ARGYLL AND BUTE COUNCIL | **HELENSBURGH AND LOMOND AREA COMMITTEE**

ROADS AND INFRASTRUCTURE SERVICES | **12 SEPTEMBER 2023**

RECYCLING AND RECOVERY PERFORMANCE

2.0 INTRODUCTION

2.1 Argyll and Bute Council is both a waste collection and waste disposal authority. Recycling, composting and recovery (i.e. other landfill diversion) statistics are reported quarterly within the council's performance system Pyramid which has recently been replaced. Statutory returns to SEPA e.g. licensed site tonnage, landfill tax and waste data flow vary from quarterly to annual.

2.2 This report provides details on the council's recycling and landfill diversion performance along with national policy, targets and regulations which are likely to impact on future performance.

3.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

4.2 Argyll and Bute Council operated a performance management system ‘Pyramid’. Quarterly recycling/composting,

	recovered		

The overall combined recycled, composted and recovery rate has increased from 49.3% in 2021 to 51.8% in 2022. This is mainly due to the reasons described in the first two bullet points above.

The recovery in the Waste PPP area is carried out by Renewi through residual waste mechanical biological treatment plants based at their waste facilities near Oban, Dunoon and Lochgilphead. In late 2022 Renewi also sent circa 1,500 tonnes of residual waste to an EfW plant in the central belt. Waste sent to EfW is also classed as recovery.

The recovery in the Helensburgh and Lomond area was carried out by Barr Environmental at their Auchencarroch waste facility, near Alexandria. As described, Barr stopped operating their mixed residual waste treatment plant following The Scottish Government Landfill Tax Amendment Order which was introduced from July 2022. Since then Barr have landfilled all mixed residual waste although they have future plans to turn the currently mothballed waste treatment plant into a refuse derived fuel (RDF) facility. Such a facility assuming it comes to fruition, would shred and wrap residual waste for subsequent use in an EfW plant.

Cardboard is now consistently the most prominent recycling material in the blue recycling bin overtaking paper which was the highest proportion pre pandemic. The increase in cardboard is likely due to more on-line purchasing since the pandemic while newspapers are not as widely purchased now compared to previous years.

The overall percentage waste to landfill in 2022 (48.2%) was lower than 2021 (50.7%) mainly due to the EfW trial carried out by Renewi during the winter months of late 2022.

The tonnage of municipal waste to landfill in 2022 (i.e. 28,365 tonnes) was less than in 2021 (i.e. 29,875 tonnes).This was mainly due also to the Renewi EfW trial.

Recycling and composting is mainly from recycling collections, bring sites and segregated wastes from recycling/civic amenity sites. Recovery is predominantly moisture/process loss and compost like output from mixed waste treatment plants operated by the council's Waste PPP partner Renewi and Barr Environmental. In addition in 2022, there was circa 1,500 tonnes of recovery from the Renewi EfW trial.

SEPA published annual recycling, recovery and landfill data for local authorities focuses mainly on recycling/composting from household waste and less on recovery in line with the waste hierarchy.

Landfill Ban

4.4 The Waste (Scotland) Regulations were introduced by the Scottish Government in 2012 and they included a landfill ban of biodegradable waste from 2021.

4.5 The landfill ban planned for 2021 was subsequently delayed by The Scottish Government until the end of 2025. This delay was welcomed by the Council and gives more time for alternative solutions and funding to be sought. An update report on the Waste PPP/Landfill Ban is likely to be included in the August 2023 Environment, Development and Infrastructure Committee.

Deposit Return Scheme

4.6

on biodegradable municipal waste to landfill, the deposit return scheme and the circular economy bill proposals will have significant implications for future recycling, composting and recovery performance.

6.0 IMPLICATIONS