

Audit and Scrutiny Committee 19 June 2018 - Agenda Item 12 Appendix 1

TOPIC TITLE:		3 weekly refuse collection	
DATE OF SUBMISSION:		03 April 2018	
PRELIMINARY ASSESSMENT			
QUESTION		RESPONSE	RESPONSE JUSTIFICATION
1	Does the issue affect a number of people living in Argyll and Bute across multiple wards or, if restricted to a single or small number of wards, would its scrutiny have a wider impact across the council?	Yes	Bin collection affects every household in Argyll & Bute. Latest LGBF figures show that 70% of adults in A&B are satisfied with refuse collection (Scottish average is 79%), this is a reduction of 21.35% in the previous two years and may reflect the move to 3 weekly collections.
2	Does the issue concern an area of poor performance or an emerging issue (meaning there is no comprehensive performance data available)?	No	As per Recycling Performance report submitted to the Economic Development and Infrastructure Committee on 8 March 2018 the tonnage of biodegradable waste sent to landfill in the calendar year 2017 was 18,556 tonnes compared with 20,949 tonnes in calendar year 2016 (decrease of 2.5%). We verified these figures against the performance reporting system Pyramid and only identified a very minor variance. Furthermore, the report confirms an increase in the level of recycling of waste to 49.4% in 2017 from 46.5% in calendar year 2016. The most recent LGBF figures show that 33.9% of A&B household waste is recycled compared with a Scottish average of 45.2%. The 33.9% has increased marginally by 0.3% in the last two years.
3	Can scrutiny add value - i.e. is performance likely to improve as a result of scrutiny?	No	A review of Local Government Benchmarking placed the council 26th out of 32 Councils in Scotland for the % of household waste recycled in 2016/17. This provides evidence that there may be lessons learned to further improve our recycling rates. As there has been an improvement between 2016 and 2017 it is questionable whether scrutiny at the current time is appropriate. This may be a topic for future scrutiny once we can assess a longer term pattern of performance.
4	Does the issue relate to a service area with a revenue and/or capital budget in excess of £100k or, in the case of an emerging issue, is there a realistic expectation that the revenue and/or capital budget will exceed £100k?	Yes	The 2018/19 budget for Business Outcome - Waste is disposed of sustainably (BO24) is approximately £12.14 million as per the 2018/20 service plan included in the 18/19 budget pack.
5	Is the issue being addressed by another committee (area or strategic) or been subject to review in past 18 months?	Yes	The 2018/19 Internal Audit annual plan has a review of waste management scheduled for Q3, with an indicative high level scope of 'review of new refuse process and reporting and monitoring arrangements'. Whilst this wouldn't necessarily cover everything that a scrutiny review would cover it is felt that there is sufficient duplication to justify not to perform scrutiny in this area at this current time.
Does the issue pass to stage 2 assessment?		Fail	