

ABERDEEN CITY COUNCIL

COMMITTEE	Zero Waste Management Sub-Committee
DATE	29 June 2017
REPORT TITLE	Altens East Resource Recovery Centre Update
REPORT NUMBER	CHI/17/167
INTERIM DIRECTOR	Bernadette Marjoram
REPORT AUTHOR	Peter Lawrence

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

The purpose of this report is to update the Sub-Committee on progress with the construction of the Altens East Resource Recovery Centre.

2. RECOMMENDATION

That the report is noted.

3. BACKGROUND/MAIN ISSUES

Background

3.1 In 2010, Aberdeen City Council approved a Waste Strategy that identified a need to find a mechanism to significantly increase the coverage of recycling collections in the city in order to minimise long term costs to the council, improve environmental performance and comply with anticipated regulatory requirements (subsequently enacted through the Waste (Scotland) Regulations 2012). These regulations required the Council to introduce food waste and recycling collections for all households across the city and also to divert all biodegradable waste from landfill by the end of 2020.

3.2 The means to achieve these goals was established through Business Cases in 2012. The best value solution identified and agreed by Council was to introduce a mixed recycling collection for paper, card, plastic bottles, pots, tubs and trays, steel and aluminium cans and beverage containers (e.g. tetrapak). In order to ensure this material is correctly sorted and that the best value achieved from the sale of the recyclable products into the reprocessing markets, development of a Materials Recycling Facility (MRF) in Aberdeen was required.

3.3 The business case also considered the short term (until 2021) requirement to manage non-recyclable waste. The best value solution was identified as the development of a Refuse Derived Fuel (RDF) facility alongside the MRF. This facility shreds, bales and wraps non-recyclable waste before exporting it to power plants in Europe. This solution is less expensive than continuing with landfill in Scotland and provides protection for the period between the introduction of the landfill ban and full operation of the Ness Energy from Waste facility in East Tullos.

Project Development

3.4 The Council entered into a 25-year contract with Suez Resource Recovery Ltd for the treatment and disposal of its waste in 2000. The Council is committed to continuation of this contract and therefore entered into contract negotiations supported by Brodies solicitors and AMEC FW (technical advisors) for the delivery of a new facility at Altens East for the MRF and RDF. In addition, the Council required Suez to develop a depot facility for the Council's waste collection operations. This includes parking for approx. 60 Large Goods Vehicles and office/welfare and parking facilities for approx. 200 staff.

3.5 Following extensive negotiations the contract finalised in December 2015 and delivery of the facility commenced with application and award of planning permission for the development

3.6 Construction started on site in January 2016 and has remained on schedule since.

Current Status

3.7 Civils construction is largely complete with minor landscaping and snagging items outstanding. The installation of the MRF and RDF plants is now complete and commissioning is approaching conclusion. The contracted formal handover date from the main contractor to Suez remains on schedule for 1 July 2017.

The Council has commenced delivery of all recyclable and non-recyclable waste into the facility and has contributed to the commissioning process. The Council transferred its collection depot and staff to Altens East on 5 June 2017.

3.8 The following photographs give an impression of the site and the equipment installed.



View from North East (above) and North West (below)



Materials Recycling Facility (below)





Refuse Derived Fuel Facility (below)



4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

4.1 There are no direct financial implications arising from the recommendations of this report.

4.2 The projected costs associated with the design and build of the Altens East facility are included in the Council's approved capital plan.

5. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

5.1 There are no direct legal implications arising from the recommendations of this report.

6. MANAGEMENT OF RISK

6.1 No new risks have been identified arising from this update report.

7. IMPACT SECTION

Economy

7.1 Development of the Altens East facility will provide the most cost-effective and low risk solution to the management of recyclable waste. The facility has created approx. 30 new full time posts. A significant piece of high standard infrastructure has been developed for the benefit of the city for many years to come.

People

7.2 There are no new impacts arising from this report. A EHRIA has been developed along with the Aberdeen City Waste Strategy which includes this project.

Place

7.3 The introduction of significantly enhanced recycling services for all households across the city and the associated sorting and separation of these materials in the city significantly improves the environmental impact of the city and encourages a more responsible approach to our amenity. The interim RDF solution for non-recyclable waste to landfill will significantly reduce greenhouse gas emissions from the disposal of waste.

Technology

7.4 The Altens East facility utilises the best available techniques for the management of recyclable waste. It has been described as the highest quality and most advanced MRF in the UK.

8. REPORT AUTHOR DETAILS

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