

To: Infrastructure, Land and Environment Policy Board

On: 22 January 2020

Report by: Director of Environment & Infrastructure

Heading: Operational Performance Report

1. Summary

- 1.1 This report provides an overview of key service activities since the last report to the Policy Board in November 2019 and provides an operational performance update on the services and key projects delivered during this period.
-

2. Recommendations

It is recommended that the Infrastructure, Land and Environment Policy Board:

- 2.1 Approves the operational performance updates detailed within this report.
-

3. Background

- 3.1 Environment & Infrastructure provides essential services to every household in Renfrewshire and works in partnership with the local community, other services and Community Planning Partners to deliver key Council priorities and initiatives. A progress update on the main projects and activities delivered by the services within Environment & Infrastructure in respect of the areas of activity delegated to this Policy Board, together with key performance indicators is detailed below.

Operational Updates

4. Roads and StreetScene

Roads Maintenance

- 4.1 The roads capital programme for 2019/20 is now at an advanced stage with the carriageway resurfacing programme approaching completion, with the exception of two roads scheduled to be completed in February 2020. There are 34 of the 56 planned footways complete to date.

- 4.2 As part of the ongoing review of the Capital programme, preparatory work has now commenced in advance of next year's capital programme. Consultation is taking place with key stakeholders including Elected Members, other Council Services and bus operators.

- 4.3 As part of the ongoing work to improve service delivery, all footpath, road, drainage and structures network within parks and cemeteries will now be considered within scope of the road asset network for maintenance, inspection and improvement works.



- 4.4 During 2019/20, the service commenced a new approach to patching and pothole repairs, with works completed in Inchinnan and Renfrew. The next phase of this project will move onto Bishopton, Johnstone and the villages from January 2020. This approach involved grouping together all recorded potholes across an area and carrying out permanent patches to protect the road asset.

Winter Maintenance Plan

- 4.5 Renfrewshire Council's nine gritters, named after its local heroes, places and landmarks, have been in operation from October. The Service's Winter Maintenance Plan is in full operation with preventative and reactive activities happening 24/7 over the winter period to keep Renfrewshire's roads and footpaths network safe and accessible. An online monitoring facility allows members of the public to view the movement of the gritters. To date there has been more than 1,100 tonnes of salt used this winter on Renfrewshire's roads.

In addition to this, a programme of work for mechanical sweeping, filling of grit bins and gully cleaning has been identified as alternative works for the nightshift winter maintenance crews to carry out when gritting isn't required. This has been an effective and efficient way of utilising resources to their full potential.

StreetScene

- 4.6 StreetScene have identified areas of high leaf fall and deployed resources to target these areas to keep pavements clear and safe for the public. Taking this proactive, targeted approach has reduced the number of gullies that would have become blocked and in turn reducing flooding at these locations.

- 4.7 The Service is currently procuring a new style of litter bin, these are housed in units that can be serviced by refuse collection vehicles.
- 4.8 Environment & Infrastructure supported all the Christmas light 'switch on' events across Renfrewshire. The first major 'switch-on' event was Paisley and was followed by events in Renfrew and Johnstone. 11 surrounding villages also celebrated festive light 'switch-on' events. Over the last few years the service has greatly assisted Community Councils with expansion of their festive displays, including design, infrastructure works, installation, removal, storage and maintenance. The service now installs over 600 lighting features per annum.
- 4.9 StreetScene Services has conducted a new approach to removing weed growth and stubborn detritus from arterial roads, streets and footways at Barochan Road. This 2.5 kilometre stretch was completed in November 2019. Dedicated teams have been established for further rollout throughout Renfrewshire to conduct weed scrapping activities in communities with large mechanical equipment being used to address arterial roads and footways. These works contribute to improvements and approaches developed under improving the environment and place agenda.
- 4.10 The animal display area at Barshaw Park has been closed to the public for the last three years. Robertson Park animal display area whilst currently open, has a low footfall and has been closed for long periods over the past two years. The Service shall close both animal display areas over the coming months with all animals being rehoused. The animal display structures will then be demolished and wildflower planting will take place at the sites.

5. Fleet & Social Transport Services

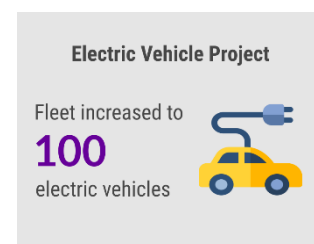
- 5.1 Planning and design warrants are now underway for workshop improvements at the Underwood Road depot including that of maintenance equipment, workshop heating, new access doorways for vehicular traffics and siting of a new bio-mass boiler, with works expected to commence in April 2020.

Vehicle Replacement Programme

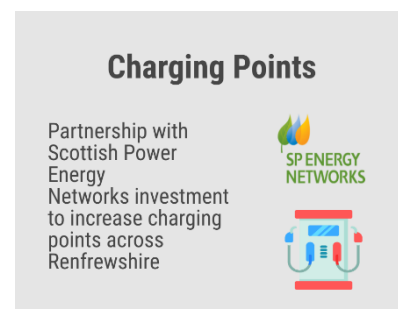
- 5.2 The Vehicle Replacement Programme 2019/20 has been fully committed with 39 vehicles ordered and 36 of those vehicles now in operational service. A range of refuse collection vehicles, support vehicles, people carriers, social transport minibuses and excavators for cemeteries have been delivered to services. These vehicles will provide better fuel efficiency, lower running costs and support improved access to difficult to reach properties.

Electric Vehicles and Charging Infrastructure

- 5.3 Officers from Environment & Infrastructure presented to the Climate Emergency Working Group in December 2019 on the current position and future direction of zero emission vehicles and electric vehicle charging infrastructure in Renfrewshire. By the end of the financial year the number of electric vehicles in the Council Fleet will have increased to 100.



- 5.4 Renfrewshire Council continues to work in partnership with Scottish Power Energy Networks and installed electric vehicle charging points in Paisley during January 2020. Installation of charging equipment like this requires consent from the network provider prior to a connection to the electrical network grid and once this is received the chargers in Johnstone, Renfrew, Houston, Bridge of Weir, Elderslie, Howwood, Linwood, Bishopton, Erskine and Renfrew will be fitted within the financial year.



6. Waste Services

- 6.1 Festive Service delivery went according to plan with the collections schedule for 25th December and 1st January collected over a 2-day period in advance of the public holidays. The household waste recycling centres remained open during the festive period, only closing on 25th December and 1st January. The centres were busy over the whole festive period, as has been the case in previous years.
- 6.2 The Clyde Valley Waste Management Project, Treatment & Disposal of Residual Waste commenced operation on 7th January 2020. This will assist the Council in meeting its landfill diversion targets, with over 90% of the councils' waste becoming refuse derived fuel which will be used to generate renewable energy.
- 6.3 The Service will be piloting the restricting vans and commercial style vehicles to two HWRC sites, these being Paisley and Linwood, from April 2020. These two sites have been chosen both for the fact that they are the largest HWRC sites able to accommodate vans and commercial vehicles and their geographical location within Renfrewshire. Through tighter enforcement at these sites, a reduction in waste tonnages is expected to be achieved by targeting any illegal use by commercial operators disposing of their waste. The sites at Renfrew, Erskine & Johnstone will continue to accept general household waste by car only. The results of this pilot will be brought back to a future meeting of the ILE Board.

6.4 Waste Services has completed the first phase of the initiative to tackle contamination within our recycle streams. This 8-week phase focused on paper and card blue bin and informing residents in the correct material for each bin by ensuring all blue bins have the correct recycling information sticker on them. The next phase will involve waste crews identifying contaminated bins and tagging them for residents to remove contaminate items.

6.5 For the period 1 January to 30 September 2019 Renfrewshire's recycling rate was 53.3%. This is a 3.76% improvement on performance compared to the same period in 2018 when the performance was 49.54%.

For the period 1 July to 30 September 2019 Renfrewshire's recycling rate was 55.42% and a 3.15% improvement on performance compared to 2018 figure of 52.27%. A large percentage of this increase has been in the garden and food waste collected which has contributed towards an increase in the overall recycling figure.



7. Transportation and Infrastructure Service

Low Carbon Travel & Transport

7.1 Renfrewshire Council has submitted an application for Low Carbon Travel & Transport Challenge Funding seeking to link up existing and planned sustainable travel projects in Renfrewshire. This funding bid links with the Council's existing £2million enhanced gateway junction improvement project to give greater priority to pedestrians and cyclists and bring together public spaces in Paisley town centre by developing an inter-connected network of high-quality public realm areas. Successful applications will be notified in March 2020.

The three main aspects of this £1.3million capital funding bid including £400,000 match funding from Renfrewshire Council enhanced gateway junction enhancements in Paisley Town Centre are:

- (i) Cycle Route via Causeyside Street linking Canal Street Rail Station (National Cycle Route 7) and Paisley Gilmour Street Rail Station;
- (ii) Electric Vehicle Charging Hub at Stow Brae Council Car Park serving Canal Street Rail Station and National Cycle Network 7; and
- (iii) Paisley Town Centre Gateway junction enhancements at four locations including Causeyside Street and Canal Street allowing safer crossing of pedestrians and cyclists linking the Cycle Route.

Bus Stop Improvements

7.2 A programme of bus stop improvement works continues in partnership with Strathclyde Partnership for Transport. The programme, to encourage greater bus patronage, includes hard standings, high access kerb treatments and/or new bus shelters at:

- Inchinnan Business Park, Inchinnan Village and Craigends, Houston; and
- Further potential sites in Bishopton, Howwood and various other locations have been inspected with SPT. Officers continue to work on designs.

Installation of raised kerbs is taking place throughout January at:

Location	Town	Proposed work dates
Greenock Road at Newton Rd	Bishopton	6th to 8th January
Greenock Road before Ferry Rd	Bishopton	8th to 10th January
Houston Road after Whirlie Rd	Houston	13th to 15th January
Houston Road after Crosslee Park	Houston	15th to 17th January
Houston Road opposite Lee Burn Av	Houston	20th to 22nd January
Station Road at Howwood Hall	Howwood	22nd to 24th January
Main Street at Church	Howwood	27th to 29th January
Main Street opposite Church	Howwood	29th to 31st January

Community Speedwatch, Houston

- 7.3 Houston Community Council in partnership with Police Scotland and Renfrewshire Council plan to introduce a Community Speedwatch Pilot in 2020 to prevent and deter speeding in Houston. It would only be the second such scheme in Scotland operated by the community, Fife being the first. Police Scotland will loan a speed gun and provide training to the community council in its usage. Renfrewshire Council will link with the community council on signage and social media to promote the pilot.

School Road Safety

- 7.4 Officers over the summer surveyed the roads around all Renfrewshire's schools to identify any deficiencies in the road signs or markings which can be rectified with the additional funding provided this year for this specific reason. The information from these surveys informed necessary road marking and signing works with all works being completed within this financial year.

Petitions Board – Junction of Kelburn Oval and Glasgow Road

- 7.5 A petition received by the March 2019 Petitions Board asked that the junction of Kelburn Oval and Glasgow Road be re-investigated to see if measures could be taken to improve safety and mitigate the perception of danger at this particular junction. The junction had previously been assessed in 2018 for the provision of a controlled pedestrian crossing and found not to be justified on the grounds of the degree of potential conflict between vehicle and pedestrian movement.

Additional surveys have taken place in response to the petition with a particular focus to gather information on difficulties for elderly pedestrians and wheelchair users face

in relation to visibility available whilst crossing the road.

The results showed that on the 10 occasions when elderly pedestrians crossed the road and the 4 occasions when wheelchair users crossed the road, they did not need to wait to cross on 9 occasions. The wait to cross on the other 5 occasions varied from 2 seconds to 15 seconds. The survey recorded that no visibility issues were observed during the survey period.

The accident record for this crossing location shows no pedestrian injury accidents in the last 5 years. The carriageway has been narrowed by building out the footway so that pedestrians have less distance to cross and have an improved view of oncoming traffic around parked cars. However, dropped kerbs are provided at the wider, bellmouth section of the road which denies pedestrians these improvements.

It is considered that it would be appropriate to provide a raised table pedestrian crossing at the narrow part of the road enabling pedestrians to cross the road without changing level and calming traffic speeds. We will now proceed to consultation for implementation during spring 2020 on this basis pending the outcome of the consultation.

Graduate Apprenticeship - Civil Engineering

- 7.6 The Service, in partnership with University of the West of Scotland and Skills Development Scotland, has commenced a Graduate Apprenticeship Scheme offering an opportunity to develop a career in Civil Engineering. This Graduate Apprenticeship scheme supports individuals to study for an Honours Degree at university while in paid full-time employment. Graduate Apprentices spend approximately four days in work and one day in university, with work-based learning projects. The Graduate Apprentice will develop a wide range of skills that provides a broad knowledge of core Civil Engineering subject areas to contribute to planning, designing and implementing Civil Engineering projects.

8. Environment and Place, Team Up to Clean Up

- 8.1 45 clean ups took place in the last quarter, involving 538 volunteers. 352 bags of litter have been removed from communities, by communities. Team Up to Clean Up activity in October to March traditionally sees a drop in participation due to colder, wetter weather conditions. Despite this many communities still head out, determined to make their neighbourhoods cleaner and more appealing. The larger events, the Big Spring Clean and the Spotless September Challenge, have already taken place. Bonfire night of 5th



November saw a spike in activity with a few local communities taking ownership of the littered state of their green spaces and clearing up, leaving large items and green bags for uplift by StreetScene Services. The StreetScene teams were on hand, supporting communities in clearing up after these bonfire events.

9. Service Developments

Cemeteries Investment

- 9.1 Works relating to the £1 million cemeteries investment have been completed in Hawkhead, Bishopton, Abbey, Houston, Kilbarchan, Lochwinnoch and Broomward.

The proposed works in Inchinnan Cemetery are due to start in February 2020 to include the construction of a new road and path within the cemetery with the formation of a new entrance / exit and resurfacing works to the existing internal road. Works in Arkleston Cemetery including repairs to entrance, roads and paths will be completed by March 2020.

Parks Investment Project

- 9.2 £250,000 allocated to improve infrastructure and play equipment in five community parks across Renfrewshire. One park has been fully completed at Houston Road, Bridge of Weir with on-going works in four parks.

- **Thomas Shanks Park, Johnstone**

Installation of new equipment for the play area is currently at consultation stage with the local community.

- **Howwood Public Park, Howwood;**

A new fence was installed in November and drainage repairs completed in December 2019. The intention is to improve the paths and progress with this is ongoing. The path works also commenced in December 2019. The Community Council has successfully received Greenspace funding and Renfrewshire Leader funding with the first new equipment installed in November.

- **Kilbarchan Public Park, Kilbarchan**

The retaining wall around the toddler play area was replaced in November. The safety surfaces replacement and installation of an inclusive roundabout is ongoing.

- **Barwood Park, Erskine**

Discussions continue with community groups in Erskine in relation to improvements that could be made within Barwood Park.

PARKS INVESTMENT PROJECT

£250k

Allocated to improve infrastructure and play equipment



10 Awards

- 10.1 The efforts of the Transport Operations Team in delivering Fleet Management and Social Transport have been recognised at the annual APSE Performance Network Awards 2019, with the team being successful in reaching the finals in December 2019.

- 10.2 Team Up 2 Clean Up have been recognised at the 2019 Scottish Public Services Awards in December 2019 winning the Community Engagement Award. This award recognises the work of public bodies in ensuring that the communities they serve are fully engaged in the development and delivery of public services in their area.
- 10.3 Waste Services were successful in being shortlisted for the LGC Awards 2020 for Campaign of the Year with the awards ceremony having taken place on 18th March.

Implications of the Report

1. **Financial** – None
2. **HR & Organisational Development** – None
3. **Community & Council Planning** –

Our Renfrewshire is thriving / Reshaping our place, our economy and our future - the service is actively involved in the Invest in Renfrewshire scheme and investing in road network to support and facilitate economic growth.

Creating a sustainable Renfrewshire for all to enjoy - working in partnership with the community to deliver a cleaner Renfrewshire. Promoting and encouraging waste minimisation through reducing, reusing and recycling. Reducing carbon emissions, through LED streetlights and electric and low emission vehicles within the council fleet.

Our Renfrewshire is well - the services encourages use of our parks and open spaces to promote a healthy and active lifestyle.

4. **Legal** – None.
5. **Property/Assets** – The Council's roads, fleet and open space infrastructure is maintained and enhanced.
6. **Information Technology** – None.
7. **Equality & Human Rights** - The recommendations contained within this report have been assessed in relation to their impact on equalities and human rights. No negative impacts on equality groups or potential for infringement of individuals' human rights have been identified arising from the recommendations contained in the report. If required following implementation, the actual impact of the recommendations and the mitigating actions will be reviewed and monitored, and the results of the assessment will be published on the Council's website
8. **Health & Safety** – None.
9. **Procurement** – None.

10. **Risk** – None.
11. **Privacy Impact** – None.
12. **CoSLA Policy Position** – none
13. **Climate Risk** – The performance outlined within the report will continue to contribute to positive climate change.

List of Background Papers: None

Author: Gordon McNeil, Director of Environment & Infrastructure
e-mail: Gordon.mcneil@renfrewshire.gov.uk