

ABERDEEN CITY COUNCIL

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COMMITTEE	Zero Waste Management Sub-Committee
DATE	15 February 2012
DIRECTOR	Pete Leonard
TITLE OF REPORT	Grove Nursery Recycling Centre – Next Steps
REPORT NUMBER	ZWM/12/003

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**1. PURPOSE OF REPORT**

To inform Members of the next steps in the development of the Recycling Centre at Grove Nursery, Hazlehead following the Development Management Sub-Committee's decision of 12<sup>th</sup> January 2012 to approve, subject to conditions, the planning application from SITA UK.

**2. RECOMMENDATION**

That the sub-committee:-

- i) Notes the contents of the report

**3. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

The development and operation of a new Recycling Centre for the west of the city is to be included in a variation to services provided through the Waste Management Services Contract. The capital cost of the site will be incurred by the (WMSC) Contractor, SITA UK Limited with the cost re-charged through a gate fee for services over the remaining term of the contract (up to September 2025). There will be some increased operational costs, mainly through labour and utilities costs but there will a substantial reduction in the tonnage of waste from Recycling Centres sent to landfill both at this site but also others where recycling rates will increase as a result of reduced congestion. It is estimated that in 2013/14 a reduction of £150,000 in landfill tax charges will be achieved when the new site achieves a recycling rate of more than 70% in comparison to the existing city average of 41%.

**4. OTHER IMPLICATIONS**

None from this report.

**5. BACKGROUND/MAIN ISSUES**

At its meeting of 13<sup>th</sup> April 2010, the Housing and Environment Committee approved the designation of the north west corner of the Grove Nursery as the preferred site for a west of city Recycling Centre. Following this decision, SITA UK prepared and submitted a planning application in August 2011 to develop a Recycling Centre on this site. The Development Management Sub-Committee approved the application, subject to conditions, on the 12<sup>th</sup> January 2012 following a site visit and Departure hearing both held on 22<sup>nd</sup> November 2011.

### Next Steps

#### 1. Address Planning requirements.

Planning approval for the development is subject to a number of conditions including:

- Preparation of a Noise Mitigation Plan
- Location of a zebra crossing on Hazlehead Avenue
- Restoration of the dry-stone wall along the western boundary

In addition, there are a number of operational conditions relating to opening hours, HGV access routes and noise levels.

SITA UK is working to meet the requirements of the planning approval in consultation with the relevant Council departments including Environmental Health (Noise mitigation plan) and Highways (Zebra Crossing).

#### 2. Engineering Design and Preparation of Tender Documents.

SITA is working with its design contractor to finalise the engineering/design plans for the site to ensure compliance with the planning conditions and in preparation for a tender process for the development works. A contract for developing the site will be awarded by SITA UK following the tender process and in consultation with the Council's Waste and Recycling Service.

#### 3. Agreement of Commercial Terms between Aberdeen City Council and SITA UK Limited.

Prior to development of the site, the Council will negotiate a variation to the existing Waste Management Services Contract (WMSC) between SITA UK Limited and Aberdeen City Council to cover the development of the site and its subsequent operation. The capital cost of the development will be incurred by the SITA UK Limited with the cost re-charged through an amended gate fee for services over the remaining term of the contract (up to September 2025). The variation process will be undertaken by officers with legal and technical support and will include a best-value and affordability assessment.

#### 4. Regulatory Approvals

An application for a site Waste Management Licence will be submitted to SEPA by SITA UK Limited; this must be granted before the site becomes operational. The Waste Management Licence will impose requirements on the operator to prevent odour, vermin and litter release and before it is issued SEPA will require the site to be sealed with an impermeable base to ensure the prevention of run-off and Sustainable Urban Drainage System (SUDS) compliant drainage.

#### 5. Community Engagement

Throughout the design and build process, the Council and SITA UK will continue to engage with the community Liaison Group to minimise the impact of the site on local amenity. The Liaison Group was originally set up following the decision by the Housing and Environment Committee to select the Grove Nursery as the preferred site for a west of city Recycling Centre. Invitees include: Ward Members, Craigiebuckler and Seafield Community Council, local schools, parents' councils.

It is anticipated that the site will open to the public in Spring 2013.

#### 6. **IMPACT**

Adverse environmental impacts of landfilling waste will be reduced through the early implementation of actions

This project supports the Council's Single Outcome Agreement to meet National Outcome 14 "we reduce the local and global environmental impact of our consumption and production".

The provision of an additional Recycling Centre accessible for residents in the west of the city will significantly improve services for the management of bulky and recyclable wastes. The new facility will also act to ease congestion problem sat the existing Recycling Centres, thereby improving services at those sites.

#### 7. **BACKGROUND PAPERS**

None

#### 8. **REPORT AUTHOR DETAILS**

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