

To: INFRASTRUCTURE, LAND AND ENVIRONMENT POLICY BOARD

On: 28th August 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 May 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 well underway with 29 carriageways and 8 footways completed thus far along with some carriageway defect patching. A number of strategic schemes have been undertaken during overnight closures only, to reduce the disruption to commuters and bus services. Resurfacing of Mill Street Bridge is presently on site and the bridge structure will be waterproofed during these works. We have liaised with Scottish Water to allow them to undertake works to their Combined Sewer Outflow during the closure of Mill Street to reduce further closures at this location at a later date. We continue to meet with key stakeholders and other Council Services to ensure effective coordination of the programme.

The service has commenced a new approach to patching and pothole repairs with a pilot commencing in Inchinnan, then Renfrew, Bishopton and Johnstone. The approach will involve grouping together all recorded potholes across the area and carrying out permanent patches to protect the road asset.

StreetScene

- 4.2 The summer period is a very busy time for the service with grass cutting and supporting the busy events calendar across Renfrewshire, supporting local communities during gala days and providing assistance with preparations for key events across Renfrewshire.

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 campaign.

Roadside Litter

- 4.3 Scotland Transerv operate and manage motorways and trunk roads on behalf of Transport Scotland, carrying out grass cutting on key trunk roads (A737, A8 and A898). StreetScene have been working in partnership during the closures to remove litter from grass verges. Grass and litter are removed three times per year and StreetScene has completed two joint treatments with another programmed for September 2019. Social media is being used to inform users and communities of dates and activities.
- 4.4 Roadside Litter has attracted increased media attention recently and StreetScene met with Scotland Transerv and Transport Scotland. All parties are developing a joint plan and approach for a trial to address a litter hotspot area on the A737 commencing in late August 2019 and will continuing over the following next few months. The trial will include full litter removal from a section of road with all litter being analysed by Keep Scotland Beautiful to identify the sources of roadside litter, which will inform education, enforcement and engagement on this subject.

Ambassador Routes

- 4.5 An integrated approach has been taken between Roads and StreetScene to improve the physical and visual appearance of two key areas of Renfrew Road. This is the first Ambassador Route to be created. Prior to resurfacing, the service undertook inspection and pre-surfacing works of the roadside gullies. Resurfacing of the route has taken place. A full clean was carried out on conclusion of the resurfacing works and included detritus removal, line painting and shrub/tree pruning around signage. Additional works are now planned for the roundabout at the junction of Renfrew Road and Lochore Avenue.

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.
- 5.2 The equipment used to service, maintain and repair vehicles within the vehicle workshop requires upgrading to enable us to meet our legislative requirements. In addition, this will increase productivity, reduce vehicle downtime and reduce costs not only to the fleet service but the frontline services we support. The equipment and installation will be purchased with assistance from our colleagues in Procurement.
- 5.3 Delivery and roll out of a further 48 electric zero emissions vehicles has commenced as planned and are being well received within services. Drivers awareness sessions are continuing to be received positively with staff commenting on the ease it 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. The 18 Electric Vans within this phase will be delivered in September / October 2019 as part of our programme to replace diesel vehicles. This will increase the number of electric vehicles to 88, 20% of the Council's fleet.
- 5.4 In June 2019 the council was awarded an additional £123,000 grant funding from Transport Scotland and will procure additional light vehicles with delivery in late 2019. 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 around 100, which is 23% of the fleet.
- 5.5 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 4 new 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 and better fuel efficiency and lower running costs. The service has recently had on trial a zero-emission electric bus, further trials will take place during 2019/20 and discussions

with Transport Scotland have commenced in relation to support funding for this innovative equipment.

6. Waste Services Planned Service Changes

- 6.1 Waste Services has implemented the second phase of the rollout of the further segregated recycling service across the areas of Erskine. The roll out covered some 3,500 households in the areas of Park Mains, Bargarran, North Barr and Rashielee. A public information campaign was carried out across those areas to let people know what was happening and when. This used local media, social media, direct communications to affected households and a series of public roadshows within the local communities.

Clyde Valley Waste Project

- 6.2 Preparation is underway for the handover of the waste transfer station at Middleton Road Linwood to the waste processing contractor for the Clyde Valley Waste Project. Final snagging works are taking place in the building and the contractor has initiated plans for internal works within the building ahead of the commencement of the contract in December 2019. Waste services is working with the Council's current refuse disposal contractor to provide commissioning tonnage for the new contract during August to November 2019. This will ensure that the waste processing and treatment facilities are working at their optimum prior to commencement of new contract.

A detailed report on the Clyde Valley project will be brought to the next Policy board in advance of the new contract commencing, along with members' awareness sessions.

Household Waste

- 6.3 For the period 1 January to 30 June 2019 Renfrewshire's recycling rate is estimated to be 52.3%. This is a 4.4% improvement on performance compared to the same period in 2018 when the performance was 47.9%.

The overall household waste tonnage collected between Jan-Jun 2019 was down by 537 tonnes compared to the same period in 2018. However, of the total waste collected, more has been processed as recycling. An additional 1,427 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.



Performance in the quarter from April to June 2019 was 58.9%. This was up 7.4% on the same period in 2018 and is reflective of higher levels of garden waste being presented during this second quarter of the year.

7. Transportation and Infrastructure Services

- 7.1 Following the tragic fatal accident on Glenburn Road, Paisley Police Scotland have conducted an investigation into the incident and whilst there are legal proceedings ongoing which we cannot comment on, the Police investigation has highlighted that there were no road conditions which were a contributory factor to the incident. It is the Council's intention to consult with the local community and elected members for the area to address concerns local residents may have regarding road safety on this particular road and any measures that the Council may be able to take to improve road safety in the area for all.
- 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 will be followed by appropriate repairs;
 - Provision of a cycle shelter at Glenniffer High School, match funded by Sustrans; and
 - Installation of a Zebra crossing on Park Road, Paisley
- 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:
- Kilmacolm Road, Bridge of Weir;
 - Main Street and Magnus Road, Houston;
 - Mossland Road, Hillington;
 - Park Road, Paisley;
 - Sandy Road, Renfrew; and
 - Clippens Road, Linwood.
- 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.
- 7.5 Preparatory work is underway on Strathclyde Partnership for Transport grant funded capital projects for 2019/20:
- Replacement of Urban Traffic Control System - tender returns are currently being evaluated;
 - 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. They have requested additional design work which is expected early September 19. It is the intention to progress with the

construction of the off-road disused railway section (with permission of SPT funders approval) which requires no additional design and the remainder can progress on approval of the extra design work.;

- Real Time Passenger Information displays on the Paisley to Johnstone corridor – locations are currently being considered; and
- SPT are being asked to fund the design of an extension to the Park and Ride car park at Hawkhead Rail Station.

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.

School Road Safety

- 7.7 The Council is embarking on a trial of part-time pedestrian only zones outside four schools. The schools have been chosen to be representative of the typical conflict between school children and cars experienced at school times and are located in cul-de-sac where the necessary traffic management can be more easily achieved, while disadvantaging the fewest number of local residents. Work to draft and consult on the necessary traffic orders 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 surveys are being used to prepare work instructions for our contractor, who has been sent the first batch of a number to come, for early attention.

National Transport Strategy 2

- 7.9. The Scottish Government has just issued a draft of the National Transport Strategy for consultation. Transport Scotland are seeking to determine whether the Strategy's Vision, Priorities and Outcomes are the right ones for our transport network for the next twenty years. The strategy sets out the ambitions and visions for the transport system over the next 20 years that protects the climate and improves lives. The Council will review the draft strategy and are contributing to the SPT return on behalf of the partnership authorities – through their partnership committee.
- 7.10 The strategy has four priorities; to promote equality, take climate action, help our economy prosper and improve our health and wellbeing. It seeks to ensure transport helps reach the government's target of net-zero emissions by 2045, makes travel accessible to all by reversing dependence on the private car and promoting more sustainable and mass-transit modes, reduces congestion using spatial planning to speed up business and delivery trips and provides a safe and secure network which

prioritises active travel modes to enable a healthy and fit nation. The strategy also looks at a high level at the transport governance arrangements, proposing a regional model through a place-based approach.

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 potential of the 2019 Big Spring Clean in April was maximised after a review of lessons learned from the 2018 event. The communications campaign and community support activities were extended from a weekend to one month allowing more schools to participate and more communities to include their work under the banner. The social media campaign was successful, with groups joining in celebrating their success and supporting one another on Twitter and Facebook. The final count reveals 117 events took place throughout the period, with 1794 volunteers removing 1922 bags of waste and flytipping.

The Team Up to Clean Up caddies were also issued in April facilitating volunteers to go the extra mile where they wish. Large brushes, pans, gloves, waterproof ponchos and pooper scoopers assist with litterpicks, while groups driven to make improvements to green spaces and flower beds were issued with hoes, shovels, loppers and forks. A battery-operated leaf blower, strimmer and hedge cutter were also included in the caddy. Groups have expressed thanks and delight with the caddies and have been keen to showcase their achievements and results using the equipment on Facebook.

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

Respectful Funeral Service

- 9.1 The Council launched its Respectful Funeral Service on the 15th July 2019 in conjunction with local and national Funeral Directors. This new partnership will offer residents an affordable, respectful and dignified bereavement service. Six Funeral Directors are now working in partnership to deliver savings of between 18% and 60% on the average cost of an average funeral in Scotland.

Cemeteries Investment

- 9.2 The works within Hawkhead Cemetery commenced on the 15th July 2019 and are programmed over a period of twenty weeks. The work is being carried out in two phases with the main entrance section expected to be completed by the middle of September and the second phase 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.

Bishopton, Abbey, Houston, Lochwinnoch and Broomward Cemetery works are now

complete. Works in relation to resurfacing of the paths and ramp repairs and refurbishing of the entrance gates have commenced within Kilbarchan Cemetery.

Works to all the cemeteries are to be completed by the end of the financial year.

Parks Investment Project

9.3 £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 are scheduled to be installed and the paths resurfaced by the end of August.
- **Thomas Shanks Park, Johnstone**
Consultation has taken place with the 'Friends of Thomas Shanks' group. 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.
- **Howwood Public Park, Howwood;**
Consultation with the Community Council has taken place and procurement for a new fence is underway. The intention is to improve the paths and drainage within the park and progress with this is ongoing. The Community Council have applied for Green Space funding which, if successful, will be used to install new play equipment and an outdoor gym.
- **Kilbarchan Public Park, Kilbarchan**
Consultation with the Community Council has taken place. Repairs to the paths and drainage was completed in July. The retaining wall around the toddler play area will also be replaced following consultation with the local community.
- **Barwood Park, Erskine**
Discussions have started with community groups in Erskine in relation to improvements that could be made within Barwood Park. The identified drainage repairs have now been completed. The paths resurfacing will be carried out in phases with Phase 1, which includes the area around the play park and pavilion, being completed by September. Phase 2 which is the rest of the paths in the park will be resurfaced by the end of the current financial year.



10 Awards

- 10.1 The efforts of Team Up to Clean Up and the Street Lighting Team and have been recognised in the 2019 COSLA Excellence Awards. Both teams were included as part of the published long-list for this year's awards under the Strong and Sustainable Communities category. Team Up to Clean Up has been shortlisted as a finalist in the category with the winner being announced later this year. Although the Street Lighting project was not shortlisted as a finalists, they will receive a COSLA Bronze award at this year's award ceremony.
- 10.2 The Waste Services team has also been recognised for its efforts in this year's APSE Service Awards. They have been shortlisted as finalists in the Best Service Team of the Year: Waste Management and Recycling service category. The winners will be announced at the APSE Annual Charity Awards Dinner on 12 September 2019.
- 10.3 It's Your Neighbourhood (IYN), run by KSB aims to encourage community participation through horticulture and environmental quality improvement work.

The Friends of Barshaw Park (FOBP) work closely with Renfrewshire Council. This assists in maintaining and developing the park asset through community consultation. One such area was the FOBP taking an active role in restoring the Walled Garden.

KSB visited the FOBP and the Walled Garden within Barshaw Park and the activity shows how a Friends group can successfully recreate an area of horticultural excellence. The 'Friends' also act as the eyes and ears for the local community over the maintenance schedule of the whole park. They were assessed on 13 July 2019 and awarded a creditable level 4, only one below the highest award.

The assessment this year is for the entire park, and not just the garden (previous year) and is a credit to the FOBP group and reflects their significant community contribution.

Implications of the Report

1. **Financial** – The £245k investment in the vehicle repair workshop as mentioned in section 5.2 would be made via prudential borrowing, with this being funded from efficiencies realised through increased productivity, lower vehicle downtime, and a reduction in repairs and maintenance costs. Team Up to Clean Up activities are being funded through the £2.5 m investment.
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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