

ABERDEEN CITY COUNCIL

COMMITTEE: **Zero Waste Management Sub-Committee**

DATE: **18 June 2014**

DIRECTOR: **Pete Leonard**

TITLE OF REPORT: **Zero Waste Project Update**

REPORT NUMBER: **ZWM/14/049**

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

The report provides an update on the Zero Waste Project.

2. RECOMMENDATION

That the Sub-committee:

- i. Notes progress made to date
- ii. Notes that an additional ZWMSC meeting may be scheduled in August/September 2014 to receive a further progress report and recommendations.

3. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are financial implications arising from the acquisition of the ransom strip adjacent to Altens OP70 site, estimated to be £500,000 including legal and agents' costs; these are included in the capital plan, Zero Waste Project allocation.

4. OTHER IMPLICATIONS

Legal: The internal Legal Team is supporting this Project along with specialist external advisors.

Resource: The Asset, Finance, Waste and Recycling and Energy Teams have input into the project. All are operating within existing budget allocations. Input from each team will vary over time.

Personnel: none from this report.

Environment and Sustainability. The facilities to be developed under the Zero Waste Project will significantly reduce the carbon impact of

the Council's and householders' activities. Increased recycling and low landfill will be achieved once all services and facilities are developed.

According to SITA's latest programme, the earliest that processing activity is likely to start on the new site at Altens is August 2016 for residual waste (RDF) and February 2017 for co-mingled recyclables (MRF) and the Waste Collection Depot.

5. BACKGROUND/MAIN ISSUES

5.1 SITA Variation

General Progress

- 5.1.1 Good progress has been maintained by SITA and a number formal negotiation meetings have been held.

SITA presented their initial formal proposals to the Council on 20th February 2014 and further iterations have been submitted since then.

Technical proposals

- 5.1.2 SITA's technical proposals for RDF preparation and the MRF have been reviewed by AMEC (the Council's technical advisors) and have been approved, insofar as the technical design is capable of delivering the performance required by the Council.

Preparation Work for Planning Application

- 5.1.3 SITA has commenced preparation work for a planning application relating to the Altens East site. This will include pre-application consultation activities with the local community. Undertaking this work now will ensure early delivery of the facilities and new collection services.

Programme

- 5.1.4 SITA have provided an outline construction programme that shows construction work starting on the Altens site around midsummer 2015, with the RDF opening in mid-2016 and MRF and Depot in early 2017.

5.2 EfW Business Case

- 5.2.1 As anticipated, no further work has been done on the energy-from-waste (EfW) business case review since the report to the Sub-committee meeting on 4th December 2013.

5.3 Local Development Plan – Sites for Waste Infrastructure

- 5.4.1 The Waste and Recycling Service made a response to the Local Development Plan Main Issues Consultation as instructed by Sub-committee indicating the need for sites to be identified for a new HWRC site in the Bridge of Don area and an Energy from waste facility within the city boundary.

Colleagues in the Planning service are now coordinating a site selection process in advance of presenting a Proposed Local Development Plan to E,P&I Committee in November 2014.

5.5 Other Zero Waste Project Activity

Food Waste Collections

- 5.5.1 Phases 1 and 2 of the Food Waste Collection Service are now complete with 16,000 households now having a communal food waste collection. Phase 3 has now commenced and this will focus on social housing areas where the food and garden waste service is not provided.

Mixed Recycling Pilot in Powis, Sunnybank and Sandilands areas.

- 5.5.2 The first household mixed recycling collection service will commence in the Powis area in early-July 2014. The new service will allow householders to dispose of paper, card, glass, metal cans, aerosols, plastic bottles, pots, tubs and trays. This project will also involve the conversion of general waste collection from individual wheeled bins to communal collections. This is being undertaken in response to requests from the community to change collection method and with extensive support from the Residents' Association.

Existing paper and cardboard recycling collections will be converted to mixed recycling in the Sunnybank and Sandilands areas as well.

6. IMPACT

Corporate - The development of alternatives to landfill and enhanced recycling will help Aberdeen move to become a Zero Waste City - a key action within the Smarter Environment – Natural Resources Strategic Priority of the Five Year Business Plan.

Public - The Zero Waste Project will enable the council to provide recycling facilities to all Aberdeen residents with those in multi-occupancy areas being able to recycle their waste just as easily as using refuse facilities. In addition, more materials will be able to be recycled including plastic pots, tubs and trays and waxed beverage containers.

Any development of waste infrastructure attracts interest from local communities, often centred on nuisance issues such as noise, odour,

vermin and traffic. The Waste and Recycling Service maintains good communications with many community councils and other community groups across the city and will continue to explain the need for new facilities and provide information on their likely impacts and benefits for the city and local communities.

7. MANAGEMENT OF RISK

Risk 1	Category	Cause	Impact
Delay or failure to deliver waste management infrastructure	Hazard	Failure to agree terms with Waste Management Services Contractor	Severe - the Council would have to potentially terminate current contract and re-procure or re-profile the service specification and negotiate an alternative solution. Either option would significantly delay the delivery of infrastructure and services
Controls	Risk Class	Further planned actions	mitigating
Robust Project management systems and renegotiation process that will ensure a best value solution is achieved	Business, Financial and Legal	Ensure all potential options are explored with contractor to obtain best value solution	
Risk 2	Category	Cause	Impact

Failure to identify sites for waste management infrastructure in Local Development Plan	Hazard	Site or sites nominated in Proposed Local Development Plan are not accepted by members	Severe - the Council would not achieve a long term, best value and sustainable solution for waste management, leading to higher cost and risk of failure to comply with statutory duties to provide recycling and food waste collections
Controls	Risk Class	Further planned mitigating actions	
Main Issue report identifies that Council will nominate site(s). Close working with Planning Service to undertake rigorous options assessment	Business, Financial and Legal	Continued information sharing with members and stakeholders to ensure context for decision making is understood. Ensure a positive case is made for energy from waste that demonstrates the wider benefits to the community from district heating	

8. BACKGROUND PAPERS

None

9. REPORT AUTHOR DETAILS

Peter Lawrence
Waste and Recycling Manager
Email: plawrence@aberdeencity.gov.uk
Tel: 01224 489331