

ABERDEEN CITY COUNCIL

COMMITTEE	Zero Waste Management Sub Committee
DATE	21 February 2017
DIRECTOR	Pete Leonard
TITLE OF REPORT	Zero Waste Project – Mixed Recycling Update
REPORT NUMBER	ZWMC/17/7683
CHECKLIST COMPLETED	Yes

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

The purpose of this report is to provide an update on the progress of the Mixed Recycling elements of the Zero Waste Project.

2. RECOMMENDATION

1. That the Zero Waste Management Sub-Committee notes the report.

3. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

None from this report.

4. OTHER IMPLICATIONS

Legal. The Council has a legal duty to make provision for the management of municipal waste under the Waste (Scotland) Regulations 2012 and the Environmental Protection Act (1990).

Personnel. The project is delivered by staff from within the Waste and Recycling Service with assistance from asset management, finance and legal services. Moving from a kerbside sort recycling system to wheeled bins will reduce Health and Safety hazards associated with manual handling.

Sustainability and environmental. The development of Materials Recycling Facility in the city will substantially reduce the environmental impact of landfilling waste and provide local employment opportunities.

5. BACKGROUND/MAIN ISSUES

5.1 Altens East Development

- 5.1.1 Construction. The construction of the combined Materials Recycling Facility (MRF), the Refuse Derived Fuel (RDF) Facility, associated offices and a new Council Waste Collection Service Depot remains on programme for commission of the MRF to start in early-April 2017. The main elements of the building construction are complete as are the two main areas of concrete (the apron outside the MRF/RDF and the Depot LGV parking).
- 5.1.2 The remaining areas of civils construction relate to road construction, installation of drainage systems and landscaping along the southern boundary of the site; this work is underway and the main contractor is confident that the civils programme will be delivered within the overall project programme.
- 5.1.3 There has been a rescheduling of works on site which has resulted in temporary access arrangements to the site; these will restrict access to some degree until May 2017 but will not hamper access for construction vehicles. All building and external construction works and landscaping will be complete by end-May 2017.
- 5.1.2 Bulk Handling Systems (BHS), the manufacturer of the MRF and RDF equipment have built most of the elements of the internal plant and have commenced installation on site. Fire suppression equipment is now being installed under the processing equipment as part of the extensive Fire Prevention Plan included in the design.
- 5.1.3 The Office building is now weather tight and internal work underway. It is anticipated that the Office fit out will be complete by the end of February.
- 5.1.5 A recent photographs are included at Appendix 1.

5.2 Depot Move

- 5.2.1 Following the re-scheduling of civils works outlined above, the Project Team has reviewed the timing of transfer to the office and depot facilities at Altens East. As a result, the move has been changed to late-May/early-June. The reasons for this are that there is current no immediate need to move from Kittybrewster as proposed works connected to the Berryden Corridor enhancement affecting the current depot will not happen until after the summer. In addition by staying at Kittybrewster we reduce the risk of adverse impacts on the collection services by the interim access arrangement.
- 5.2.2 Staff engagement continues in the run-up to moving to Altens with arrangements being put in place to either enhance the

service bus that runs into Altens Industrial Estate or providing a dedicated bus service to/from Kittybrewster.

5.3 Communal Mixed Recycling

5.3.1 The roll-out of the communal mixed recycling service continues with over 80% of properties now served. In November 130 tonnes were collected from communal properties; this number will continue to rise as the rollout is completed. The project scope has been amended to include the conversion of some properties from individual wheeled bin collections to communal where the wheeled bin service has proved to cause amenity issues in neighbourhoods that are likely to be made worse through the addition of extra wheeled bins for recycling.

5.4 Kerbside Mixed Recycling

- 5.4.1 Preparations for the Kerbside Mixed Recycling service introduction are now largely complete. New routes have been developed, a communications plan prepared and associated materials and activities in hand. A Drop-in session was held for members on 2nd February 2017, where information was provided on the change in service level and the logistics of the introduction of the new service and associated reduction in refuse container size.
- 5.4.2 Letters to all approx. 70,000 households affected by the change will be sent from 3rd February 2017. The letter (Appendix 2) explains how the service will be rolled out and will include a Frequently Asked Questions sheet.
- 5.4.3 Deliveries of the new 180 litre refuse bins will commence week of 27th February 2017 and be progressively rolled out over a 7 week programme. As part of the same process, the existing 240 litre grey bin will be stickered and a leaflet delivered to householders with specific detail about when their new collections will take effect and explanation of the additional recyclable materials the new service will accept. By the end of April all households will have their new containers.
- 5.4.4 All households will move to the new collection schedule from week commencing 6 March 2017. A major simplification of collection arrangements will be implemented with the change; every household will have collections of refuse, recycling and food and garden waste (where appropriate) on the same day of the week with all recycling and food warden waste collected one week and refuse the next.
- 5.4.5 The reason we are starting collections in advance of completion of works at Altens is that we need representative tonnage of recycling from our own collections to ensure that the Materials Recycling Facility is commissioned correctly using typical materials collected here in Aberdeen and that the contractor provides us with the right standard of equipment and service.

6. IMPACT

Improving Customer Experience –

The development of the Altens East facility enables the delivery of new recycling services for all citizens across the city. These services in both communal and suburban areas will ensure close at hand recycling services for glass, paper, card, cans, plastic bottles, pots, tubs and trays and waxed beverage containers.

Improving Staff Experience –

The proposal will provide clean, spacious and indoor disposal facilities for Council refuse collection crews. The conversion of recycling collections in suburban areas from Bag and Box, kerbside sort to wheeled bin collections will reduce the amount of manual handling, leading to a safer working environment.

Improving our use of Resources –

Development of the Altens East facility will enable the Council to maximise the amount of recycling and minimize the amount of waste sent to landfill, thereby reducing costs and mitigating the cost pressures on the service.

Corporate –

This project links to the Smarter Environment theme of Aberdeen – the Smarter City vision and is a key outcome from the Aberdeen City Waste Strategy. The project enables the Council to comply with its statutory obligations to collect recycling from all households.

7. MANAGEMENT OF RISK

No new risks have emerged in relation to this update report

8. BACKGROUND PAPERS

- Appendix 1. Photographs of Altens East
- Appendix 2. Letter on New Kerbside Recycling Service

9. REPORT AUTHOR DETAILS

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Appendix 1. Photographs of Altens East Development



