

Corporate Policy and Strategy Committee

10.00am, Tuesday, 7 August 2018

Resource Use Policy - Position Statement August 2018

Item number	7.13
Report number	
Executive/routine	
Wards	
Council Commitments	

Executive Summary

The Council's [current Resource Use Policy](#) was approved in 2000 with the purpose of reducing consumption of material resources and minimising the amount of waste the Council produces from its own operations.

At its January 2017 meeting, Corporate Policy and Strategy Committee (CP&S committee) considered an assurance statement of sustainability policies and agreed that the council's Resource Use Policy would be reviewed in light of new legislation and council structures.

In the light of the forthcoming independent audit of council activity on sustainability and climate change by the Edinburgh Centre for Carbon Innovation, the review of the Resource Use Policy has been deferred to allow the findings of the audit to be taken into account. The provisional timescale for the completion of this work and reporting to CP&S committee is December 2018.

Resource Use Policy - Position Statement August 2018

1. Recommendations

- 1.1 Note that the review of the Resource Use Policy has been deferred until the findings of the independent audit of council activity on sustainability and climate change are considered by CP&S committee. The provisional timescale for reporting the audit findings to committee is December 2018.

2. Background

- 2.1 The Council's [current Resource Use Policy](#) was approved in 2000 with the purpose of reducing consumption of material resources and minimising the amount of waste the Council produces from its own operations. Types of waste named in the policy are paper, printer toner cartridges, ICT equipment, drink cans, timber, office furniture, fluorescent light bulbs, batteries and waste vehicle oil.
- 2.2 The policy and its action plan were revised in 2006. Meanwhile, improvements in the way the Council tackles materials consumption and disposal have continued, through taking advantage of developments in materials-reprocessing technologies, which has allowed a greater range of waste streams produced in council properties to be diverted from landfill.
- 2.3 At its January 2017 meeting the CP&S committee considered an assurance statement of sustainability policies and agreed that the Council's Resource Use Policy would be reviewed in light of new legislation and Council structures.

3. Main report

- 3.1 The Resource Use Policy approved in 2000 focused on waste streams for which recycling markets existed at that time. Since then, material-reprocessing has expanded and a wide range of other waste streams produced in council properties are now diverted from landfill.
- 3.2 On the operational side, the Council is now delivering increased provision of in-house workplace recycling facilities (including food waste), greater landfill diversion and reduced volumes of waste from construction and demolition activities, and the introduction of highly effective office furniture re-use and recycling practices.
- 3.3 There are several services within the council which are directly involved in the management of resource use:

- 3.3.1 Waste and Cleansing – internal waste and recycling;
- 3.3.2 Fleet and fuel use;
- 3.3.3 Facilities Management – catering (reduced use of plastics/generation of food waste), cleaning (better segregation of internal waste and provision of bins) and energy usage;
- 3.3.4 Procurement – ensuring that we avoid the purchase of non-efficient resources and have contract specs that recognise resource use.
- 3.4 Delivery of these services is supported by a range of policies and strategies, designed to support the council’s wider obligations under the Climate Change Act (Scotland) 2009.
- 3.5 A report on Sustainability was presented to Council on 28 June 2018, and provided an overview of the breadth of sustainability and climate-change related work, including resource use, already underway across a number of directorates noting that there is potential benefit from more strategic coordination which would better prepare the council to deliver on the council business plan and associated legislative commitments and council strategies.
- 3.6 Elected members agreed to note that officers will work with the Edinburgh Centre for Carbon Innovation to provide an expert independent audit of council activity alongside recommendations as to how the council might continue to improve the cumulative impact it has on sustainability and climate change. These recommendations will be shared with CP&S committee and, subject to political agreement, taken forward by the council. Dependent upon the results of the audit, these finding would also form the basis for developing a new Edinburgh Council Sustainability Strategy which is due by 2020.
- 3.7 Recognising the potential for the outcome of the audit to recommend changes to current resource use policies and practice, it is recommended that further work on reviewing the Resource Use Policy is deferred until early 2019, allowing relevant findings and recommendations to be taken into account.

4. Measures of success

- 4.1 The revised resource use policy will:
 - 4.1.1 create a co-ordinated approach to the operational aspects of resource use efficiency;
 - 4.1.2 minimise resource consumption and the environmental impacts of waste production across Council activities;
 - 4.1.3 promote sustainable use practices amongst all Council employees;
 - 4.1.4 gain maximum understanding of material use and waste across Council activities;
 - 4.1.5 ensure that the Council is fully compliant with relevant waste legislation; and

4.1.6 maximise financial savings from efficient material resource management.

5. Financial impact

5.1 There are no financial implications at this stage.

6. Risk, policy, compliance and governance impact

6.1 The policy is recognised as requiring to be updated. The recommendation is that the update is deferred to ensure alignment with the outcome of the audit by Edinburgh University Carbon Centre.

7. Equalities impact

7.1 The equalities impact of the revised policy will be assessed.

8. Sustainability impact

8.1 The impacts of this report in relation to the three elements of the Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009 Public Bodies Duties have been considered. In summary, the activities which are the subject of this policy will help achieve a sustainable Edinburgh because it aims to maximise effective resource use and to minimise waste generated through the council's activity.

9. Consultation and engagement

9.1 None so far.

10. Background reading/external references

10.1 [8.4 Sustainability Full Council 28062018](#)

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11. Appendices

None.