



Glasgow City Council

**Net Zero and Climate Progress Monitoring
City Policy Committee**

**Report by Executive Director of Neighbourhoods, Regeneration and
Sustainability**

Contact: Gavin Slater

Ext: 78347

Item 1

19th September 2023

**Ellen MacArthur Foundation (EMF) Review of Glasgow Circular Economy
Routemap**

Purpose of Report:

To present the findings of the EMF review and propose how actions are embedded into Glasgow's Circular Economy Routemap.

Recommendations:

The Committee is asked to:

- 1) Note the contents of this report
- 2) Note the findings of the EMF review
- 3) Note the next steps outlined to embed actions within Glasgow's Circular Economy Routemap.

Ward No(s):

Citywide: ✓

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

1 Introduction

- 1.1 In December 2020, Glasgow City Council approved the Circular Economy Route Map and Action Plan which aims to guide a change in city-wide economic practices from the current extractive system towards a regenerative system. The Route Map addresses the need to move away from the “take-make-dispose” model to a circular system of quality, reuse and durability. The action plan focuses on how to deliver this across a range of stakeholders including the Council, private sector and civil society.
- 1.2 The Route Map’s ten-year vision is intended to 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 and were highlighted at the UN COP26 Climate Conference.
- 1.3 In a case study produced during COP26, the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) identified three main functions that the city should fulfil to deliver the conditions for a circular economy in Glasgow. These are:
 - to be a promoter of the different ideas and concepts around circularity.
 - to be an enabler of good practice, operating circularity both in organisational terms and in the services, projects, and products purchased on behalf of the city.
 - and, to facilitate initiatives where possible helping to activate and establish the circular economy whether in business or the community space.
- 1.4 A wide scale consultation was undertaken to identify stakeholders that would play a pivotal role in the development and implementation of the circular economy in the city. This was carried out in collaboration with the OECD, the Glasgow Chamber of Commerce and Zero Waste Scotland. Over 50 interviews were conducted throughout 2020. One of the key stakeholders identified was the Ellen MacArthur Foundation.
- 1.5 A review of the progress made within the Circular Economy Action Plan was presented to this committee in November 2022. This report can be found [here](#). The Circular Economy Action Plan contains a specific action to work with the Ellen MacArthur Foundation to make further progress:
 - Action 3: Continue to build on partnerships and alliances across the globe to strengthen progress towards a circular economy.

2. Ellen MacArthur Foundation

- 2.1 The City has an agreement with the [Ellen MacArthur Foundation](#) (EMF) to provide resources and support on 3 themes; construction, textiles and education. EMF are a non-profit organisation that creates evidence-based research on the benefits of a circular economy, and how it can contribute to solving global challenges like climate change and biodiversity loss. EMF work

with multiple stakeholders and sectors, and highlight examples of how circular economy principles are being put into practice today.

- 2.2 During the first quarter of 2023/24, EMF acted as a critical friend to Glasgow and conducted an evaluation on Glasgow's Circular Economy Routemap. The purpose of this evaluation was to build on the initial review by the OECD and refresh the findings. The EMF reflections are detailed below.

3. Ellen MacArthur Foundation Review findings

- 3.1 The evaluation assesses the Routemap and provides recommendations in 4 key areas: governance and commitment, stakeholders, baseline information and solutions. They have also highlighted some actions from within the Circular Economy Routemap to consider prioritising. Appendix 1 contains the full EMF findings.
- 3.2 The Governance arrangements for this area of work are determined to be pivotal to its progress. EMF therefore reviewed the main actors and the organisations that are leading on the core activities and believe that alongside Sustainability, Economic Development, Chamber of Commerce and Circular Glasgow play a pivotal role in the circular economy and are key to delivery of the process.
- 3.3 EMF propose an amendment to governance arrangements, which focus on the creation of a working group to deliver on the Circular Economy Action Plan. Core membership could include the Chamber of Commerce, Circular Glasgow, Economic Development, and Sustainability Team. The wider working group membership should include representation of GCC departments delivering specific CE action plan items.
- 3.4 EMF suggest that a stakeholder group could be convened to review and simplify the Circular Economy Action Plan. Alternatively, working groups of key stakeholders could be set up around priority value chains or outcomes to help scope, develop and align to targeted activity plans for the city. The Sustainable Glasgow Green Economy and Private Sector Hub already contains many of the aforementioned organisations and could be well placed to take more of a role in elements of the Circular Economy.
- 3.5 In terms of Baseline information, EMF suggest that the city could develop a simple dashboard of known data and features on the economy, material production, consumption, and waste in the city. In addition, quantifying the number of circular activities already underway in the city, as well as existing targets or commitments Glasgow has made.
- 3.6 Finally, to ensure that the Circular Economy action plan is deliverable there is a need to update the action plan to focus on fewer, more tangible actions through closer programme management. Actions should be restructured around no more than 3-4 specific focus areas, which could be a mix of value

chains e.g. construction or food, and cross-cutting themes e.g. tourism, skills or procurement.

- 3.7 The underlying message is the need to adjust the governance of the Circular Economy Routemap to ensure that it is as actionable as possible. This mirrors the current Glasgow strategic priorities to ensure we are addressing the need for action across all climate activity.
- 3.8 Alongside refining the Circular Economy Action Plan as a whole, EMF highlighted that the following existing actions could be prioritised as soon as possible to support the shift towards seeing action on the ground. These actions will be reported on to Committee as part of our annual report on the Circular Economy Routemap:
- Action 1: A city sustainability and circular charter - this could be the basis for a focus area on business engagement and delivered in partnership with the Chamber. Initial discussions have been progressed with partners from across the Sustainable Glasgow Partnership to look to incorporate principles of circularity into the existing Sustainable Glasgow Charter within 2024.
 - Action 2: Monitoring and evaluation - establishing a clear baseline using currently available data and qualitative information to inform new actions, set coherent targets and track progress in a meaningful way. This is planned as part of the review of the Circular Economy action plan in 2024.
 - Actions 4,5,6,7: Construction forum - using existing networks to build capacity in the sector, identify demo projects in the city and inform the next city plan to ensure it incentivises circular economy design through planning criteria, development audits and a materials marketplace. Work has been undertaken with the support of Re-London to scope the format and operation of the forum. An initial meeting was also held with Industry and city Stakeholders in early 2023. There are plans to develop the Forum further in 2024.
 - Action 23/24: Review existing internal sustainable procurement working group and work to undertake a baseline mapping exercise of sustainable procurement activity across the council. A review of the sustainable working group will be actioned in 2024. The new Sustainable Procurement Strategy 2023-27 has a strong focus on measuring carbon and scope 3 emissions. Within this, Objective 1 is to explore how the Council can reduce our carbon emissions within our supply chain regarding scope 1,2,and 3 emissions. Additional work is underway by Scottish Government to support the development of advice on baseline mapping tools for local authorities to review in 2024.
- 3.9 EMF also undertook a review of the *Sustainable Glasgow Charter* and recommend using the charter to collect data and drive minimum practices on food, buildings, mobility and consumer goods; through co-creation with a group

of Glasgow businesses or signatories. Overall, it is felt that the charter has huge potential to drive action, gain insights and inform new policy.

4. Next Steps

- 4.1 The Council will consider the recommendations of the review and look to implement those elements that will support increased development of a Circular Economy in Glasgow. This will include working with Sustainable Glasgow to enhance its contribution to a Circular Economy where possible.
- 4.2 The Council will continue to work with the Ellen MacArthur Foundation, Carbon Neutral Cities Alliance, Zero Waste Scotland to embed good practice in GCC strategy and policy; and share peer learning with the working group.

5. Policy and Resource Implications

Resource Implications:

<i>Financial:</i>	There are no direct financial implications arising from the report
<i>Legal:</i>	There are no direct legal implications arising from the report
<i>Personnel:</i>	GCC Sustainability and a wide range of internal colleagues will continue to have involvement in the project delivery.
<i>Procurement:</i>	There are no direct procurement implications arising from the report

Council Strategic Plan: Contributes to Grand Challenges 1,2, 3 and 4.

- Reduced poverty and inequality in our communities by embedding circular practices and values.
- Increase opportunity and prosperity for all our citizens through circular and green economies.
- Fight the climate emergency in a just transition to a net zero Glasgow by reducing consumption and waste.
- Enable staff to deliver essential services in a sustainable, innovative and efficient

way for our communities by embedding circular policies.

Equality and Socio-Economic Impacts:

Does the proposal support the Council's Equality Outcomes 2021-25? Please specify.

The Circular Economy Route map specifically supports positive action in relation to tackling inequalities and creating a positive socio-economic impact through the promotion of Circular Practices.

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

A positive impact - an EQIA screening has been undertaken on the Circular Economy Route map. 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.

Through taking action towards becoming a Circular City it is envisaged that socio-economic disadvantage would reduce through changing our reliance on a take-make-dispose model to a regenerative economy.

Climate Impacts:

Does the proposal support any Climate Plan actions? Please specify:

The project supports the following Climate Plan actions directly; Action 6, Net Zero City plan; Action 11 Just Transition; Action 40 Circular Economy Route map; Action 43 Recycling Strategy and Action 59, Circular Economy.

What are the potential climate impacts as a result of this proposal?

Accelerating our pathways to a circular city and low carbon economy will result in a reduction in overall levels of consumption, reduce our use of primary materials and support nature regeneration.

Will the proposal contribute to Glasgow's net zero carbon target?

The Circular Economy Route Map seeks to enable the city to reduce its carbon emissions more rapidly and build resilience to the impacts of current and future climate change.

**Privacy and Data
Protection Impacts:**

Are there any potential data protection impacts as a result of this report
Y/N

If Yes, please confirm that a Data Protection Impact Assessment (DPIA) has been carried out N/A

6 Recommendations

The Committee is asked to:

- 1) Note the contents of this report.
- 2) Note the findings of the EMF review.
- 3) Note the next steps outlined to embed actions within Glasgow’s Circular Economy Routemap.

Appendix 1:

Ellen MacArthur Foundation findings

Key Area	Recommendation	GCC Response
Governance and Commitment	Establish an internal working group to coordinate circular economy activities across the City Council. These working groups typically include representatives from key departments to ensure new strategies, plans or policies fully consider the circular economy as a solutions framework. The working group can help refine a set of key short- and medium-term actions towards the city realising its vision to be circular by 2045.	Agree
Stakeholders	Key stakeholder organisations and contact points should be mapped - both internal within the City Council, and external among public institutions and private sector organisations. The Council could consider establishing an interim advisory board to oversee and validate a simpler action plan. Alternatively working groups of	Agree: discussion required on how best to proceed at the initial working group outlined above.

	key stakeholders could be set up around priority value chains or outcomes to help scope, develop and align to targeted activity plans for the city.	
Baseline	<p>While work appears to be underway with Zero Waste Scotland, the city could develop a simple dashboard of known data and features on the economy, material production, consumption, and waste in the city. In addition, quantifying the number of circular activities already underway in the city within different value chains, as well as listing in a table existing targets or commitments Glasgow has made, may be productive. This dashboard can be simplified or refined over time. Alternatively, the city could build an aspirational theory of change to help prioritise actions. Meanwhile the city could clarify the key material streams and cross-cutting initiatives they wish to prioritise, like repair and remanufacturing.</p>	Agree to include this as an action to be completed by September 2024 and linked into our Climate Plan Project Management Office.
Solutions and programme management	<p>There is a need to update the action plan to focus on fewer, more tangible actions. In the first instance, the city could identify the status of each activity, clarifying a single action owner. Actions which have no fixed owner, no committed funding, or are unlikely to directly affect how materials flow through the city, should be dropped. Remaining actions should be restructured around no more than 3-4 specific focus areas, which could be a mix of</p>	Agree – discuss at initial working group.

	<p>value chains e.g. construction or food, and cross-cutting themes e.g. tourism, skills, procurement or business engagement. Additional focus areas could be added but depend on capacity within the City Council and other core partners. All focus areas should define a working vision or intended outcome that supports the city's high-level vision. Any revised action plan to 2024/25 should be fed into and validated by a form of working group as recommended above.</p>	
--	---	--