

## Item 9 - Question Time

To the Chair of the Community Services Committee

Please provide a current, accurate assessment of how our Recycling is getting on in Highland, identifying targets that were agreed and whether or not these are being achieved, giving reasons.”

### Response to Mr C Fraser

The Council has continued to make steady progress over the years within a very challenging funding environment. The household recycling rate in 2014 was just over 46% (Scotland’s rate for the same period was 42.8%). Compared to our family group of Councils (rural) we recorded the second highest rate behind Perth & Kinross.

The Council’s legislative requirement is to meet the terms of the Waste (Scotland) Regulations 2012 with regard to the types of material we collect and it is our belief that we meet the terms of the regulations.

We have recently embarked on a project to add materials (plastic pots, tubs, and trays, aerosols, tetrapaks, envelopes) to the blue bins. We now offer to collect the bulk of packaging waste that households produce.

Members may also be interested to be made aware of an initiative by the Scottish Government and CoSLA. The Government is keen to see an improvement in recycling rates and greater consistency across Scotland. Councils will be invited to sign up to a voluntary Charter which it is hoped will lead to improvements. It will be supported by a Code of Practice which is in preparation at the present time and will seek to define good practice and improve consistency in messaging and collections across Scotland.

The previous Council Administration set a target of 57% recycling by 2017.

The Scottish Government set itself (Scotland) targets:

2010	40%
2013	50% (household waste)
2020	60% (household waste)
2025	70% (all waste)