

Aberdeenshire Council

Integrated Impact Assessment

Waste Collection and Disposal

Assessment ID	IIA-000388
Lead Author	Ewan Wallace
Service Reviewers	Alan Wood
Subject Matter Experts	Suzanne Rhind, Claudia Cowie, Lynne Gravener
Approved By	Alan Wood
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1. Overview

This document has been generated from information entered into the Integrated Impact Assessment system.

Savings associated with revised processes for the collection and disposal of Waste. The revised collection approach is as per agreed at ISC on 20th January 2022. That work was supported by a stand alone IIA in line with the reporting processes for Policy Committees. The waste collection changes are as per the ISC Report of 20th January 2022. The revised disposal process involves the passing of residual waste to the Energy from Waste plant being constructed in Aberdeen and funded jointly by Moray, Aberdeenshire and Aberdeen City Councils.

During screening 4 of 10 questions indicated that detailed assessments were required, the screening questions and their answers are listed in the next section. This led to 3 out of 5 detailed impact assessments being completed. The assessments required are:

- Equalities and Fairer Scotland Duty
- Sustainability and Climate Change
- Town Centres First

In total there are 5 positive impacts as part of this activity. There are 8 negative impacts, all impacts have been mitigated.

A detailed action plan with 2 points has been provided.

This assessment has been approved by alan.wood@aberdeenshire.gov.uk.

The remainder of this document sets out the details of all completed impact assessments.

2. Screening

Could your activity / proposal / policy cause an impact in one (or more) of the identified town centres?	Yes
Would this activity / proposal / policy have consequences for the health and wellbeing of the population in the affected communities?	No
Does the activity / proposal / policy have the potential to affect greenhouse gas emissions (CO2e) in the Council or community and / or the procurement, use or disposal of physical resources?	Yes
Does the activity / proposal / policy have the potential to affect the resilience to extreme weather events and/or a changing climate of Aberdeenshire Council or community?	No
Does the activity / proposal / policy have the potential to affect the environment, wildlife or biodiversity?	No
Does the activity / proposal / policy have an impact on people and / or groups with protected characteristics?	Yes
Is this activity / proposal / policy of strategic importance for the council?	Yes
Does this activity / proposal / policy reduce inequality of outcome?	No
Does this activity / proposal / policy have an impact on children / young people's rights?	No
Does this activity / proposal / policy have an impact on children / young people's wellbeing?	No

3. Impact Assessments

Children's Rights and Wellbeing	Not Required
Climate Change and Sustainability	No Negative Impacts Identified
Equalities and Fairer Scotland Duty	All Negative Impacts Can Be Mitigated
Health Inequalities	Not Required
Town Centre's First	All Negative Impacts Can Be Mitigated

4. Equalities and Fairer Scotland Duty Impact Assessment

4.1. Protected Groups

Indicator	Positive	Neutral	Negative	Unknown
Age (Younger)		Yes		
Age (Older)	Yes		Yes	
Disability	Yes		Yes	
Race			Yes	
Religion or Belief		Yes		
Sex		Yes		
Pregnancy and Maternity			Yes	
Sexual Orientation		Yes		
Gender Reassignment		Yes		
Marriage or Civil Partnership		Yes		

4.2. Socio-economic Groups

Indicator	Positive	Neutral	Negative	Unknown
Low income		Yes		
Low wealth		Yes		
Material deprivation		Yes		
Area deprivation		Yes		
Socioeconomic background		Yes		

4.3. Positive Impacts

Impact Area	Impact
Age (Older)	Smaller recycling bin might be easier to handle
Disability	Smaller recycling bin may be easier to handle

4.4. Negative Impacts and Mitigations

Impact Area	Details and Mitigation
Age (Older)	<p>May struggle with additional bins to put out for collection</p> <p>Can be mitigated Yes</p> <p>Mitigation Assisted collections can be requested where there is no adult in the household able to take the bins to the kerbside for collection.</p> <p>Timescale Ongoing</p>

Impact Area	Details and Mitigation
Disability	<p>May struggle to cope with reduced capacity of non-recyclable waste bins due to reduced collection frequency, especially if there is additional waste created due to disability.</p> <p>Can be mitigated Yes</p> <p>Mitigation Provision of additional non-recyclable waste bins to those households that fully use the recycling services available to them and meet the current criteria for additional bins.</p> <p>Timescale Ongoing</p>
Disability	<p>May struggle with additional bins to put out for collection.</p> <p>Can be mitigated Yes</p> <p>Mitigation Assisted collections can be requested where there is no adult in the household able to take the bins to the kerbside for collection.</p> <p>Timescale Ongoing</p>
Pregnancy and Maternity	<p>Large families may struggle to cope with reduced capacity of non-recyclable waste bins due to reduced collection frequency, especially if they have more than one child using disposable nappies</p> <p>Can be mitigated Yes</p> <p>Mitigation Provision of additional non-recyclable waste bins to those households that fully use the recycling services available to them and meet the current criteria for additional bins.</p> <p>Timescale Ongoing</p>
Race	<p>People whose first language is not English may not be able to understand the information provided about changes to services.</p> <p>Can be mitigated Yes</p> <p>Mitigation Use of pictorial guides as much as possible including stickers on bins.</p> <p>Timescale Before, during and after changes to services have been implemented.</p>

4.5. Evidence

Type	Source	It says?	It Means?
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Type	Source	It says?	It Means?
Internal Data	Waste Data Flow - Recycling Rates	The evidence says: The Council's recycling rate is 44% (2019 audited figure) which is below the average of Scottish local authorities and well below the Scottish Government targets set for recycling (60% by 2020 and 70% by 2025).	The evidence means: This means that the Council is not meeting the Scottish Government targets set for recycling and therefore action needs to be taken to capture the recycling that is ending up in the nonrecyclable bin for landfill. By reducing the capacity of the non-recyclable bin and increasing capacity for the recycling materials, this should encourage more recycling to be undertaken.

Type	Source	It says?	It Means?
Internal Data	Waste Analysis 2016/17	says: Waste analysis undertaken in 2016/17 showed that over half of materials put into non-recyclable waste bins in Aberdeenshire are recyclable through existing recycling services.	<p>This shows that there is too much capacity in the nonrecyclable waste bin in that householders don't have to recycle as they have the capacity in their nonrecyclable waste bin to put all their waste in there. By reducing the capacity of the non-recyclable waste bin and increasing capacity for recycling this should encourage more waste to be recycled through existing recycling services and reduce the amount which is being lost to landfill disposal through the non-recyclable waste bins and therefore maximise recycling tonnages.</p> <p>Online survey and focus groups were undertaken in February 2018 to gauge public views on some of the proposals being considered to maximise reuse and recycling.</p> <p>Waste Management Working Group has been the main sounding board in terms of elected members' views. A full public consultation was undertaken in September 2018.</p>
Internal Consultation	Consultation with Internal Services	As part of the consultation in September 2018, internal services (feet, finance, contact centre, HR, sustainability, procurement and union representatives) were also invited to provide comments on the proposals. Informal discussions with HR, feet, call centre, finance and procurement were previously undertaken in March 2018.	The evidence means: Internal Services were consulted as part of the main consultation process with their comments being fed back into the final proposal regarding the change to the service.

Type	Source	It says?	It Means?
External Consultation	Online Survey	Online survey was distributed wide and far. Responses were also received from community councils.	Survey data was used to assist the options appraisal and determine changes to the waste strategy which resulted in the proposal to reduce the collection frequency of the nonrecyclable waste bin and maximise capacity for recycling therefore encouraging increased recycling and reduced waste to landfill.
External Consultation	Engage with other Scottish Councils	The evidence says: Consultation with other Scottish authorities that had introduced reduced nonrecyclable waste capacity was undertaken to provide specific data and experiences in their service changes	These findings contributed to the options appraisal and proposed service change which showed that reducing non-recyclable waste capacity increased recycling and reduced waste to landfill.
External Consultation	Full Public Consultation	The evidence says: A full public consultation was undertaken in September 2018 to consult on the proposed changes to the Councils Waste Strategy. The consultation had 2,520 responses.	The evidence means: Outcome of consultation was used to assist the options appraisal and determine changes to the waste strategy which resulted in the proposal to reduce the collection frequency of the nonrecyclable waste bin and maximise capacity for recycling therefore encouraging increased recycling and reduced waste to landfill.

Type	Source	It says?	It Means?
External Data	Waste & Resources Action Programme (WRAP) - Research	Waste and Resources Action Programme research across the UK shows (WRAP 2015: Analysis of recycling performance and waste arisings in the UK 2012/13) that one of the most effective ways to encourage residents to use the recycling services available to them is to reduce the amount of nonrecyclable waste collected from them	he evidence means: This research supports the move to reduce capacity of the non-recyclable waste bin by reducing frequency of collection in that it encourages householders to use the recycling services available to them thereby maximising recycling and reducing waste to landfill.

4.6. Engagement with affected groups

Engagement with the public has taken place in the form of an online survey, focus groups and public consultation which has included engagement and attendance at Community Council meetings.

4.7. Ensuring engagement with protected groups

Engagement with those with protected characteristics was not directly undertaken however an online survey and focus groups were held in February 2018, and a public consultation in September 2018. All of the information was available in alternative formats on request but no requests were received.

4.8. Evidence of engagement

Engagement with those with protected characteristics was not directly undertaken however an effective communications and engagement plan will be put in place before any changes are made. Support will be provided to all households in terms of tips and advice on how to make the most of the recycling services available to them, and through a visiting service provided by a team of Community Waste Ofcers who can provide household-specific advice on how to adapt to the changes.

4.9. Overall Outcome

All Negative Impacts Can Be Mitigated.

A new waste strategy and changes are required to ensure Aberdeenshire maximises the environmental, community and financial benefits of the waste it produces. Mitigation measures identified are considered effective in minimising any potential negative impacts on the protected groups.

4.10. Improving Relations

An effective communications and engagement plan will be put in place before any changes are made. Support will be provided to all households in terms of tips and advice on how to make the most of the recycling services available to them, and through a visiting service provided by a team of Community Waste Ofcers who can provide household-specific advice on how to adapt to the changes.

4.11. Opportunities of Equality

In line with current policy, assisted collections are available where there is no adult in the household able to take bins to the kerbside for collections.

Alternative containers are available on request.

Additional non-recyclable waste bins (subject to meeting current criteria) can be requested.

Additional recycling bins and food waste bins will continue to be provided on request free of charge to all households.

We will continue to communicate and engage with all sectors of the community to ensure all residents know how make the best use of reuse and recycling services available to them.

5. Sustainability and Climate Change Impact Assessment

5.1. Emissions and Resources

Indicator	Positive	Neutral	Negative	Unknown
Consumption of energy		Yes		
Energy efficiency		Yes		
Energy source		Yes		
Low carbon transition		Yes		
Consumption of physical resources		Yes		
Waste and circularity	Yes			
Circular economy transition		Yes		
Economic and social transition		Yes		

5.2. Biodiversity and Resilience

Indicator	Positive	Neutral	Negative	Unknown
Quality of environment		Yes		
Quantity of environment		Yes		
Wildlife and biodiversity		Yes		
Infrastructure resilience		Yes		
Council resilience		Yes		
Community resilience		Yes		
Adaptation		Yes		

5.3. Positive Impacts

Impact Area	Impact
Waste and circularity	Waste analysis undertaken in 2016/17 showed that over half of materials put into non-recyclable waste bins in Aberdeenshire are recyclable through existing recycling services. By reducing the frequency (capacity) of collection of the non-recyclable waste bin and expanding on the capacity of the recycling bins this should encourage more recycling to be undertaken as there will no longer be the capacity for recycling material within the nonrecyclable waste bin therefore effectively reducing the waste being sent to landfill and maximising the tonnages of recycling collected.

5.4. Evidence

Type	Source	It says?	It Means?
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Type	Source	It says?	It Means?
Internal Data	Waste Data Flow - Recycling Rates	<p>The evidence says: Waste Data Flow - Recycling Rates</p> <p>The Council's recycling rate is 44% (2019 audited figure) which is below the average of Scottish local authorities and well below the Scottish Government targets set for recycling (60% by 2020 and 70% by 2025)</p>	<p>This means that the Council is not meeting the Scottish Government targets set for recycling and therefore action needs to be taken to capture the recycling that is ending up in the nonrecyclable bin for landfill. By reducing the capacity of the non-recyclable bin and increasing capacity for the recycling materials, this should encourage more recycling to be undertaken.</p>
Internal Data	Waste Analysis 2016/17	<p>Waste Analysis carried out in 2016/17 showed that over half of materials put into the non-recyclable waste bins in Aberdeenshire are recyclable through existing recycling services.</p>	<p>This means that valuable material that could be recycled is being lost to landfill which not only increases the impact on greenhouse gases as it degrades in landfill but also is much more costly. To reduce the non-recyclable waste bin capacity by reducing the frequency of collection, this encourages more recycling to take place as there is no longer the capacity in the nonrecyclable waste bin for it. This should therefore maximise recycling tonnages and increase the Council's recycling rate, whilst reducing the waste tonnage being sent to landfill.</p>
External Data	Waste & Resources Action Programme (WRAP) - Research	<p>Waste and Resources Action Programme research across the UK shows (WRAP 2015: Analysis of recycling performance and waste arisings in the UK 2012/13) that one of the most effective ways to encourage residents to use the recycling services available to them is to reduce the amount of nonrecyclable waste collected from them.</p>	<p>This research supports the move to reduce capacity of the non-recyclable waste bin by reducing the frequency of collection in that it encourages householders to use the recycling services available to them thereby maximising recycling and reducing waste to landfill.</p>

Type	Source	It says?	It Means?
External Consultation	Scottish Councils	The evidence says: Consultation with other Scottish authorities that had introduced reduced nonrecyclable waste capacity was undertaken to provide specific data and experiences in their service changes	These findings contributed to the options appraisal and proposed service change which showed that reducing non-recyclable waste capacity increased recycling and reduced waste to landfill.

5.5. Overall Outcome

No Negative Impacts Identified.

A new waste strategy and changes are required to ensure Aberdeenshire maximises the environmental, community and financial benefits of the waste it produces. The change in service has only a positive impact in that it should divert valuable recycling material from the nonrecyclable waste bin into the recycling streams collected by Aberdeenshire Council therefore maximising recycling tonnages and reducing the waste going to landfill.

6. Town Centre's First Impact Assessment

6.1. Local Factors

Indicator	Positive	Neutral	Negative	Unknown
Town centre assets	Yes		Yes	
Footfall		Yes		
Changes to road layouts		Yes		
Parking		Yes		
Infrastructure changes		Yes		
Aesthetics of the town centre	Yes		Yes	
Tourism		Yes		
Public safety		Yes		
Town centre business		Yes		
Cultural heritage and identity		Yes		
Social and cultural aspects		Yes		

6.2. Positive Impacts

Impact Area	Impact
Aesthetics of the town centre	Smaller recycling bins for one of the collections - less bulky and slightly less likely to block pavements/access when presented on collection day.
Town centre assets	Smaller recycling bins for one of the collections - less bulky and slightly less likely to block pavements/access when presented on collection day.

6.3. Negative Impacts and Mitigations

Impact Area	Details and Mitigation
Aesthetics of the town centre	<p>Households need to be able to accommodate four bins instead of the current three. This could potentially be an issue for small town centre gardens</p> <p>Can be mitigated Yes</p> <p>Mitigation Teams will monitor instances of this happening and work with producers of the extra residual waste on potential solutions</p> <p>Timescale Ongoing</p>

Impact Area	Details and Mitigation
Aesthetics of the town centre	Households need to be able to accommodate four bins instead of the current three. This could potentially be an issue for small town centre gardens Can be mitigated Yes Mitigation Where this issue arises the local team will seek work with householders to find a solution Timescale Ongoing
Aesthetics of the town centre	To prevent litter, all waste must be contained within a bin, no side waste in bags will be accepted. This may be an issue with the reduced capacity non-recyclable waste bin due to reduced frequency of collection. No mitigation has been entered for this impact.
Town centre assets	Households need to be able to accommodate four bins instead of the current three. This could potentially be an issue for small town centre gardens. Can be mitigated Yes Mitigation Where this issues arises the local teams will work with householders to get a solution Timescale Ongoing

6.4. Evidence

Type	Source	It says?	It Means?
External Consultation	Online Survey	The evidence says: Online survey was distributed wide and far. Responses were also received from community councils.	The evidence means: Survey data was used to assist the options appraisal and determine changes to the waste strategy which resulted in the proposal to reduce the collection frequency of the nonrecyclable waste bin and maximise capacity for recycling therefore encouraging increased recycling and reduced waste to landfill.
External Consultation	Scottish Councils	Consultation with other Scottish authorities that had introduced reduced nonrecyclable waste capacity was undertaken to provide specific data and experiences in their service changes.	These findings contributed to the options appraisal and proposed service change which showed that reducing non-recyclable waste capacity increased recycling and reduced waste to landfill.

Type	Source	It says?	It Means?
External Consultation	Full Public Consultation	A full public consultation was undertaken in September 2018 to consult on the proposed changes to the Councils Waste Strategy. The consultation had 2,520 responses.	Outcome of consultation was used to assist the options appraisal and determine changes to the waste strategy which resulted in the proposal to reduce the collection frequency of the nonrecyclable waste bin and maximise capacity for recycling therefore encouraging increased recycling and reduced waste to landfill.

6.5. Overall Outcome

All Negative Impacts Can Be Mitigated.

A new waste strategy and changes are required to ensure Aberdeenshire maximises the environmental, community and financial the benefits of the waste it produces. Mitigation measures identified are considered effective in minimising any potential negative impacts on town centres.

7. Action Plan

Planned Action	Details	
<p>tionn effective communications and engagement plan to be put in place before any service changes are made.</p>	<p>Lead Officer Repeating Activity Planned Start Planned Finish Expected Outcome</p>	<p>Diane Rotherham No Monday May 09, 2022 Friday July 29, 2022 Information and support provided to all households in terms of tips and advice on how to make the most of the recycling services available to them along with information and advice on how to adapt to the service changes. Households that have potential to be impacted will be surveyed and Community Waste Ofcers to provide household specific advice and determine any individual household requirements prior to change in service. Community Waste Officers</p>
<p>Monitoring of Equality Impacts</p>	<p>Lead Officer Repeating Activity Planned Start Planned Finish Expected Outcome</p>	<p>Diane Rotherham No Monday May 30, 2022 Friday September 29, 2023 We will continue to monitor equality impacts through the following processes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The number of assisted collection requests. • The number of additional bin requests and awards. • Content of non-recyclable waste bins (waste analysis). • Reputation tracker. • Feedback received through elected members. Any specific issue will be investigated and addressed/resolved through the Community Waste Officer. Strategy Development Officer Community Waste Officer</p>