

**MID ARGYLL – INTRODUCTION OF ADDITIONAL RECYCLING SERVICES INCLUDING
ALTERNATE WEEKLY COLLECTIONS**

1. SUMMARY

- 1.1 This paper is to update the Mid Argyll, Kintyre and Islay Area Committee on progress on the planned introduction of additional recycling services including alternate weekly collections in the Mid Argyll area.

2. RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 That the Area Committee note this report and the proposed timescales for the introduction of increased recycling services including alternate weekly collections in the Mid Argyll area which is within the Waste PPP Contract area .

3. DETAIL

- 3.1 At its meeting on 25 October 2012 the Council approved the Waste Management Strategy which outlines how the Council intends to comply with the Waste (Scotland) Regulations 2012 (the Regulations).

The strategy includes details of how the introduction of alternate weekly co-mingled recycling collections would be developed and implemented and advised that this would require a variation to the current contractual arrangements contained within the Waste PPP contract with Shanks. This variation is progressing between the Council and Shanks.

- 3.2 The changes would mean that households in Mid Argyll (including Tarbert), Oban and Lorn, and Cowal (including West Cowal) would receive a blue bin (if they do not already have one) and they would be able to include paper, card, plastics and cans together in the blue bin for recycling. The blue bin would be collected one week and the mixed general waste bin collected the next week.

- 3.3 Implementing alternate weekly collections with the increased recycling provision is expected to have 3 main benefits:

- Increased recycling provision which will assist the Council in moving closer towards the Scottish Government Zero Waste Plan Target of 50% recycling in 2013
- Assist the Council in compliance with the Regulations in providing kerbside recycling to residents and commercial premises (a commercial service which requested of the Council, the Council can charge for).
- Assist the Council in improving collection efficiencies and costs ie. reduction in Council collection costs.

- 3.4 The Waste Strategy provides for an ongoing commitment to continue to work with Kintyre Recycling Ltd and Fyne Futures to enhance recycling services in the Kintyre and Bute areas respectively.

These groups will continue to provide the kerbside recycling collections into 14/15 and beyond, with the Council providing the mixed waste collections.

Currently both groups are working with the Council and Zero Waste Scotland (who are funding a study in to the most appropriate and affordable collection method for the groups in these areas) to inform their Business Plans for 2014/15 and beyond.

- 3.5 In Kintyre, Kintyre Recycling Ltd (KRL) will continue with kerbside recycling services from Whitehouse southwards and the Council will provide recycling collections in the Tarbert area with a blue bin provision similar to the rest of the Mid Argyll Council area .

A meeting attended by Kintyre Recycling and Council staff was held in April to discuss the planned Tarbert area changes plus other issues going forward e.g. Kintyre Recycling collections in Kintyre from 2014 onwards and potential future options for improved or new KRL recycling depot facilities.

From the April meeting KRL were asked to draft a Business Plan including recycling depot options in time for a further joint meeting planned on 14th June to discuss these issues.

Commercial Premises

- 3.6 The increase in household recycling provision in Mid Argyll will also allow the Council to offer an increased chargeable recycling service to commercial premises in line with the Zero Waste Regulations. Commercial premises taking up such a service would be in compliance with the Regulations and, potentially, this may save them money as Council recycling charges are cheaper than mixed waste collection fees.
- 3.7 For commercial mixed general waste collections, the Council will continue to operate some mainly commercial route only collection days offering at least a weekly service to commercial premises in the main towns and villages.

There will be some areas, eg. Kilberry, Ormsary, Ford, Croabh Haven, Ardfarn and Kilmelford, where it is not efficient for the Council to send on a weekly basis a separate mixed waste collection refuse vehicle and crew. Where this is the case the service offered will be in line with household collection frequencies ie. blue bin recycling one week then mixed waste bin the next plus in addition a commercial glass recycling service is also available. Highland Council also offer a service similar to this in the majority of The Highland Council area.

In some areas e.g. Tarbert, the current twice weekly mixed waste collection service offered will be reduced to once weekly but a blue bin recycling bin (consisting of paper, card, plastics and cans) collection in addition will be available plus the regular commercial glass recycling uplift.

- 3.8 For commercial premises therefore an increase in recycling collection materials will be available but some premises will see a reduction in the frequency of mixed waste uplifts that the Council can offer. Increased recycling collections, coupled with fewer mixed

waste uplifts, is in line with the direction of travel towards the Zero Waste Scotland objectives.

3.9 Implementation / Communications Plan

The Waste team (with some support from Zero Waste Scotland) have developed an implementation plan for phasing in the alternate weekly co-mingled collections in the areas covered by the Waste PPP contract. The timetable below sets out how this would be implemented but will be contingent on the time to complete the variation process with Shanks and the Project Funders.

A Gantt Chart for Mid Argyll showing the specific actions planned is attached in Appendix 1. A similar Gantt Chart for Oban and Lorn has also been produced as it is programmed to start on same date as Mid Argyll, with Cowal likely to commence early in 2014.

- 3.10 A communications plan has been developed and will be implemented to describe how Members, the public, the Council's recycling partners and other stakeholders will be kept informed of the service changes.

Indicative Timetable

- 3.11 The following sets out the proposed timetable for implementing the alternate weekly co-mingled collections.

Date	Work Stream	Action
05/06/13	MAKI Area Committee	Present progress update
12/06/13	OLI Area Committee	Present progress update
06/06/13 – 23/08/13	Community Councils in Oban, Lorn and Mid Argyll	Brief Community Councils in Mid Argyll and Oban and Lorn
06/06/13	Communications commence	Social media, press releases, website
05/08/13 – 23/08/13	Letters, recycling guide and calendar	New service information distributed to households in Mid Argyll, Oban and Lorn
02/09/13 – 20/09/13	Blue bins delivered	Blue recycling bins delivered to households without one
30/09/13	New service	New service commences in Mid Argyll, Oban and Lorn

4. CONCLUSION

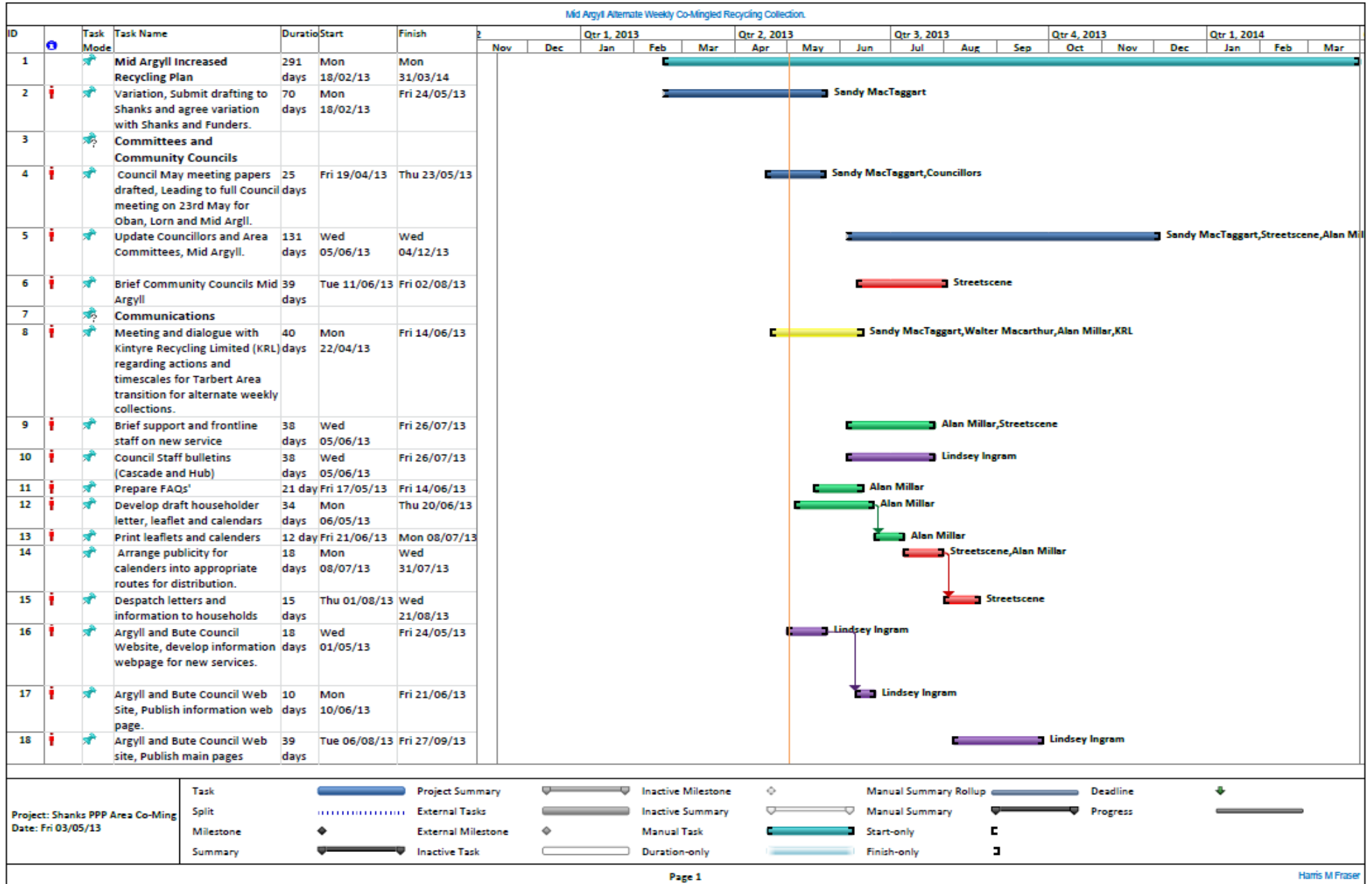
- 4.1 At its meeting on 25 October the Council approved the new Waste Management Strategy which is intended to bring the Council into compliance with the Waste (Scotland) Regulations 2012. This included details of how the introduction of alternate weekly waste collection, including co-mingled recycling, would be developed and implemented.
- 4.2 The Council are currently working towards the Indicative Timetable included in 3.11 and the Mid Argyll Gantt Chart included in Appendix 1 which subject to final negotiations being concluded with Shanks and their Funders should be achievable allowing increased recycling with alternate weekly collections to commence in Mid Argyll (and Oban/Lorn) in 2013.

5. IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 Policy - Implementation of co-mingled will enable the Council to meet its obligations under the Waste (Scotland) Regulations 2012
- 5.2 Financial - This proposal is likely to result in a one off additional cost for 2013/14 but this should be met from the proceeds of the waste PPP variations that are in practical effect. The overall impact on ongoing revenue budgets should, based on current assumptions, be broadly neutral.
- 5.3 Legal - The variation process is being pursued through the current arrangements in the Waste PPP contract.
- 5.4 HR - None at present
- 5.5 Equalities - None at present
- 5.6 Risk - This process carries financial and compliance risks in respect of meeting the Waste (Scotland) Regulations 2012 and implementing the process. These risks have been mitigated by preparing a case for co-mingled recycling which has been commented on favourably by Zero Waste Scotland. Development and Infrastructure are pursuing the variation on a project and risk management basis.

AJL Mactaggart
Executive Director Development & Infrastructure
5 June 2013

Appendix 1



Appendix 1

