

Report on	Update on new Waste Management Strategy and Plan
Date of Meeting	13 th September 2022
Reporting Officer	Mark McAdoo, Assistant Director – Environmental Services
Contact Officer	Mark McAdoo, Assistant Director – Environmental Services

Is this report restricted for confidential business? If 'Yes', confirm below the exempt information category relied upon	Yes	
	No	X

1.0	Purpose of Report
1.1	To update on the development of a new Waste Management Strategy and Plan.
2.0	Background
2.1	The draft Environment Strategy for Northern Ireland includes a commitment to publish a new Waste Management Strategy by 2023. The Department of the Environment, Agriculture and Rural Affairs (DAERA) recently published the closure report for the previous Waste Management Strategy for N Ireland (copy attached).
2.2	The publication of the Closure report formally closes the previous - Delivering Resource Efficiency - Northern Ireland Waste Management Strategy which commenced in October 2013. The Department has now confirmed that work is underway on the development a new Waste Management Strategy for N Ireland.
3.0	Main Report
3.1	The Closure Report concluded that over the lifetime of the previous Strategy there have been significant improvements in key headline waste indicators, including diversion from landfill and recycling. The introduction of the carrier bag levy is also a significant success. Of the 2013 Strategy's 44 actions and targets a total of 36 (82%) were achieved, beyond the target date, or superseded or alternative action taken with achievements identified including, the achievement of a 50% household waste recycling rate and landfilling no more than 220,000 tonnes of biodegradable Local Authority Collected Municipal Waste (BLACMW).
3.2	Despite these successes there are new challenges and targets arising from our need to tackle climate change and develop a circular economy. Indeed significant reforms are already underway in the waste sector including on extended producer responsibility (EPR) and a deposit/return scheme (DRS) for drinks containers.
3.3	DAERA has recently provided a high level plan to inform Councils of the proposed timescale for the development of the new Strategy. This summary development plan (copy attached) includes milestones and indicative timelines for the various steps to be taken to allow a new Strategy to be published by December 2023.

3.4	Engagement with key stakeholders, including local Councils, on the development of the new Strategy is due to commence at the end of September. This will include implementation of new recycling and landfill reduction targets for municipal waste.
3.5	Related to the above process is also a requirement for Councils to update their Waste Management Plans (the Waste Framework Directive states that waste management plans must be evaluated every 6 years and revised as appropriate).
3.6	DAERA had previously commissioned the Waste Resources Action Programme (WRAP) to undertake a review of the current plans and to identify changes and other updates required in terms of legislation, policy etc. This review has undertaken across all chapters of the Waste Management Plans and will be used as a basis for producing an addendum to the existing plans which will ensure they are technically/regulatory compliant until a full and complete review is undertaken.
3.7	Members will be kept updated on the development of the new Strategy and Plan.
4.0	Other Considerations
4.1	Financial, Human Resources & Risk Implications
	Financial: Cost of producing addendum to Plan to be shared between Councils (£5-£7k ea.)
	Human: Staff time in engaging on the development of the new Strategy and Plan.
	Risk Management: Failure to produce a new Strategy or Plan could result in fines.
4.2	Screening & Impact Assessments
	Equality & Good Relations Implications: None
	Rural Needs Implications: None
5.0	Recommendation(s)
5.1	Members are asked to note the content of this report.
6.0	Documents Attached & References
6.1	Appendix 1 – Northern Ireland Waste Management Strategy 2013 Closure report
6.2	Appendix 2 – New Waste Management Strategy Summary Development Plan