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Item 8

3rd December 2020

Glasgow City Council

City Administration Committee

Report by Councillor Anna Richardson, City Convener for  
Sustainability and Carbon Reduction

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CIRCULAR ECONOMY ROUTE MAP FOR GLASGOW

**Purpose of Report:**

To present Committee with the Circular Economy Route Map for Glasgow and associated Action Plan.

**Recommendations:**

It is recommended that Committee:

- (a) notes Glasgow City Council's production of the Circular Economy Route Map for Glasgow and its associated Action Plan;
- (b) approves the Circular Economy Route Map for Glasgow and its associated Action Plan (attached).

Ward No(s):

Citywide: ✓

Local member(s) advised: Yes  No  consulted: Yes  No

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### 1. Introduction

- 1.1 Glasgow's Circular Economy Route Map puts sustainability firmly at its core using the three pillars: environment, economy and society, as core drivers for change.
- 1.2 The Route Map aims to guide a change in city-wide economic practices from the current linear system of the throwaway society. As a result, it addresses the need to move away from the "take-make-dispose" model to a circular system of quality, reuse and durability.
- 1.3 It is intended that the Route Map's ten year vision will enhance awareness of sustainable practices, promote a message of considered consumption and provide a challenge to the current wasteful consumerist practices that exist in society.
- 1.4 As a result of the wide reach of the circular economy, embracing this approach offers Glasgow a unique opportunity to:
  - Drive green economic growth.
  - Identify opportunities to help regenerate communities.
  - Reduce carbon emissions.
  - Encourage the growth of the sharing economy.
  - Support job creation and skills development.
  - Champion employment and career opportunities in renewables.
  - Develop and nurture local sustainable businesses.
  - Improve re-cycling and re-use practices.
  - Develop a more sustainable and circular public procurement strategy.
  - Contribute locally to more sustainable forms of global stewardship.
- 1.5 The Environment, Sustainability and Carbon Reduction City Policy Committee considered the Circular Economy Route Map and associated Action Plan on [6<sup>th</sup> October 2020](#) and agreed to recommend it to the Committee Administration Committee for approval.
- 1.6 The purpose of this report is to present the Circular Economy Route Map and associated Action Plan for consideration and approval.

### 2. Background

- 2.1 The Scottish Government have committed to introducing a Circular Economy Bill into legislation (currently delayed due to the Covid-19 pandemic). This will build upon their influential strategy document "[Making Things Last](#)" published in 2016. The Circular Economy Bill is an additional response to the variety of strategic measures being brought forward to tackle the Climate Emergency declared at both national and city level.
- 2.2 The recent Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change ([IPCC](#)) report and Glasgow City Council's subsequent declaration of a Climate and Ecological

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Emergency in 2019 has highlighted the urgency required to increasingly address our carbon emissions, and in particular, the need to rapidly transition from the hydrocarbon industry to a net-zero carbon future.

- 2.3 The Scottish Government has recently adopted a suite of challenging commitments which will greatly impact the current economic system:
- 70% reduction in all greenhouse gases by 2030.
  - Carbon-neutral by 2040 (Locally Glasgow has made the ambitious commitment to achieve carbon neutrality by 2030).
  - Net-zero emissions (all greenhouse gases) by 2045.
- 2.4 Building a resilient local low-carbon economy with strong circularity at its core can play a vital role in achieving these targets. However, this requires acknowledgement that systemic and transformational change is urgently required to realise the desired commitments both locally and nationally.
- 2.5 The circular economy principles are already a strong feature of the sustainable agenda in Glasgow and across Scotland. Circularity contributes to an enhanced quality of urban life and re-evaluates our relationship with, and perceptions of, materials and waste. This encourages:
- Changing from the linear system of ‘take-make-dispose’,
  - Cherishing and preserving valuable natural resources,
  - Lowering the amount of waste produced,
  - Finding value in waste that is produced,
  - Using materials repeatedly,
  - Recovering value from biological resources,
  - Recovering energy from waste and reducing landfill,
  - Building quality and circular principles into product design,
  - Reusing materials to make new products,
  - Reimagining the desire for ownership.
- 2.6 The principles of the circular economy clearly fit well with Glasgow’s own aims for the development of a more sustainable city and green business growth. Indeed, the city’s Economic Strategy commits to partnership working ‘*to develop a strong circular economy... becoming one of the world’s most sustainable cities.*’ In this light, the Council has collaborated with the Glasgow Chamber of Commerce and Zero Waste Scotland to develop this work. Throughout this process the Council has garnered opinion, advice and guidance from a wide range of stakeholders within the city to build a progressive and inclusive Route Map.
- 2.7 The Council has also worked with the influential global environmental charity, Ellen MacArthur Foundation, who have warmly welcomed the Route Map and provided advice and guidance to enhance the content. The Council has also worked with the internationally renowned Organisation for Economic Co-

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operation and Development (OECD) to expand knowledge and understanding of the positive role that the circular economy can play in transforming Glasgow.

- 2.8 Consultation work has been carried out with internal and external stakeholders and further capacity building is planned throughout the Council departments to raise awareness of the circular economy. The Route Map touches on various sectors within the wider Council family and highlights some of the positive changes that can create a new mindset and activate change based on sustainable thinking.
- 2.9 The City Council has developed the Route Map for Glasgow focused on developing a successful economy within the boundaries of considerate environmental stewardship and societal wellbeing. This vision promotes a circular economy that reduces and changes the way we consume, one that can value resources and support localised production. Through a shift to this new economic model, Glasgow can become a thriving centre for remanufacturing excellence, developing and embedding skills in our citizens to support this.
- 2.10 As a result, the Circular Economy Route Map presents a vision that emphasises the possibility of an economy based on fixing and sharing as a gateway to stimulate civic participation. A localised economy will help establish the “Liveable Neighbourhoods” vision within Glasgow. Where everything you need is accessible to you on a local scale, within a 20 minute walk from home. Local communities and business can be re-energised to enhance self-sufficiency, participate in a low carbon economy and build resilience as a necessary outcome of the response to the Covid-19 pandemic.
- 2.11 The building blocks of an economy constructed on circularity, namely eco-design, sharing and reuse, repair, and remanufacture can focus our actions and create a strong local economy in Glasgow. These actions can be a catalyst to open up business opportunities as well as empowering communities.
- 2.12 The Route Map is strongly supported by the national zero-waste agency, Zero Waste Scotland. Discussions are currently underway to create a formalised partnership between the City Council and Zero Waste Scotland which will further support the Council in the delivery of the Circular Route Map and Action Plan. Further partnership working is also being developed with London Waste and Recycling Board (LWARB) who are leading on best practice around circular construction, textiles and knowledge exchange.

### **3. Circular Action Plan**

- 3.1 The Route Map can be considered as the long term vision of the strategy with the associated Action Plan representing our current actions in pursuit of this vision. It is through this Action Plan that we will develop the basics of this strategy and unlock a lasting positive change for Glasgow.
- 3.2 It is important to note that circular actions will also play a significant role in our climate change agenda and therefore strongly support the city in its action to

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address the Climate and Ecological Emergency and a range of forthcoming strategies such as the Waste Strategy.

- 3.3 The Circular Economy Action plan presents thirty-one actions created to kick start circular action. This will take radical change. This will also take resource. We must collaborate with our city partners to action this work and seek suitable funding streams to further support the roll out of best practice.
- 3.4 The Circular Economy Action Plan is grouped into a broad range of themes including:
- Policy,
  - Planning,
  - Production,
  - People,
  - Private sector, and;
  - Public action.
- 3.5 A number of these actions provide a directly positive impact in relation to Glasgow's green recovery from the current covid-19 pandemic. These include:
- Creation of a sustainable charter for businesses to demonstrate their commitment towards creating a more sustainable business model.
  - Piloting action with regards to sustainable construction, enabling and providing more security of materials supply whilst reducing carbon emissions in any construction activity across the city.
  - Undertaking baseline waste audits to identify opportunities for reducing wasteful practices particularly in relation to packaging.
  - Working to unlock unused council assets to facilitate and support the startup of new local and community business with circular business models
  - Reskilling and Upskilling our Circular City (RUCC) programme that will work to identify key skills gaps which are required for a post-Covid-19 green recovery.
- 3.6 This two year action plan represents the next steps in creating a shift to a more circular economy and will be further refined as work continues.

## 4. Circular City Council

- 4.1 The Council acknowledges its responsibilities to lead and influence action to shape a circular and sustainable city economy. Whilst there is already good practice included in documents such as our Fleet Strategy which aims to refurbish and extend the life of vehicles, we will continue to do more. Some of the following key sectors within our Action Plan that will play a major role in making this change both possible and successful are;

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- **Education:** Tackling cultural norms that encompass consumption and embed a high level of awareness within our young citizens to enable them to make well informed choices and be a force for positive change.
- **Procurement:** To positively influence good practice through the power of the public pound. Building on the positive changes that our procurement process have already been promoting to ensure our sustainable desires align with internal requirements and influence those organisations we do business with, thereby effecting change in private enterprise too.
- **Planning:** Using our influence to facilitate transformative change in how the built environment is addressed in the future by promoting the concepts of deconstruction and reuse of valuable materials. Recognising the impact of both waste and carbon emissions from construction and demolition upon the city, identify measures to support more circular practices and create a better way of working and living for Glasgow.
- **Property:** Acknowledge that we can do more to make the most of our assets of property and land. Those assets that are currently under-utilised can be a catalyst for regenerative change and provide necessary facilities and amenities to activate community focused projects based on circular principles.

## 5. Conclusion

- 5.1 Embedding the Circular Economy will require a fundamental change in culture across every sector. Educating and influencing future generations about needs, consumption, exploitation and the value of precious natural resources is essential. This will take time and the actions being developed are designed to help facilitate that change. Many of these can help stimulate that Green Recovery that Glasgow seeks in the wake of the Covid-19 pandemic.
- 5.2 Rethinking the current economic model for Glasgow will ensure that sustainability is achievable. We must choose those new economic policies that best serve our collective purpose, represent our aims as the political and business leaders of the city, and reflect the key values we hold (such as those defined in the Glasgow City Charter). For the city to both survive and thrive it must meet the needs of our present citizens, support healthy and happy communities with quality spaces and a non-polluted environment.
- 5.3 It is with social inclusivity that we will ensure the success of any economic change. This Route Map is a vision to create a legacy for future generations that is both prosperous and beneficent. This new economic model places social justice, the environment and commerce at the very core of the Route Map.
- 5.4 The Ellen MacArthur Foundation has invited Glasgow to become one of the initial signatories to the European Circular Cities Declaration. This declaration has been developed in concert with ICLEI Europe, European Investment Bank (EIB) and EUROCITIES. The Ellen MacArthur Foundation believe the

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declaration could lead to furthering the advancement of the circular economy in Glasgow and would complement the Route Map.

### 6 Policy and Resource Implications

#### Resource Implications:

*Financial:* There will be a need for new or reassigned resources to be sought in support of the Route Map and Action Plan.

*Legal:* There are several areas where the Council seeks to acquire and/or exercise new or existing powers in support of its proposed action.

*Personnel:* There will be a need for new or reassigned staff resources to be sought in support of the proposed work emanating from the Route Map Action Plan.

*Procurement:* The Circular Economy Route Map will support a review of current procurement practices, specifically relating to sustainable and circular practices and the procuring of low carbon goods and services.

**Council Strategic Plan:** The proposed Route Map specifically relates to the themes and priorities of the Council Strategic Plan. In particular this supports;

- A resilient, growing and diverse city economy where businesses thrive.
- Inclusive economic growth and are involved in economic decision making through participatory budgeting.
- Employment opportunities and training.
- Business innovation and digital skills.
- The conditions to improve the manufacturing sector in the city and opportunities for small indigenous Glasgow businesses to thrive (3).
- Business start-ups, particularly in the most disadvantaged areas of the city by looking at changes to business rates and around concessionary rents guidance (3).
- Community benefit clauses to secure jobs and training opportunities for Glaswegians

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and Small businesses and look at ways that these clauses can be strengthened (4).

### **Equality and Socio-Economic Impacts:**

The proposed Route Map specifically supports positive action in relation to tackling inequalities and creating a positive socio-economic impact.

*Does the proposal support the Council's Equality Outcomes 2017-22*

Yes. This Circular Economy Route Map is generally supportive of the Council's equality outcomes, specifically 1. and 8.

1. An increased proportion of people with protected characteristics are supported to enter employment or training.

8. Service users with protected characteristics are provided with targeted, improved and more accessible information about the services provided by the Council Family.

*What are the potential equality impacts as a result of this report?*

Positive impact - an [EQIA screening](#) has been undertaken.

Climate Change impacts all of society, however this can disproportionately impact on those most vulnerable communities. We must ensure that our actions minimise the negative impacts that climate change has on our most vulnerable communities, while also maximising their ability to participate and benefit from our just transition to a circular city and a low carbon economy.

*Please highlight if the policy/proposal will help address socio economic disadvantage.*

The Circular Economy Route Map proposes a sustainability focused approach whereby the environment, commerce and society are considered fully with positive opportunities and outcomes sought in each aspect. The overarching theme throughout the Route Map is one of inclusion and justice in an effort to tackle the climate and ecological emergency while also bridging the gap on deep socio-economic and health inequalities in the city.

### **Sustainability Impacts:**

*Environmental:*

The Circular Economy Route Map seeks to enable the city to reduce its carbon emissions

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more rapidly and build resilience to the impacts of current and future climate change.

*Social, including opportunities under Article 20 of the European Public Procurement Directive:*

The proposals within the Route Map are strongly linked to equality and social justice, with implications for the Council's community empowerment agenda.

*Economic:*

The plan includes proposals for a Just Transition and greening the economic development agenda.

**Privacy and Data Protection impacts:**

No immediate impacts.

## 7. Recommendations

7.1 It is recommended that Committee:

- (a) notes Glasgow City Council's production of the Circular Economy Route Map for Glasgow and its associated Action Plan;
- (b) approves the Circular Economy Route Map for Glasgow and its associated Action Plan (attached).