

To: Infrastructure, Land and Environment Policy Board

On: 6 November 2019

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 Policy Board report in August 2019. This report provides an operational performance update on the services and key projects delivered during this period.
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2. Recommendations

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

- 2.1 Approves the operational performance updates detailed within this report.
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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 resurfacing of 66 carriageways and 26 footways completed. In addition, 19 carriageways have been surface dressed, 8 carriageways have been micro-surfaced and 12 carriageways have been pre-patched in advance of next year's surface dressing programme. We continue to work alongside various stakeholders, including bus operators, to reduce the impact of our closures on commuters and, accordingly, several schemes have been undertaken during overnight closures only.



A number of strategic roads have been addressed during these works (Renfrew Road, Linwood Road and Cocklesloan) delivering a noticeable improvement to our road network for road users. A further section of Renfrew Road will be undertaken in early 2020.

- 4.2 The service has commenced a new approach to patching and pothole repairs with a pilot completed in Inchinnan. This approach involved grouping together all recorded potholes across the area and carrying out permanent patches to protect the road asset. Renfrew and Bishopton have been planned for the next phase of the programme in November 2019. Johnstone is planned in early 2020.

4.3 Winter Maintenance Plan

The department are preparing for winter maintenance and there are no changes to the Winter Maintenance Plan approved last year. The Winter Maintenance Plan sets out the preventative and reactive activities that happen 24/7 over the winter period to keep Renfrewshire road and footpaths network safe and accessible. The Winter Maintenance Plan for 2019/2020 takes into account the experience gained from the conditions of recent winters and recent developments in winter service best practice to ensure coordination and consistency of the response provided by Environment & Infrastructure services. When not undertaking gritting the staff and vehicles carry out street cleaning and gulley cleaning activities.

StreetScene

- 4.4 StreetScene Services are focussing activities on an increased sweeping programme of streets to clear leaf fall as we move into the autumn period. Community Litter pickers and local teams are tackling areas of high leaf fall.

StreetScene are developing a programme to target and remove weed growth from local communities over the winter. This scraping programme will address and remove detritus and stubborn weed growth which has been raised as a community concern and contribute to improvements and approaches developed under improving the environment and place agenda.

The service has also continued to support all community clean-ups removing litter and waste collected as part of the Team Up to Clean Up Spotless September campaign.

Roadside Litter

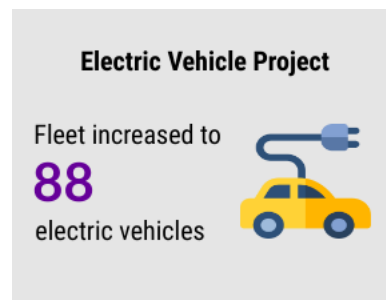
- 4.5 StreetScene Services, in conjunction with Scotland Transerv and Transport Scotland, have conducted a trial to address a litter hotspot area on the A737 in late August 2019 that will continue over the next few months. The trial focussed on litter volumes and sources. A joint meeting to review the trial in late October is planned with Keep Scotland Beautiful and Zero Waste Scotland assisting in this review.

5. Fleet & Social Transport Services

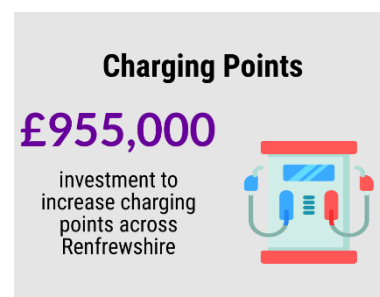
- 5.1 Fleet Services continues to manage, maintain and repair the council's fleet of 425 vehicles that enable service delivery across the organisation. The service's focus remains on meeting our legislative requirements and providing continuous improvement of fleet services to clients. Fleet services initiated a full compliance audit focusing on Operator Licence and Compliance.
- 5.2 Operator Licencing Awareness Training (OLAT) has been conducted for all operational service managers.
- 5.3 Planned investment in equipment to support the service, maintain and repair vehicles within the vehicle workshop and welfare facilities will progress over the next few months. In addition, this will increase productivity, reduce vehicle downtime.
- 5.4 StreetScene Services has also taken delivery of three new JCB Excavators for use in our cemeteries as part of the Vehicle Replacement Programme.

Electric Vehicles and Charging Infrastructure

- 5.5 The Electric Vehicle project continues to grow and aid reductions in fossil fuel producing fleet vehicles. The 18 Electric Vans have been delivered in October 2019 as part of our programme to replace diesel vehicles. This will increase the number of electric vehicles to 88, 20.7% of the Council's fleet. Drivers awareness sessions are continuing to be received positively with staff commenting on the ease of driving a new generation vehicle. These sessions will continue as further vehicles are delivered and deployed into the fleet and more services utilise them.



- 5.6 Renfrewshire Council was awarded an additional £123,000 grant funding from Transport Scotland and has leased 12 additional vehicles due for delivery in January 2020 for the Care at Home team. We will continue to explore alternative fuels including electric, hydrogen and hybrid options. This will involve working closely with infrastructure colleagues and Transport Scotland. This award, combined with previous funding allocations secured by the service, will see the total electric vehicles fleet rise to 100, which is 23% of the fleet.
- 5.7 Fleet Services have been successful in our Transport Scotland HGV ULEV application and been awarded £169,539, along with match funding support from Council Vehicle Replacement Programme, for two zero emission low floor accessible electric minibuses for use in Social Transport Services with delivery expected in April 2020.
- 5.8 Renfrewshire Health and Social Care Partnership Mile End Centre at Seedhill Road, Paisley will be upgraded with 9 electric vehicle chargers prior to delivery of the 12 Electric Vehicles (noted in section 5.5). The £37,000 funding has been provided by Transport Scotland to assist with the provision of EV charging Infrastructure.
- 5.9 During 2019 electric charging points are being installed across Renfrewshire in partnership with Transport Scotland at a total cost of £645,000. The Charging Points will be installed in Paisley, Johnstone, Renfrew, Houston and Bridge of Weir. Installation of equipment like this requires a building warrant, and once this is received the chargers will be fitted within this financial year. In addition, we continue to work in partnership with Transport Scotland on plans to expand Renfrewshire's EV Charging Infrastructure further



in 2020. Funding of £310,000 was recently awarded by Transport Scotland to install further charging infrastructure within Elderslie, Howwood, Linwood, Bishopton, Erskine, Johnstone Sports Hub, Renfrew and Paisley.

- 5.10 Renfrewshire Council's application for Switched On Towns & Cities feasibility support has been successful. The Switched On Towns and Cities Challenge Fund aims to help accelerate the transition of Scotland's transport sector towards a low-carbon future. In order to best prepare local authorities to bid for this funding, Transport Scotland has made support available for the delivery of feasibility studies by the Energy Saving Trust. The information derived from these studies is expected to support local authorities' strategy for the deployment of electric vehicle charging infrastructure.

Social Transport Services

- 5.11 Social Transport continues to provide a varied and essential service to schools and homes, supporting passenger transport in a variety of ways. The service has recently taken delivery of four low floor easily accessible vehicles that have been designed and sourced through engagement with carers, drivers and centres. Access is via a low-level, low angle ramp and removes the requirement of tail lifts and multiple points of entry. These vehicles will provide both service user benefits, better fuel efficiency and lower running costs. Feedback from the drivers, passengers and centres has been very positive.

6. Waste Services

Planned Service Changes

Recycling Contamination Initiative

- 6.1 Waste Services has launched a new initiative to tackle contamination within our recycle streams. The priority over the next eight weeks will be on the paper and card blue bin and the strategy will focus on educating residents in the correct material for each bin by ensuring all blue bins have the correct recycling sticker on them.

Fleet Improvement and In-Cab Technology

- 6.2 A total of eight new collection and support vehicles have been procured and will be delivered to Waste Services in December 2019. The new fleet will include three 26 tonne vehicles, one 16 tonne vehicle, two 18 tonne vehicles and two 7.5 tonne support vehicles. These vehicles will provide better fuel efficiency, lower running costs and support improved access to difficult to reach properties.

The service has purchased in-cab route management software which will enhance performance and service delivery through route optimisation technology removing paper systems and allowing real time GPS deployment of routes. The new system will be integrated within the service in 2020.

Clyde Valley Waste Project

- 6.3 The Clyde Valley Waste Management Project, Treatment & Disposal of Residual Waste is at the commissioning stage, as planned, to test the processes of the facility. Residual waste material is currently being supplied for commissioning purposes ready for the contract start date of 1st December 2019. This will enable the Council to meet its landfill diversion targets.
- 6.4 For the period 1 January to 18 August 2019 Renfrewshire's recycling rate is estimated to be 53%. This is a 4% improvement on performance compared to the same period in 2018 when the performance was 49%.

The overall tonnage collected in household grey bins has reduced by 2,694.7 tonnes compared to the same period in 2018. However, of the total waste collected, more has been processed as recycling. An additional 2,024.5 tonnes have been processed as recycling in 2019. 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 Services

- 7.1 In response to calls for areas of grass in Whiteford Road to be converted to car parking spaces, officers have surveyed the road at busy times in October and a further day and evening assessment by officers is planned in November to determine the level of residential parking in the area.
- 7.2 The 2019/20 Cycling, Walking and Safer Streets programme has started with the following new projects:
- Provision of a part time 20mph speed limit zone outside Bishopton Primary School at school times;
 - A survey of 20 defective vehicle activated signs has identified necessary repairs and a tender for the works has been issued;
 - Provision of a cycle shelter at Glennifer High School, match funded by Sustrans; and
 - Installation of a Zebra crossing on Park Road, Paisley is complete.

7.3 A programme of bus stop improvement works has begun 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:

- Main Street and Magnus Road, Houston: footway improvements and shelters at both locations complete.
- Mossland Road, Hillington: hardstanding complete.
- Park Road, Paisley: raised kerbs and a dropped kerb crossing complete at two stops.
- Sandy Road, Renfrew: shelter relocated, fencing at Alexandra Park awaited from our contractor to complete.
- Clippens Road, Linwood: car parking relocated to improve bus turning circle.
- 28 potential sites in Inchinnan, Bishopton, Howwood, Houston and various other locations have been inspected with SPT. Officers continue to work up designs.

7.4 The Council, in partnership Strathclyde Partnership for Transport, has erected real time passenger information displays on Paisley Road/Renfrew Road. Further action includes the distribution of promotional material and an on-board-bus passengers opinion surveys, the tender for which has been awarded.

7.5 Preparatory work is underway on Strathclyde Partnership for Transport grant funded capital projects for 2019/20:

- Replacement of Urban Traffic Control System – the tender has been awarded and its start meeting is imminent.
- Construction of Paisley to Renfrew Cycle Route - the project has received further scrutiny from the Sustrans Infrastructure Steering Group due to its size and complexity.
- Real Time Passenger Information displays on the Paisley to Johnstone corridor – the bus providers have been consulted and the locations are confirmed (14 on the corridor and 2 in Renfrew town centre), with the 2 in Renfrew town centre being a specific request from the bus providers. The contract has been awarded and the contractor will start civils works at the beginning of November.

Pedestrian Crossing at Bridge of Weir Road, Linwood

7.6 Officers have engaged closely with Members and residents of Linwood to find measures to help pedestrians safely cross Bridge of Weir Road, after a fatal accident involving an elderly woman occurred there last October. At a number of meetings at St Conval's Church Hall, officers provided a range of options as

part of a consultation process with the community. Information provided by the community has been explored and converted into a detailed design of two zebra crossings on raised tables to combat speeding and to provide crossing opportunities to able bodied and ambulant disabled pedestrians. The progress of the project has been delayed by Scottish Power's works to replace power cables in Bridge of Weir Road. Residents have called for another look at the location of the zebra closest to St Conval's Church which officers are considering.

School Road Safety

- 7.7 The Council is embarking on a trial of part-time pedestrian only zones outside four schools. The schools (Barsail, Lochfield, St Catherine's and St Charles' Primary Schools) have been chosen to be representative of the typical conflict between school children and cars experienced at school times and are located in a cul-de-sac where the necessary traffic management can be more easily achieved, while disadvantaging the fewest number of local residents. The necessary traffic order consultation is now underway.
- 7.8 Officers over the summer have 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 the surveys is being used to assist in designing the works required.

Petitions Board

- 7.9 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 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. A further survey is underway.

7.10 Transport Scotland Bill

The Transport (Scotland) Bill has now passed Stage 3 on the 10 October 2019. The Bill is split into 6 distinct parts as summarised below. There are no implementation dates, as yet, with further detail on this being provided to future Policy Board meetings as the information becomes available.

- **Part 1: Creation of Low emission zones;**

A low emission zone scheme is a scheme under which individuals driving vehicles which fail to meet specified emission standards will be prohibited from driving those vehicles in contravention of the terms of the scheme within a designated geographical area.

- **Part 2: Bus services;**
Provide new powers to local transport authorities to better manage local bus services.
- **Part 3: Ticketing arrangements and schemes;**
Makes changes to the existing legislation in the 2001 Act about ticketing arrangements and ticketing schemes for bus travel.
- **Part 4: Pavement parking and Workplace Parking;**
Introduces a national ban on pavement (footway) parking and double parking in Scotland. The ban is aimed at promoting, supporting and advancing the rights of pedestrians to ensure that pavements and roads are accessible for all.

The Bill gives Scottish councils the power to introduce a workplace parking levy on private car parking spaces. It will be for councils to decide how such a levy will work at local level.

- **Part 5: Road works;**
Provides new powers to the Traffic Commissioner in supporting efficient road works.
- **Part 6: Miscellaneous and general.**
Adjusts the basis on which Transport Partnerships are funded and makes other minor amendments.

8. Environment and Place, Team Up to Clean Up

- 8.1 Team Up to Clean Up continues to grow from strength to strength on the basis of strong support from all partner services, communities and volunteers. The Spotless September Challenge saw hundreds of volunteers show their support for the latest event in the Team Up to Clean Up Campaign. The communications campaign and community support activities were over one month, allowing schools to participate and more communities to include their work under the banner. More than 700 local people, both young and old, took part in more than 20 clean ups as schools, community groups, businesses and volunteers donned their bibs and set out with their litter picker to tidy up their community. 280 bags of rubbish were collected by Renfrewshire Council's StreetScene team as part of the joined-up approach which the Team Up to Clean Up campaign has become known for.



The programme of enhanced streetscene activities continues in support of this work with a programme of detritus removal being undertaken over the winter months.

9. Service Developments

Cemeteries Investment

- 9.1 Works relating to the £1 million cemeteries investment have been completed in Bishopton, Abbey, Houston, Kilbarchan, Lochwinnoch and Broomward.
- 9.2 The works within Hawkhead Cemetery commenced in Summer 2019 and are programmed over a period of twenty weeks. The work is being carried out in two phases with phase one now complete. The second phase is currently being carried out and is due to be completed by the end of November. The main works are in relation to the installation of new drainage to address the problem of flooding. The works also include resurfacing of the internal roads and the repair of kerbing.
- 9.3 Feasibility studies are continuing in relation to the proposed works within Inchinnan Cemetery. These proposed works are to include the construction of a new road and path within the cemetery with the formation of a new entrance/exit. Additional works include resurfacing works to the existing internal road.

Parks Investment Project

- 9.4 £250K was allocated to improve infrastructure and play equipment in five community parks across Renfrewshire. Discussions are ongoing with communities in relation to improvements that could be made at:

- **Houston Road Public Park, Bridge of Weir**
Seven new items of play equipment were installed in August and the paths were resurfaced at the beginning of October.
- **Thomas Shanks Park, Johnstone**
Consultation has taken place with the 'Friends of Thomas Shanks' group, Johnstone Community Council, Quarrelton Road TARA and Johnstone Community Sports Hub. Repairs to the paths and drainage have taken place. Installation of new equipment for the play area is currently out to consultation with the local community and updates will be provided at a future policy board.

PARKS INVESTMENT PROJECT

£250k

Allocated to
improve
infrastructure and
play equipment



- **Howwood Public Park, Howwood;**

A new fence will be installed at the end of October. The drainage repairs will be carried out by December 2019. The intention is to improve the paths and progress with this is ongoing. The Community Council have successfully received Greenspace funding and Renfrewshire Leader funding and the first installation of new equipment will begin late November.

- **Kilbarchan Public Park, Kilbarchan**

Repairs to the paths and drainage were completed in July. The retaining wall around the toddler play area will be replaced by December 2019. The intention is to replace the safety surfaces and install an inclusive roundabout and progress with this is ongoing.

- **Barwood Park, Erskine**

Discussions have started with community groups in Erskine in relation to improvements that could be made within Barwood Park. Drainage repairs have been carried out and the paths throughout the park have been resurfaced.

10 Awards

10.1 Team Up to Clean Up were Award Winners at the 2019 COSLA Excellence Awards in October 2019 in the Strong and Sustainable Communities category.



10.2 The Street Lighting Team was also recognised in the 2019 COSLA Excellence Awards. Street Lighting Energy Efficiency received a COSLA Bronze award in the Strong and Sustainable Communities category.

10.3 The Waste Services team were recognised for its efforts in this year's APSE Service Awards as finalists in the Best Service Team of the Year: Waste Management and Recycling service category.

10.4 An apprentice within the StreetScene service was successful in reaching the finals of the APSE StreetScene Horticulture Apprentice of the Year 2019 Awards.

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 carbon 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

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