

# Transport and Environment Committee

10.00am, Tuesday, 21 March 2017

## Landfill and Recycling

<b>Item number</b>	7.2
<b>Report number</b>	
<b>Executive/routine</b>	Routine
<b>Wards</b>	All

### Executive Summary

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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 October - December 2016.

The report also updates the Committee on the levels of complaints received by the service over the October to December 2016 period.

Finally, the report provides an update on Trade Waste Compliance and proposes actions to address some of the issues around third party commercial waste bins being left unattended by businesses and a review of the food and glass exemptions that have previously been granted.

### Links

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<b>Coalition Pledges</b>	<a href="#">P44, P49, P50</a>
<b>Council Priorities</b>	<a href="#">CP8, CP9</a>
<b>Single Outcome Agreement</b>	<a href="#">SO4</a>

## Landfill and Recycling

### 1. Recommendations

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- 1.1 It is recommended that the Transport and Environment Committee:
  - 1.1.1 notes the contents of this report in respect of landfill, recycling and complaints performance;
  - 1.1.2 approves the proposed approach to tackling increasing examples of businesses leaving waste bins unattended outside of prescribed collection times and to revisit the existing food and glass exemptions granted to businesses. The success of this will be subject to a future report to Committee.

### 2. Background

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#### 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 arising

- 3.1 Year to date waste arising are 166,116 tonnes, 0.7% less than in the same period last year.
- 3.2 It is forecast that the total arising for 2016/17 will be 215,797 tonnes, a 1% reduction on the 217,931 tonnes collected in 2015/16.

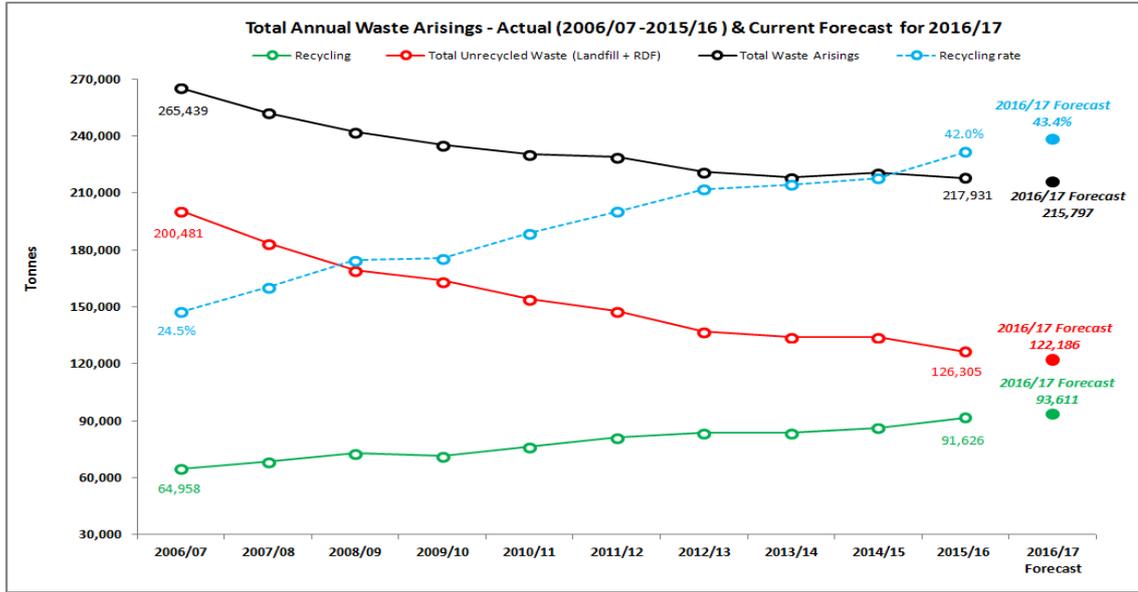


Figure 1: Actual and forecast annual waste arising by year, and by outlet

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	17,490	19,102	16,658	16,306	19,053	14,563	17,523	218,131	166,991
2014/15	19,208	20,224	20,659	21,144	18,746	19,466	18,692	15,936	16,563	17,285	15,062	17,728	220,715	170,640
2015/16	19,424	18,333	20,003	19,533	20,759	18,694	18,796	15,489	16,326	16,618	15,953	18,003	217,931	167,358
2016/17	17,619	20,394	19,154	18,424	20,322	18,566	17,416	16,838	17,383					166,116
% difference previous year	-9.3%	11.2%	-4.2%	-5.7%	-2.1%	-0.7%	-7.3%	8.7%	6.5%					-0.7%

Table 1: Annual waste arising by month

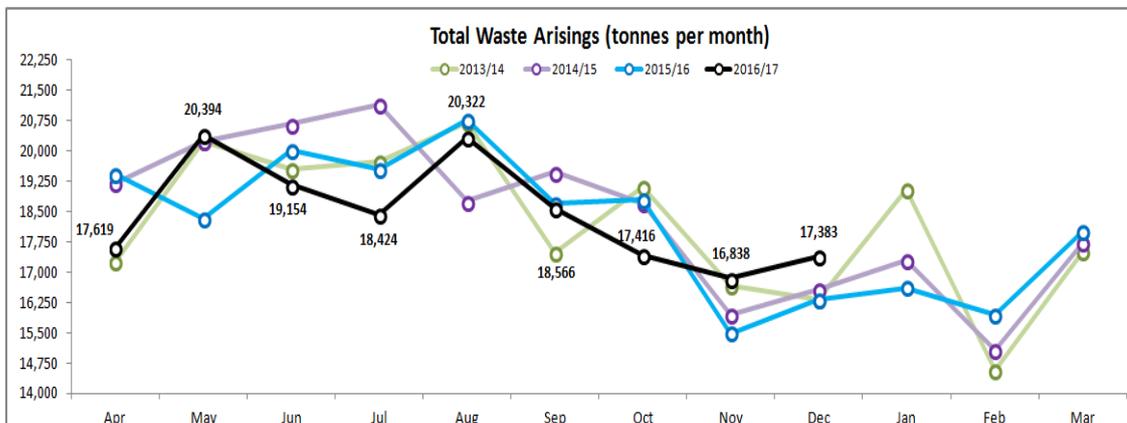


Figure 2: Waste arising by month

## Unrecycled waste

- 3.3 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.
- 3.4 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.
- 3.5 It is forecast that 119,126 tonnes of unrecycled waste will be disposed of via landfill in 2016/17. This is 1,126 tonnes more than the Capital Coalition Pledge 49 which has a target of reducing landfill tonnage to 118,000 tonnes.
- 3.6 In the year to date 92,617 tonnes of unrecycled waste has been collected. This is 2.6% less than the same period in the previous year and 4.2% higher than forecast.

RESIDUAL - LANDFILL & REFUSE DERIVED FUEL				
Year	Oct	Nov	Dec	YTD
Unrecycled 2014/15	11,347	10,032	11,069	101,613
Unrecycled 2015/16	10,870	8,907	10,368	95,098
Unrecycled 2016/17	<b>10,117</b>	<b>9,975</b>	<b>10,788</b>	<b>92,617</b>
% difference previous year	-6.9%	12.0%	4.1%	-2.6%
Forecast	9,923	9,084	9,214	88,910
Diff btwn actual and Forecast (tonnes)	195	891	1,574	3,707
% diff btwn actual & Forecast	2.0%	9.8%	17.1%	4.2%

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

## Recyclable waste

- 3.7 The citywide recycling rate for 2016/17 is forecast to be 43.4%, against the Capital Coalition Pledge 49 target of 50%. This will represent a 1.4 % improvement on the 42% achieved in 2015/16. The year to date recycling rate is 44.2%, an increase of 1.1%.

Year	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	YTD
2013/14	36.8%	42.6%	44.3%	43.1%	38.8%	40.2%	37.1%	36.3%	35.9%	38.40%
2014/15	40.8%	43.4%	45.3%	42.4%	40.3%	40.0%	39.3%	37.0%	33.2%	39.10%
2015/16	43.6%	43.9%	44.4%	47.7%	42.9%	43.8%	42.2%	42.5%	36.4%	43.2%
2016/17	44.8%	44.0%	47.7%	48.4%	47.7%	43.8%	41.9%	40.8%	37.9%	44.2%
% points difference on previous year	1.2%	0.11%	3.3%	0.7%	4.8%	0.1%	-0.3%	-1.7%	1.5%	1.1%

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

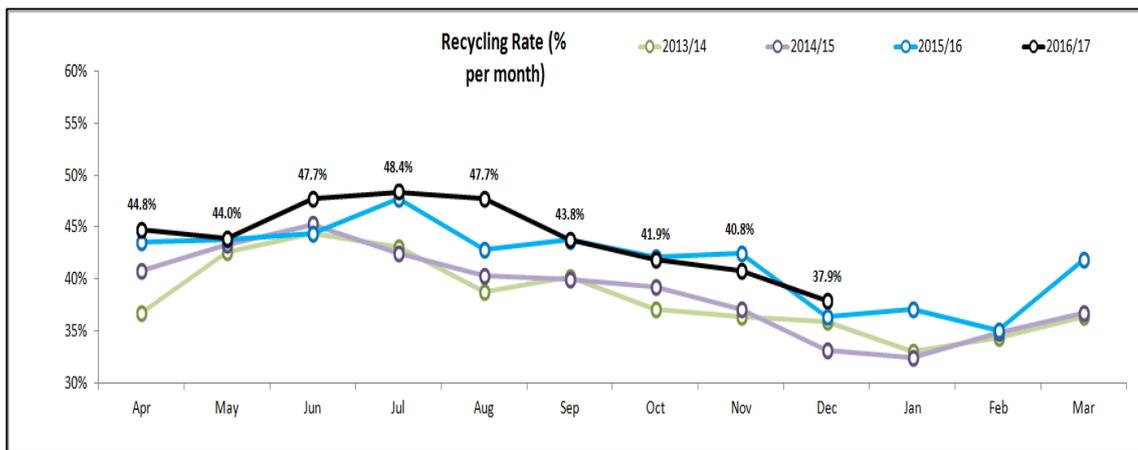


Figure 4: Monthly recycling performance by year

3.8 A breakdown of recycling tonnages by collection scheme is provided in Table 4 below and shows that improvements in recycling performance have been seen in both 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 9% and 8% respectively. Other services with significant year to date increase include on street communal packaging bins (39%) and 'other streams' (22%).

Recycling - Collection Stream Summary							
	Dec-15	Dec-16	Change	YTD (2015/16)	YTD (2016/17)	YTD Change	
Recycling Stream	Tonnes	Tonnes	Tonnes	Tonnes	Tonnes	Tonnes	% change
Garden Waste - kerbside	730	798	68	20,007	20,973	966	5%
Community Recycling Centres	938	1,122	184	16,140	15,231	-909	-6%
Kerbside Recycling - green bin & blue box	1,988	2,024	37	14,843	16,179	1,336	9%
Food Waste	839	781	-58	6,394	6,916	522	8%
Recycling Banks (glass,paper,textiles,books)	460	647	187	4,546	4,093	-453	-10%
Packaging bins - on street communal	409	528	119	2,821	3,915	1,094	39%
Other streams (Nathans, Parks/Greenspace)	258	323	65	2,936	3,588	652	22%
Mechanised Street sweepings	219	283	64	2,498	1,638	-860	-34%
Paper - wheeled bins	0	29	29	1,271	492	-779	-61%
Manual Street sweeping	119	59	-59	805	474	-330	-41%
<b>Total Recycling</b>	<b>5,959</b>	<b>6,594</b>	<b>635</b>	<b>72,260</b>	<b>73,499</b>	<b>1,239</b>	<b>1.7%</b>
<b>Recycling rate</b>	<b>36.4%</b>	<b>37.9%</b>	<b>1.5%</b>	<b>43.2%</b>	<b>44.2%</b>	<b>1.1%</b>	<b>2.5%</b>

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

3.9 Issues identified with the Mechanised Street Sweepings are now resolved with the Council's contractor making arrangements to have these consistently delivered for reprocessing. This saw the figure increase by 64 tonnes on the December 2015 figure. Manual Street Sweepings are down by 41% due to the half of the city's cleansing fleet arising currently going directly to landfill. This is a temporary measure whilst arrangements are made for the reconfiguration of our outlet in the east of the city. It is estimated that this will be in place by April 2017.

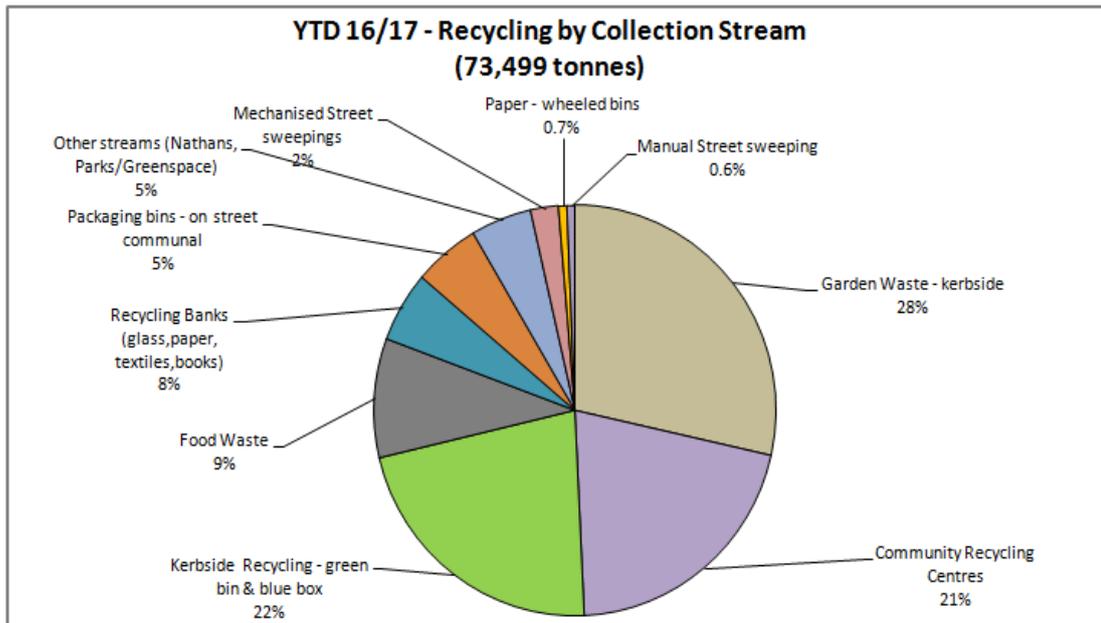


Figure 3: Recycling by stream/service

### Recycling: Food Waste

3.10 Increases continue in the tonnage of food waste collected for recycling, with an increase of 1.1% in this quarter versus the previous year. Year to date, 6,135 tonnes of food waste has been collected compared to 5,555 tonnes for the same period in 2015/16. This is 10.5 percentage points more than the year to date of the previous year.

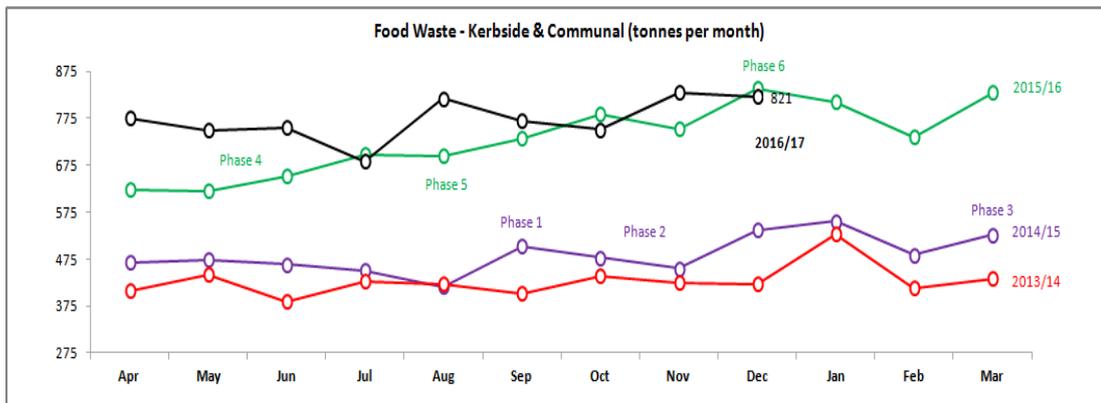


Figure 5: Combined food recycling tonnages by month.

### Kerbside Recycling

3.11 Similarly, the kerbside recycling service demonstrates an upward trend overall. Year to date 16,179 tonnes of kerbside recyclate has been collected compared to 14,843 tonnes for the same period in 2015/16. This is nine percentage points more than the year to date of the previous year.

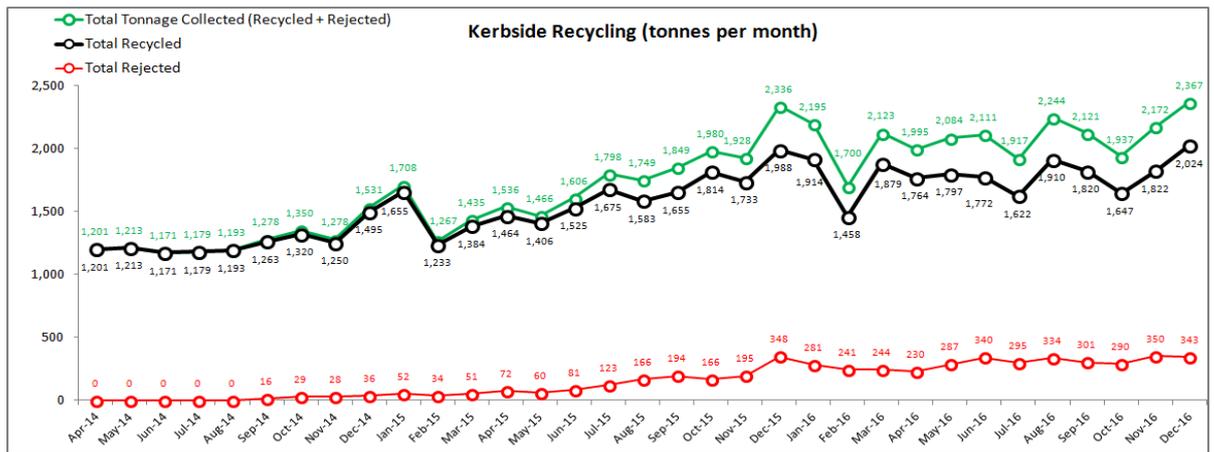


Figure 6: Kerbside green bin and blue box recycling tonnages by month

- 3.12 A contract for the Receipt and Processing of Dry Recyclable Materials from Kerbside and Communal Recycling Collections was awarded to Biffa Waste Services Ltd on 17 November 2016. The Contract Commencement Date was 29 November 2016 and implementation took place on 5 December 2016. Despite implementation being immediately prior to the festive period there was no disruption to service and the contract is functioning as envisaged
- 3.13 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

- 3.14 Weekly complaints numbers since 2014 are detailed below.

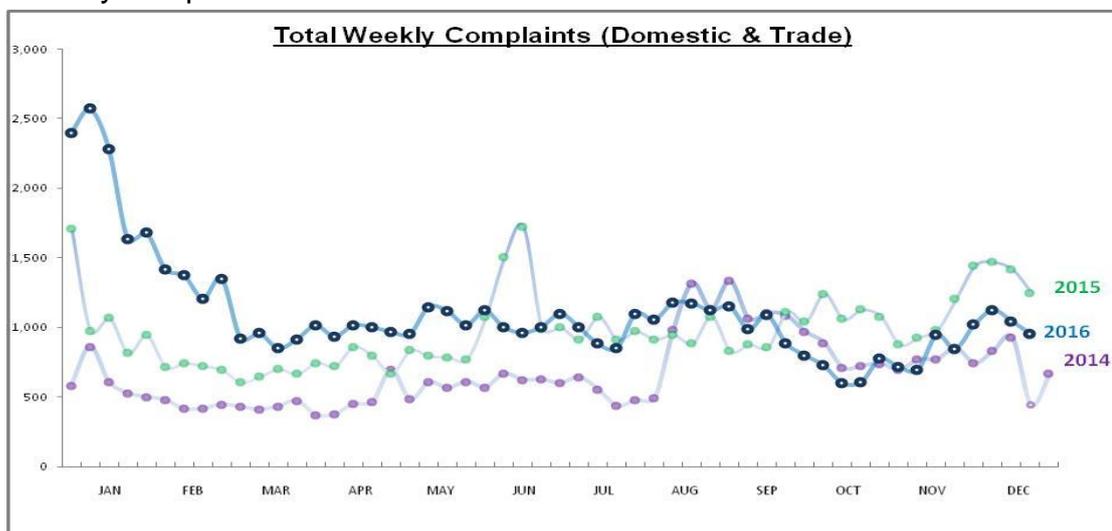


Figure 7: Combined complaints by year

- 3.15 On average during October - December, 835 complaints a week were received by the Waste and Cleansing Service representing a 20% reduction in average weekly complaints for the period July - September 2017 (1,042 per week). With approximately 480,000 collections a week, this represents 0.17% 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, was contaminated or where access was blocked.

- 3.16 In this reporting period the largest number of complaints is missed food waste kerbside containers. This may be down to the fact that these containers are more difficult to see as the daylight hours get shorter. 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.

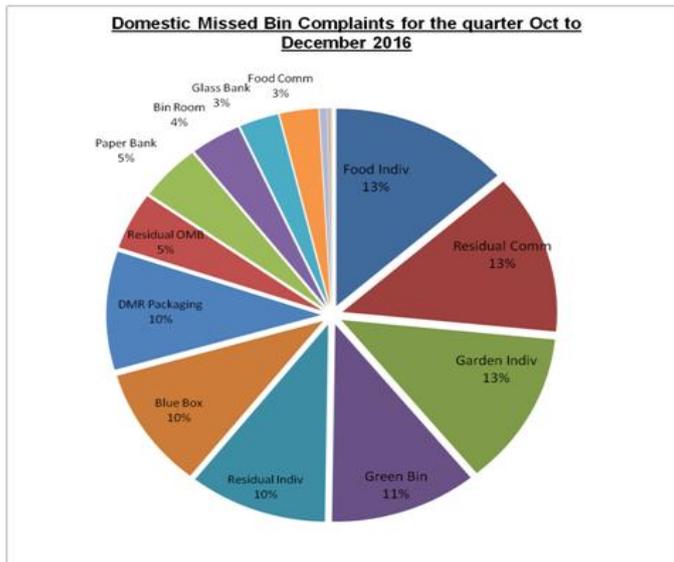


Figure 8: Combined household waste service complaints by service

**Trade Waste Compliance and Street Scene Initiative**

- 3.17 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 five Environmental Wardens and a Team Leader focus their work visiting businesses and identifying those that are complying with waste regulations and taking enforcement action on non compliant businesses.
- 3.18 During the reporting period, 60% of businesses visited were waste compliant. 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.

Quarter 3	Compliance visits	Businesses compliant	Fixed Penalty Issued	Reg 4 Issued	Section 47 Issued
Oct – Dec 16	1 337	811	52	526	0

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

- 3.19 The Street Scene initiative can be considered to have been a success throughout the roll out of the project phases. It is however becoming apparent that further reinforcement of the requirements of time window presentation is required amongst businesses. The Waste Compliance team and Locality colleagues do continue to undertake visits and challenge businesses who incorrectly present their waste.
- 3.20 It is however acknowledged that since the formal roll out phases of the project have largely concluded the transition to business as usual has reduced the emphasis on ensuring only businesses that require exemptions for food and glass are granted them, and ensuring that businesses adhere to the policy guidelines.
- 3.21 In order to address these issues it is proposed that Locality colleagues take a lead in issuing food and glass exemptions going forward. All those businesses that have been granted an exemption will be visited by the Waste Compliance team to assess whether their exemption is required. Furthermore, where a location is highlighted as being problematic in terms of bins presented outside of collection hours then the area will be targeted for action by the Waste Compliance team.

#### 4. Measures of success

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- 4.1 Achievement of the Council's targets for increasing recycling and reducing landfill, and minimising service complaints.

#### 5. Financial impact

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- 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 6.

	2015 - 16	2016 - 17
<b>Disposal Costs</b>	<b>Quarter 3 (Oct-Dec)</b>	<b>Quarter 3 (Oct-Dec)</b>
Refuse Derived Fuel (RDF)	£186,679	£90,243
Landfill	£3,170,648	£3,539,135
Freight / Haulage	£260,465	£431,516
<b>Total monthly Disposal costs</b>	<b>£3,617,793</b>	<b>£4,060,894</b>

Table 6: Disposal Expenditure 2015/16, 2016/17

- 5.2 The amount of unrecycled waste collected (30,881) in Quarter 3 is up 2.4% compared to the same quarter last year. Owing to the closure of Powderhall in December; all waste on the site had to be completely removed and alternative tipping arrangements put in place incurring road haulage costs to transport the waste to Dunbar. In addition, there is a significant drop in waste being disposed of via RDF as a result of market conditions. This accounts for the rise in the landfill and freight/haulage costs incurred during this period.

## **6. Risk, policy, compliance and governance impact**

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- 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**

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- 7.1 There are no direct equalities impacts resulting from this report.
- 7.2 The Waste and Cleaning 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**

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- 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**

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- 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**

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None

**Paul Lawrence**

Executive Director of Place

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## 11. Links

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<b>Coalition Pledges</b>	<b>P44</b> - Prioritise keeping our streets clean and attractive
	<b>P49</b> - Continue to increase recycling levels across the city and reduce the proportion of waste going to landfill
	<b>P50</b> - Meet greenhouse gas targets, including national target of 42% by 2020
<b>Council Priorities</b>	<b>CP8</b> – A vibrant, sustainable local economy
	<b>CP9</b> – An attractive city
<b>Single Outcome Agreement</b>	<b>SO4</b> -Edinburgh's communities are safer and have improved physical and social fabric
<b>Appendices</b>	None