

## ABERDEEN CITY COUNCIL

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<b>COMMITTEE</b>	<b>Zero Waste Management Sub-Committee</b>
<b>DATE</b>	<b>3 October 2017</b>
<b>REPORT TITLE</b>	<b>Altens East Resource Recovery Centre Update</b>
<b>REPORT NUMBER</b>	<b>ZWMC/17/7689</b>
<b>INTERIM DIRECTOR</b>	<b>Bernadette Marjoram</b>
<b>REPORT AUTHOR</b>	<b>Peter Lawrence</b>

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### **1. PURPOSE OF REPORT**

- 1.1 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**

- a) That the report is noted.

### **3. BACKGROUND/MAIN ISSUES**

#### **3.1 Background**

- 3.1.1 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. The business case also considered the short term (until 2021) requirement to manage non-recyclable waste.

- 3.1.2 The best value solution was identified as the development of a Materials Recycling Facility (MRF) and Refuse Derived Fuel (RDF) facility at Altens East.

#### **3.2 Project Development**

- 3.2.1 The Council negotiated major variation to its 25-year contract with Suez Resource Recovery Ltd for the treatment and disposal of its waste. The variation required Suez to design build and operate (until 2025) 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.

### **3.3 Current Status**

- 3.3.1 Construction started on site in January 2016 and civils construction is now complete with minor snagging items outstanding. The installation of the MRF and RDF plants is also complete and both plants are accepting Council waste and producing outputs.
- 3.3.2 In relation to the MRF, the quality of the products is high and Suez is reporting that there is no current difficulty in finding markets for the products from the plant. Suez is continuing to work with Bulk Handling Systems (BHS), the MRF and RDF equipment supplier, to address some issues in relation to the operation of the plant and as a result, formal handover of the plant has not been accepted to date.
- 3.3.3 All general refuse from the city's collections are being managed through the RDF facility and a number of shiploads loads of fuel have now been sent to plants in Sweden via Montrose port that provide heat and power for households and businesses. There also remain some performance issues in relation to the quality of metals removed during the process and Suez again have not formally accepted handover from BHS for the plant. As a result of these issues, the commissioning period for the plant has been extended.
- 3.3.4 The Council operations in the depot are working well and the improved welfare facilities are appreciated by the staff. Over the summer a dedicated bus service has been provided for staff to get to/from the site, however, First Bus has now extended its 18 service to the site giving staff members a wider range of options for travel.
- 3.3.5 Formal opening of the Altens East Resource Recovery Centre is planned for 20 October 2017. Details are being developed and of course members of the Zero Waste Management Committee will be honoured guests.

### **3.4 Collection Operations**

- 3.4.1 The facility at Altens East was undertaken to facilitate the introduction of new waste collections across the city. A detailed report on the progress of the new service introduction and issues associated will be presented to the next Communities, Housing and infrastructure Committee, however, it is evident that there has been a significant boost in recycling as a result of the new services. Members will be aware that there have been difficulties in certain areas arising from the rollout with particular challenges in the food and garden waste collection where unprecedented demand along with a complete reorganisation of routing to match in with recycling and refuse collection days has resulted in unbalanced routes and non-completion of rounds. In addition, staff and vehicle availability and the settling of operations from the new depot at Altens East have contributed to service disruption.

#### **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**

##### **7.1 Economy**

- 7.1.1 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.

##### **7.2 People**

- 7.2.1 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.

##### **7.3 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.

##### **7.4 Technology**

- 7.4.1 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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