate the cause and put in place actions to improve performance.

Recycling: Food Waste

3.11 Large increases continue in the tonnage of food waste collected for recycling, with an increase of 7% in this quarter versus the previous year. Year to date, 4,553 tonnes of food waste has been collected compared to 4,081 tonnes for the same period in 2015/16.

3.12 Food is now being reprocessed at the new anaerobic digestion facility at Millerhill. Steps are being taken to allow the separate reporting of kerbside and communal bin materials. In this period a combined figure only has been provided.

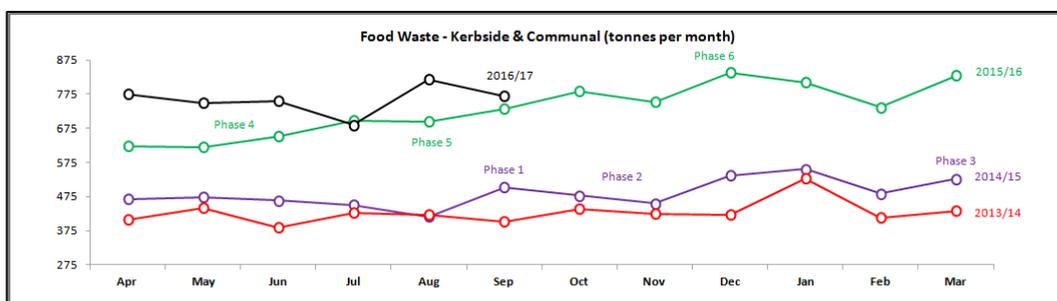


Figure 5: Combined food recycling tonnages by month

Kerbside Recycling

- 3.13 Similarly the new kerbside recycling service demonstrates an upward trend overall. This service is now fully rolled out and bedded in.

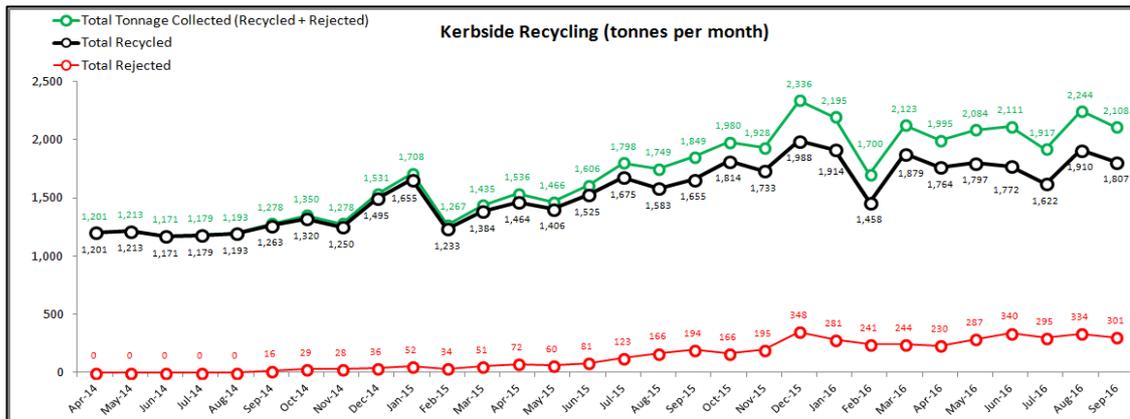


Figure 6: Kerbside green bin and blue box recycling tonnages by month

- 3.14 The amount of materials rejected has also increased. However the reasons for this need to be explored further as this may reflect improvements in the sorting processes to improve quality of outgoing materials, or be a reflection of the end users becoming stricter about the materials they will accept in response to market conditions, rather than be a result of householders presenting more non compliant materials. It should be noted that a new contract has been let and will be operational from December this year.
- 3.15 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.

Complaints

- 3.16 Weekly complaints numbers since 2014 are detailed below.

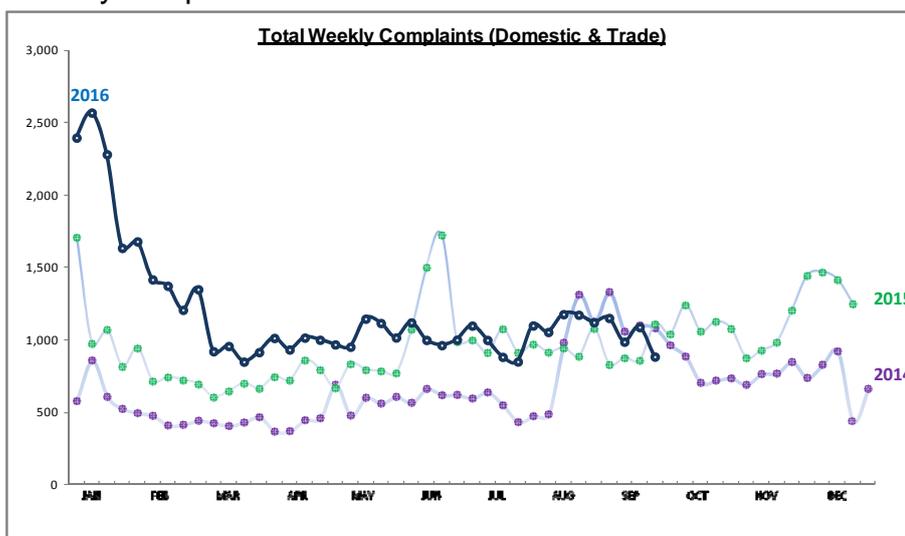


Figure 7: Combined complaints by year

- 3.17 On average during July-September, 1,042 complaints a week were received by Waste Services. With approximately 480,000 collections a week, this represents 0.22% of collections resulting in a customer complaint. The majority of complaints relate to non collection of waste but these include complaints where the waste was presented late or was contaminated or where access was blocked.
- 3.18 During this reporting period, there was a rise in complaints about communal landfill, packaging and glass bins. However, throughout September, there was a 21% reduction in missed bins complaints.

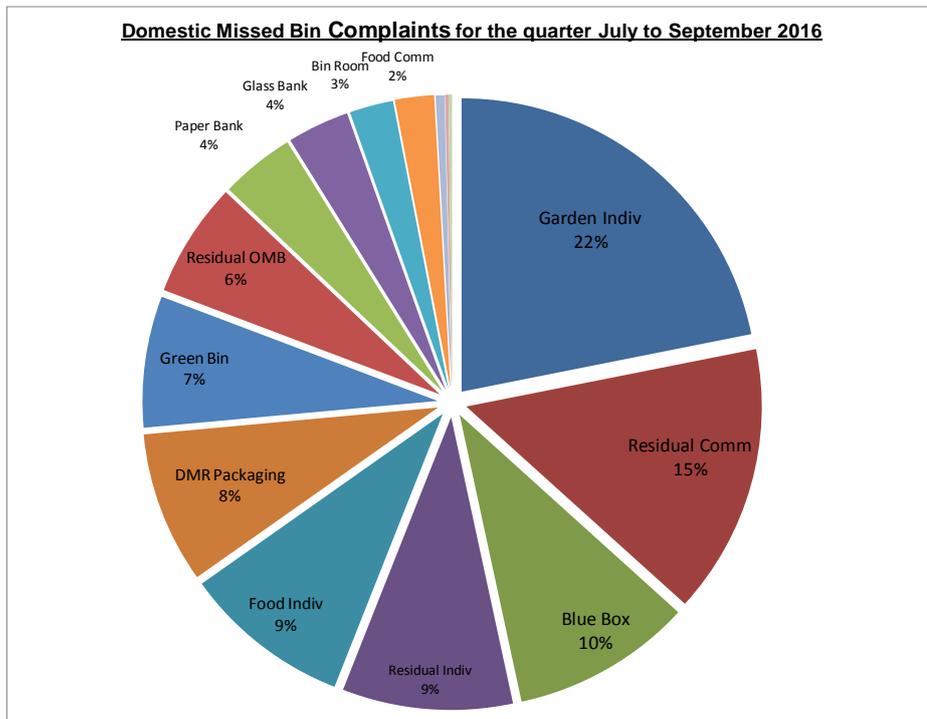


Figure 8: Combined household waste service complaints by service

- 3.19 Complaints have declined sharply over the course of the year to date as a result of measures reported previously such as crews and supervisors working in one area to gain better knowledge of the area in question and rerouting of services. By the week- ending 30 September complaints had fallen to 886 and fell again to 727 by week-ending 14th October, a decrease of 30%.
- 3.20 In this quarter the biggest source of complaints has been garden waste reflecting seasonal led demand. Other actions to continue the reduction in complaints are contained in the Waste and Cleansing Improvement Plan which is the subject of a separate report to this Committee.

Trade Waste Compliance

- 3.21 Complaints about overflowing communal bins are sometimes due to near-by businesses using them to dispose of their commercial waste rather than putting in place a waste and recycling collection contract as required by waste regulations. As part of the Transformation Programme a new Waste Compliance Team started on 1 September 2016. The team, comprising of 5 Environmental Wardens and a Team

Leader focused their work throughout the month visiting businesses and identifying those that are complying with waste regulations and taking enforcement action on non compliant businesses.

- 3.22 During the first two weeks of visits, only 17% of businesses visited were waste compliant although towards the end of September compliance increased to 47% possibly as a result of raised awareness about the activities of the Waste Compliance Team. The Team will continue to visit, advise and monitor businesses and where necessary take enforcement action to ensure that they have appropriate waste collection arrangements in place and are not improperly using services and facilities designed for household waste.

Table 5: Trade Waste Compliance Visits by Action Taken - Sept 2016

Month	Compliance visits	Businesses compliant	Fixed Penalty Issued	Reg 4 Issued	Section 47 Issued	Street Scene warning
Sept '16	498	260	15	190	2	5

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 as RDF and as landfill. In addition, there are charges associated with transporting landfill waste by rail from the transfer station at Powderhall to the landfill site at Dunbar. Quarterly disposal expenditures for 2016/17, including a comparison with the same period in 2015/16, are detailed in Table 3 below.

	2015-16	2016-17
Disposal Costs	Quarter 2 (Jul-Sep)	Quarter 2 (Jul-Sep)
Refuse Derived Fuel (RDF)	£289,335	£63,049
Landfill	£3,275,643	£3,531,462
Freight / Haulage	£337,601	£290,092
Total monthly Disposal costs	£3,902,579	£3,884,604

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

- 5.2 Although the amount of unrecycled waste collected (30,183 tonnes) in Quarter 2 is down 7.2% compared to the same quarter last year, disposal costs have increased. This is due to a significant drop in waste being disposed of via RDF as a result of market conditions which have seen a reduced demand for the product. This resulted in more waste being sent to landfill which is a more expensive method of disposal.

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

- 10.1 Not applicable

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11. Links

Coalition Pledges	<p>P44 Prioritise keeping our streets clean and attractive</p> <p>P49 Continue to increase recycling levels across the city and reduce the proportion of waste going to landfill</p> <p>P50 Meet greenhouse gas targets, including national target of 42% by 2020</p>
Council Priorities	<p>CO17 Clean- Edinburgh's streets and open spaces are free of litter and graffiti</p> <p>CO18 Green- We reduce the local environmental impact of our consumption and production</p> <p>CO19 Attractive places and well maintained - Edinburgh remains an attractive city through the development of high quality buildings and places and the delivery of high standards and maintenance of infrastructure and public realm</p>
Single Outcome Agreement	<p>SO4 -Edinburgh's communities are safer and have improved physical and social fabric</p>
Appendices	<p>Not applicable</p>