

## SERVICE UPDATE

<b><u>Name of Function:</u></b>	Operations, Waste & Recycling Service
<b><u>Date:</u></b>	02/05/23
<b><u>Title of Update:</u></b>	Altens East Recycling & Resource Facility Fire Update
<b><u>Report Author:</u></b>	Pam Walker, Waste & Recycling Manager
<b><u>Chief Officer:</u></b>	Mark Reilly, Chief Officer, Operations & Protective Services
<b><u>Contact Details:</u></b>	PWalker@aberdeencity.gov.uk

### **UPDATE**

The purpose of this briefing is to provide an update to the Committee members on the contingency arrangements and the rebuild progress following the fire at Altens East Recycling & Resource Facility on 8<sup>th</sup> July 2022.

#### **1.0 Background**

The Council's Altens East Recycling & Resource Facility was severely damaged due to a serious fire over the weekend of 8th July 2022.

The fire resulted in the entire facility being out of use since that date and all Council operations were relocated that same weekend.

The Altens facility is owned by Aberdeen City Council, and contained the Materials Recycling Facility (MRF) and Refuse Derived Fuel facility (RDF) which are operated by SUEZ as part of the waste management services contract, as well as the depot facility for the ACC collection service and office accommodation for both the Council and SUEZ.

Work has been ongoing on the recovery from this event and the continued management of the contingency operations since July, and a Service Update was last provided in March 2023.

#### **2.0 Contingency Arrangements**

##### **2.1 ACC Waste & Recycling Service**

On 13 March 2023 the waste and recycling collection service moved out of Kittybrewster depot back to Altens East and the collection service has now resumed operations from there.

Significant work has been done to enable the service to relocate to Altens and temporary accommodation in the form of portacabins providing office space, PPE storage space, canteen/muster area, changing/locker facilities and toilets/showers have been installed.

These cabins are located within the lorry park area of the site. The buildings and staff parking areas remain out of commission. A new staff parking area has been created and this aspect has been challenging due to space limitations, however the team have worked well within these constraints and the site is now operating satisfactorily.

Mains water is now connected but the power supply is still not restored and the portacabin facilities are powered by generators.

Attached are some pictures to illustrate these new temporary arrangements (Appendix 1).

The remaining office/support staff continue to have access to desk space at Marischal College and Kittybrewster, or are working from home. The Service Manager remains based at Kittybrewster.

## 2.2 Recycling Treatment Services (SUEZ)

The arrangement for a local contractor to accept the mixed recyclables that previously were sorted for recycling at Altens has now ceased.

The recyclables continue to be sorted at a facility in Hartlepool. However, the local transfer arrangement has changed and SUEZ have secured a lease for a waste transfer station in East Tullis Industrial Estate. With effect from 3 April 2023 all mixed recyclables collected by ACC are now being delivered to this site for bulking and onward transfer to Hartlepool.

This is a positive step and brings this material back under the control of SUEZ and is a more convenient location for tipping.

## 2.3 Altens MRF/RDF Rebuild and Repair

Demolition of the MRF building (north end of the large shed) is now complete. Work is ongoing to establish the condition of the site foundations with a view to understanding the future rebuild requirements of the structure. See Appendix 2 for some recent photographs of the site.

Work is ongoing to progress the replacement MRF equipment and a preferred bidder has now been appointed by SUEZ. Discussions are ongoing to develop the final design and layout for the MRF equipment.

SUEZ have now submitted the planning application which is required to enable the rebuild work. This application covers the rebuild of the MRF building and the office building.

The RDF building (southern end of the large shed) remains standing and is also still undergoing further surveys to determine what will be required to repair the building.

A building warrant application will also shortly be submitted for the RDF shed repair/refurbishment works.

#### 2.4 Office Building

The office building is now completely detached from the MRF building and is also subject to ongoing structural survey works to determine its final outcome. It is hoped that a decision will be made on this within the next few weeks.

Pam Walker  
Waste & Recycling Manager

## Appendix 1 – Altens Temporary Facilities

Looking north, portacabins and collection fleet in background.



Looking south. Temporary staff parking area.



## Appendix 2

Altens Materials Recovery Facility following demolition, edge of office building (remains standing) just in right side of photo – April 2023

