

Report of:	Cabinet Member for Sustainability
To:	Economy, Skills and Sustainability Overview and Scrutiny Committee
Date:	11 December 2015

Progress Report on Implementation: Household Recycling Centres (HRCs)

Review Information

Date approved at City Council:	3 February 2015
Member who led the original review:	Councillor Majid Mahmood
Lead Officer for the review:	Emma Williamson
Date progress last tracked:	N/A

Findings from the Review

1. In approving this Review the City Council asked me, as the appropriate Cabinet Member for Sustainability, to report on progress towards these recommendations to this Overview and Scrutiny Committee.
2. The main areas for improvement identified in the Review were as follows:
 - a. Options for increasing HRC provision
 - b. Improve access to HRCs
 - c. Continued use and improvements of the HRCs

Summary of Progress

3. Details of progress with the recommendations are shown in Appendix 2.
4. Members are therefore asked to consider progress against the recommendations and give their view as to how progress is categorized for each.
5. This is the first tracking report so there are no recommendations tracked previously and concluded.

Appendices

1	Scrutiny Office guidance on the tracking process
2	Recommendations you are tracking today
3	Recommendations tracked previously and concluded

For more information about this report, please contact

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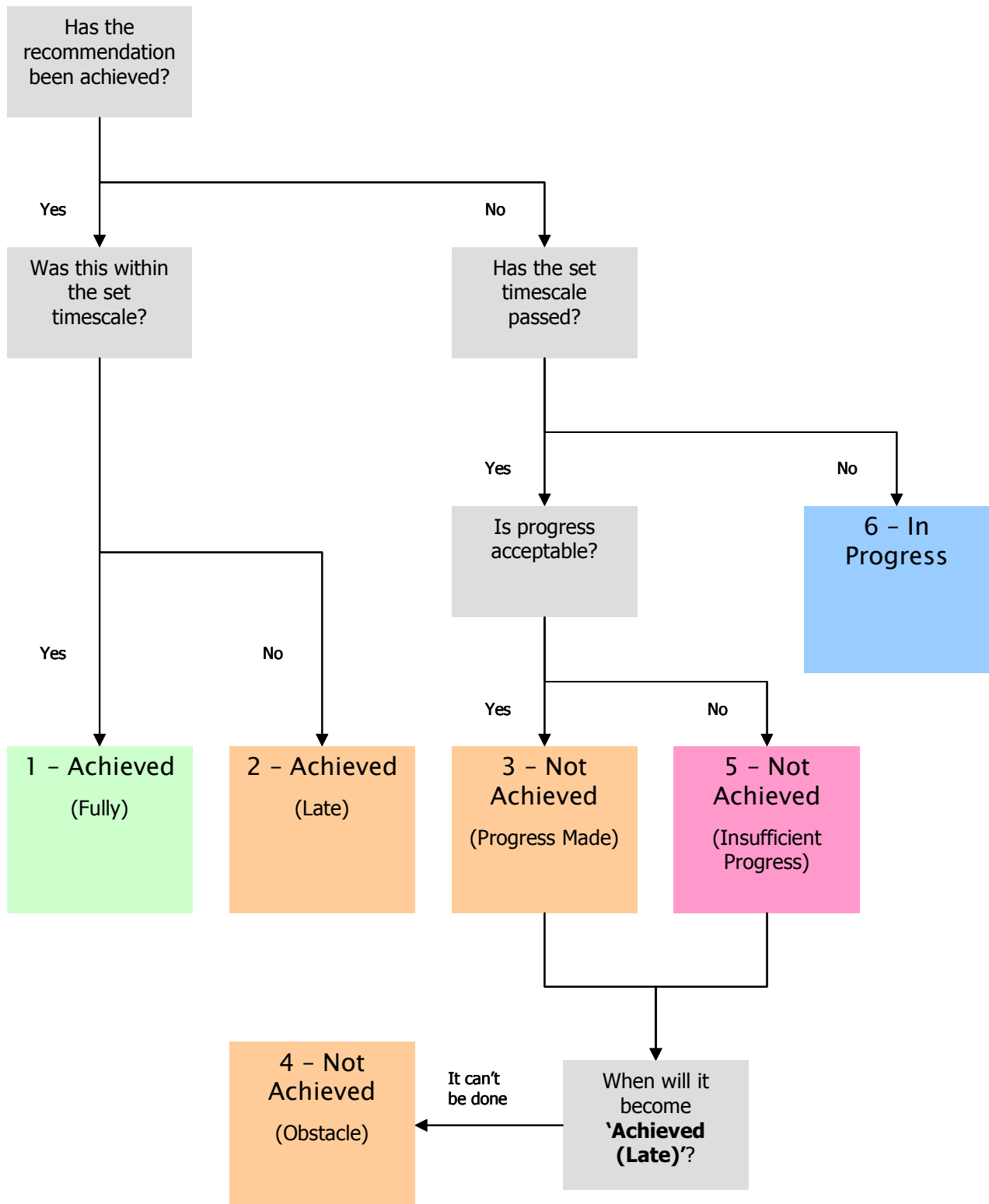
Appendix ①: The Tracking Process

In making its assessment, the Committee may wish to consider:

- What progress/ key actions have been made against each recommendation?
- Are these actions pertinent to the measures required in the recommendation?
- Have the actions been undertaken within the time scale allocated?
- Are there any matters in the recommendation where progress is outstanding?
- Is the Committee satisfied that sufficient progress has been made and that the recommendation has been achieved?

Category	Criteria
1: Achieved (Fully)	The evidence provided shows that the recommendation has been fully implemented within the timescale specified.
2: Achieved (Late)	The evidence provided shows that the recommendation has been fully implemented but not within the timescale specified.
3: Not Achieved (Progress Made)	The evidence provided shows that the recommendation has not been fully achieved, but there has been significant progress made towards full achievement. An anticipated date by which the recommendation is expected to become achieved must be advised.
4: Not Achieved (Obstacle)	The evidence provided shows that the recommendation has not been fully achieved, but all possible action has been taken. Outstanding actions are prevented by obstacles beyond the control of the Council (such as passage of enabling legislation).
5: Not Achieved (Insufficient Progress)	The evidence provided shows that the recommendation has not been fully achieved and there has been insufficient progress made towards full achievement. An anticipated date by which the recommendation is expected to become achieved must be advised.
6: In Progress	It is not appropriate to monitor achievement of the recommendation at this time because the timescale specified has not yet expired.

The Tracking Process



Appendix 2: Progress with Recommendations

No.	Recommendation	Responsibility	Original Date For Completion	Cabinet Member's Assessment
R01	That serious consideration is given to opening a new HRC in Birmingham as part of the new waste disposal arrangements post 2019	Cabinet Member for Sustainability	March 2016	6: In Progress
Evidence of Progress (and Anticipated Completion Date if 'Not Achieved')				
<p>A cross City Council Steering Group has been established to lead on the strategic direction for the Future Waste Strategy (Reduce, Reuse, Recycle) Programme Board and has overall responsibility for the vision and strategy; and accountability for achieving all programme outcomes.</p> <p>One of the Sub-programmes under this is "Understanding and Developing our Assets", with its key aim to understand the prevailing condition of the Council's assets but also to develop an options appraisal for future operational assets. Alongside this is the engagement with citizens in the development of the new waste vision and strategy; ensuring that citizens are involved in the policy and options that take into account more localised views. This recommendation is being considered alongside both these sub-programmes and will be fully explored. Please see attached the Programme Governance Arrangements – as Appendix 3.</p>				

No.	Recommendation	Responsibility	Original Date For Completion	Cabinet Member's Assessment
R02	That the opening of temporary sites over the summer is investigated, to deal with the increased volume of green waste.	Cabinet Member for Sustainability	June 2015	1: Achieved (Fully)
Evidence of Progress (and Anticipated Completion Date if 'Not Achieved')				
<p>The 2015 paid for garden waste service has seen a significant increase to around 60,000 customers. As well as providing this service to citizens a number of proposals were introduced to provide alternative options and maximise the current assets available. The HRCs have continued to see high numbers of throughput of traffic, however, the measures introduced have had a positive impact on the customer experience - improving and enhancing the throughput of traffic at the current HRC facilities. In summary, the following measures were introduced :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Extra HRC site capacity into Lifford Lane, Tyseley and Perry Barr ("Super sites") starting in April 2015 • An overspill "green/garden waste only" lane was introduced at Lifford Lane HRC site at the weekends, throughout the summer period, to allow a fast track route for residents • Introduction of extra recycling operatives to improve the visitor experience and speed up throughput • Traffic counters installed to monitor the traffic throughput • Webcams introduced so that residents can view for themselves the current status of the queues <p>The HRC improvement plan 2015 (see attached at Appendix 4) was produced and closely monitored, including those measures identified above. A plan for 2016 is in place and is also being developed further. Residents living around these sites were consulted before and after the changes, with positive feedback.</p> <p>In line with this recommendation, and as part of the HRC access improvement plan for 2015, an additional temporary household recycling centre (HRC) for garden waste, available on a short terms basis to cover the summer months only was fully explored and considered.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A number of potential sites (12) were reviewed using the criteria of size, infrastructure, ease of access, for residents and waste carrying vehicles, distance from residential properties and location • A preferred site was identified as part of this process • Discussions were undertaken with Veolia, as the waste contractor, as to operational and contractual implications • Discussions were undertaken with the Environment Agency - they indicated that they would apply a very strict adherence to the waste permitting regulations, as it was garden waste • A full permit licence was explored but this takes between 12-14 weeks minimum plus a significant cost of opening the facility (well in excess of £600,000 for a basic site), resulted in this not being viable. There is no 				

budget provision for this investment.

No.	Recommendation	Responsibility	Original Date For Completion	Cabinet Member's Assessment
R03	That an assessment is made of the enforcement of the Birmingham residents only policy alongside an assessment of a formal joint use policy with other local authorities. This should include the exploration of opening a new joint facility (alongside Recommendation 01)	Cabinet Member for Sustainability	November 2015	3: Not Achieved (Progress Made)

Evidence of Progress (and Anticipated Completion Date if 'Not Achieved')

In order to meet this recommendation, and as part of the HRC access improvement plan for 2015, an assessment was undertaken into the enforcement of Birmingham residents-only policy. The most feasible proposal is the use of ANPR cameras (Automatic Number Plate Recognition) and this is being fully explored with quotes obtained. This will allow the instant identification and assessment of cross-boundary activity (non-Birmingham residents) or the flagging up of known traders. A number of other different schemes were considered but these were deemed unsuitable as they would increase the queues significantly (at least in the short term) and could lead to further negative publicity around HRCs access. These included :

1. Consider alternative schemes (production of Council Tax bill) – residents have to produce and barcode is scanned
2. Reducing number of van permits from 12 to 6 (green exempt) OR Site specific for vans OR
3. Van only days/times Sunday morning at quietest site
4. Charity pass vehicles at non-peak times only and at specific site

It should be noted that all the options above have been considered as part of a Future Council Programme case for change.

No.	Recommendation	Responsibility	Original Date For Completion	Cabinet Member's Assessment
R04	That re-use is a priority in the revised waste strategy; and that an extension of the Re-Users Project to other HRCS is explored.	Cabinet Member for Sustainability	March 2016	6: In Progress

Evidence of Progress (and Anticipated Completion Date if 'Not Achieved')

As outlined in R01 the Future Waste Strategy Programme is focussed on Reduce, Reuse and Recycle. As part of this major programme a Council Operating Model on Reduce, Reuse and Recycle workshop was held on 3rd November to brainstorm ideas against these 3 key themes and also to define key goals for the future waste strategy. Several re-use organisations were in attendance at the workshop to bring ideas from a social enterprise perspective.

A number of ideas were formulated from the workshop under each of the headings and re-use, as a priority and potential roll-out across the City to all HRCs, was prevalent in the ideas. All ideas and suggestions from the workshop are being collated and will be further assessed and explored.

The Reuse Centre at Norris Way continues to provide an invaluable social enterprise facility for all residents to reuse their unwanted items. By October 2015, the reuse centre had received goods and sold 304 tonnes of goods that would otherwise have ended up in the waste stream. Although this makes up only a small part of the overall waste stream, with reuse appearing higher up in the waste hierarchy this is a positive step.

No.	Recommendation	Responsibility	Original Date For Completion	Cabinet Member's Assessment
R05	That the lease for the Re-Users project is extended to allow Jericho to undertake long term planning.	Cabinet Member for Sustainability	March 2015	1: Achieved (Fully)

Evidence of Progress (and Anticipated Completion Date if 'Not Achieved')

As a result of this recommendation the Jericho agreement and lease was extended for a further year, signed by both parties on 7 April 2015. A further extension, until a new waste contract comes into force in January 2019, is being considered with legal and procurement guidance being sought as to its feasibility.

No.	Recommendation	Responsibility	Original Date For Completion	Cabinet Member's Assessment
R06	That options for smart card use – to reduce contamination and monitor usage – are considered for inclusion in any future waste contract	Cabinet Member for Sustainability	November 2015	3: Not Achieved (Progress Made)

Evidence of Progress (and Anticipated Completion Date if 'Not Achieved')

The Council Operating Model on Reduce, Reuse and Recycle workshop was held on 3rd November to formulate ideas against these 3 key themes. The smart card idea is being progressed under the "reduce" heading, as part of the Future Waste Strategy going forward, in order to reduce contamination.

As mentioned under R04, the most feasible proposal is the use of ANPR cameras (Automatic Number Plate Recognition) and this is being fully explored with quotes obtained. This will be trialled as to its operational feasibility and also to see what impact this has on the numbers entering the HRCs and any queuing issues.

No.	Recommendation	Responsibility	Original Date For Completion	Cabinet Member's Assessment
R07	That a recycling centre/facility for trade and commercial waste is considered as part of the new waste strategy, and procurement of any new contract	Cabinet Member for Sustainability	March 2016	6: In Progress

Evidence of Progress (and Anticipated Completion Date if 'Not Achieved')

As mentioned under R04, a Council Operating Model on Reduce, Reuse and Recycle workshop was held on 3rd November to formulate ideas against these 3 key themes. The opportunity to establish a chargeable recycling centre/facility for trade and commercial formed part of the ideas being progressed under the 3 headings particularly under reduce (reducing domestic waste infiltration with trade waste) and recycling (more waste segregation). These ideas will be progressed as part of the Future Waste Strategy going forward.

It should be noted that this recommendation has been fully explored as part of a Future Council Programme case for change. If this proposal is progressed then negotiations, and potential contractual variations, need to be reached with the current waste contractor. Legal and procurement advice will be sought on this matter.

No.	Recommendation	Responsibility	Original Date For Completion	Cabinet Member's Assessment
R08	Progress towards achievement of these recommendations should be reported to the Connectivity & Sustainability Overview and Scrutiny Committee no later than September 2015. Subsequent progress reports will be scheduled by the Committee thereafter, until all recommendations are implemented.	Cabinet Member for Sustainability	September 2015	2: Achieved (Late)

Evidence of Progress (and Anticipated Completion Date if 'Not Achieved')

This tracking report to the Economy, Skills & Sustainability Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 11 December meets this recommendation.