

Item 4

26th November 2014



Glasgow City Council

**Sustainability and the Environment Policy Development Committee
26 November 2014**

Report by Executive Director of Land & Environmental Services

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ENVIRONMENTAL BUSINESS AWARDS

Purpose of Report:

The purpose of this report is to inform Committee of the Environmental Business Awards over the Commonwealth Games period and their ambitions for this programme during the 2015 Green Year.

Recommendations:

It is recommended, therefore, that Committee agrees to note the report and the plans to progress this scheme further in 2015.

Ward No(s):

Citywide: ✓

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

1. Introduction

- 1.1 The Environmental Business Awards (EBA) scheme was introduced in 2009. It looks to acknowledge and recognise businesses within Glasgow which demonstrate commitment to compliance with environmental legislation and which exceed legal requirements.
- 1.2 The scheme considers a wide range of green issues, together with regulatory Environmental Health and Trading Standards ones. It looks at areas such as waste management, sustainability, public health, food safety and nutrition and workplace health and safety.
- 1.3 When an application is received, Council assessors visit the business and carry out a detailed assessment. The results of the assessment are provided to an assessment panel consisting of representatives from Land and Environmental Services and Corporate Procurement and an award level agreed, if appropriate. The award levels are bronze, silver and gold.

2. 2014 Commonwealth Games

- 2.1 For the period of Glasgow's Commonwealth Games, it was agreed that all official Commonwealth Games accommodation providers would be required to have environmental accreditation for their premises. The Council's EBA scheme was included as an appropriate environmental accreditation, alongside other similar awards - such as the established Green Tourism Scheme through Visit Scotland.
- 2.2 The Greener Glasgow Tourism Working Group, a multi-stakeholder group led by Visit Scotland, had responsibility for monitoring and collating the data on progress to meeting this challenging target. Visit Scotland provided regular updates to this group during 2013/14 on progress, with the aim of getting all providers accredited in time for the Games.
- 2.3 The project was able to announce a major success shortly before the Games commenced. The last two of 55 Games accommodation providers in the city were given their accreditation by the Leader of the Council at an event in the Lighthouse on 14 July. This meant that 100% of Games family accommodation providers had been through an environmental scheme or hold a relevant environmental accreditation.
- 2.4 As a result of this success, and since the EBA scheme's inception, 28 businesses have applied for an award and 26 have been successful. The breakdown of awards consists of the following:
 - Gold – 9 awards.
 - Silver – 11 awards.
 - Bronze – 6 awards.

3. 2015 Green Year / Future Actions

- 3.1 The EBA scheme will be further promoted as a key element that engages with the local business sector for Glasgow's Green Year in 2015. The target for achieving progress and for developing the awards scheme is to contact a further 50 businesses across 2015.
- 3.2 A major part of the 2015 work will be to encourage all Glasgow sporting and cultural venues to hold some environmental accreditation. Venue operators will be advised to apply to the EBA scheme and will be assisted, if required, to meet the standards.
- 3.3 Partners will also continue to seek to ensure that Glasgow is at the forefront of sustainable tourism. Following the success of the accreditation scheme for Games accommodation providers, the city will next look to support the environmental aspects of the wider tourism sector, including visitor attractions, venues and the diverse range of restaurants and cafés throughout Glasgow. The city will take part in a European tourism pilot project, which will start to benchmark Glasgow as a sustainable destination against other European destinations. This will allow Glasgow both to identify where it can improve and share its good practice with others.

4. Policy and Resource Implications

Resource Implications:

Financial: None

Legal: None

Personnel: None

Procurement: None

Council Strategic Plan: This work supports the Council's aim to be one of the most sustainable cities in Europe.

Equality Impacts:

EQIA carried out: No

Outcome:

Sustainability Impacts:

Environmental: The EBA scheme encourages all business applicants to recognise their role in maintaining environmental sustainability.

Social: The EBA scheme encourages all business applicants to recognise their role and responsibilities within their local communities.

Economic: The EBA scheme encourages all business applicants to recognise that addressing or supporting positive action on sustainability issues can have beneficial impacts on their business.

5. Recommendations

- 5.1 It is recommended, therefore, that Committee agrees to note the report and the plans to progress this scheme further in 2015.