

<b>Title of Report:</b>  Membership of Zero Waste Europe	<b>Officer Presenting:</b>  Head of Environment  <b>Author:</b>  Head of Environment
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## **1 Purpose of Report/Recommendations**

- 1.1 To seek Members endorsement with regard to applying for membership of the Zero Waste Europe network.

## **2 Background**

- 2.1 Members will be aware that Council has previously approved the adoption of a Circular Economy / Zero Waste strategy.
- 2.1 The Strategy sets out the key actions required to move Council towards a Circular Economy / Zero Waste region by initiating sustainable waste management practices whilst at the same time creating economic activity by linking job creation to better resource / waste avoidance, recovery and treatments.

## **3 Key Issues**

- 3.1 One key element within the strategy relates to the achieving zero waste status and adopting sustainable waste management practices as a city and region.
- 3.2 A key part of this process will be engagement with other municipalities who have adopted a similar position and have begun the process of transforming their respective areas into zero waste communities.
- 3.3 In consideration of the above a network of communities across Europe have come together to establish the Zero Waste Europe network where learning and experiences are shared.
- 3.4 Zero Waste Europe have developed a Masterplan that incorporates a toolkit and a set of roadmaps setting out the actions that communities should take in order to achieve zero waste status. Further and detailed information on the Masterplan can be found by using the following link: <https://zerowastecities.eu/masterplan>

- 3.5 Membership of the network is not dependant on having achieved zero waste status. It is a demonstration of a communities' commitment of moving towards achieving that goal through a series of actions and plans as set out in the Masterplan and associated documentation.
- 3.6 Having reviewed the detail contained with the Masterplan the actions taken by Council to date are consistent with the objectives as set out in the roadmap and demonstrate the clear direction of travel that Council have committed to with regard to zero waste status.
- 3.7 Should Members endorse the recommendations the officer team will submit a formal application to Zero Waste Europe for membership.

#### **4 Financial, Equality, Legal, HR, Improvement, Rural Needs and other Implications**

- 4.1 An annual membership contribution of circa €500 is required and this can be sourced from within existing department budgets.
- 4.2 There are no other Financial, Equality, Legal, HR, Improvement, Rural Needs and other Implications associated with this item at present.

#### **5 Recommendations**

- 5.1 Members' comments and recommendations are invited with regard to the above.

#### **Background Papers**