

**ABERDEENSHIRE COUNCIL**  
**INFRASTRUCTURE SERVICES COMMITTEE**  
**WASTE MANAGEMENT WORKING GROUP**  
**WOODHILL HOUSE, COMMITTEE ROOM 4, ABERDEEN**

**13 FEBRUARY 2019**

**Present:** Councillors Peter Argyle (Chair), Stephen Calder, Marion Ewenson, Paul Johnston, Anouk Kloppert, Ron McKail, Ian Mollison and Michael Roy.

**Officers:** Ros Baxter, Waste Manager,  
Matt Davis, Team Manager - Processing and Disposal,  
Andrew Sheridan, Team Manager – Collections and Cleansing  
Kat Laakso, Strategic Development Officer  
Yvonne D’Ambruso, Waste Support Leader (Service Support & Dev) Claire Loney, Waste Support Leader (Collections & Cleansing, North),  
Lesley Forrest, Waste Support Leader (Collections & Cleansing, South),  
Sallie Antill, Waste Support Leader (Collections & Cleansing, Central)

**1. DECLARATION OF MEMBERS’ INTERESTS.**

The Chair asked Members if they had any interests to declare in terms of the Councillors’ Code of Conduct and the following interests were intimated:–

Councillor Paul Johnston, as Chair of CRNS.

**2. RESOLUTION – PUBLIC SECTOR EQUALITY DUTY.**

In making decisions on the following items of business, the Committee **agreed**, in terms of Section 149 of the Equality Act, 2010:-

- (1) to have due regard to the need to:-
  - (a) eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation;
  - (b) advance equality of opportunity between those who share a protected characteristic and persons who do not share it; and
  - (c) foster good relations between those who share a protected characteristic and persons who do not share it.
- (2) where an Equality Impact Assessment is provided, to consider its contents and take those into account when reaching a decision.

**3. MINUTE OF MEETING OF THE WASTE MANAGEMENT WORKING GROUP OF  
21 NOVEMBER 2018**

Page 7, Item 3 – correct to say ‘garden waste should not be used in Energy from Waste and should be composted’. Once amended will be agreed.

**4. WASTE STRATEGY IMPLEMENTATION PLAN – KAT LAAKSO**

The timeline was displayed for planned changes to be brought in over the next two years and a handout was shared with Councillors.

Team awaiting confirmation of funding from ZWS.

Aiming to start all proposed garden waste points in April 2019 subject to final site approvals. HWRC changes to hours require HR processes to be followed, after which approved changes will be implemented.

HWRC policies and procedures will be put to ISC in summer for approval.

It is planned to have a 'pilot' area for the proposed kerbside roll out.

Also plan to have in cab technology in place prior to the roll out, this will be beneficial both for the roll out and day to day service.

For the new service, communal bins and traders will all have to be individually assessed.

Councillor Roy asked how we will assess Traders that use their van for domestic purposes at the HWRC and Councillor Johnstone asked about small waste producers, these queries will be assessed later though there is no minimum threshold for business waste.

Our routing will involve having transfer stations allocated to a specific waste type each week which will cause issues in the background for the waste service but should not be noticed by the public.

Perception from public feedback Councillors are getting is that the Council are trying to save money. Also, that there will only be one uplift every three weeks and not a collection each week. There has been some contact from public regarding individual cases of large families. Biggest concerns – where will the third bin go?

Aberchirder residents have expressed disappointment at not having a garden waste collection point. Concerns raised about coping with half the waste volume as present. Some residents concerned about plastic waste. Some public have stated that they gave feedback in the consultation and the decision went against this. Doesn't seem to be much awareness of why changes are necessary. We need to ensure communications are timely and informative – they will be vital to the success.

To discuss communications plans at next WMWG **Action- RB to add to next WMWG agenda**

## **5. ENERGY FROM WASTE (EFW) UPDATE – ROS BAXTER.**

Two final tenders were received, evaluation has been completed.

Plant to provide a secure disposal solution for non-recyclable waste – up to 150,000 tonnes per annum. Build time frame will be around three years, meaning the plant could be operational for commissioning tonnage in August 2021. The plant will be set up to meet forthcoming emissions limits (tighter than current limits and will be applied regardless of Brexit position). District heating link will be required but not at point of beginning operations. Current stage is preferred bidder stage, next step is the need to agree to go into partnership with other two Councils, this will be decided at Full Council on 7<sup>th</sup> March along with approval of the third Inter Authority Agreement. Aim would be to sign off the contract by mid April.

If the Council does not agree? Consequences would depend on which Council, but there would be financial compensation claims from the other Councils.

There is no 'plan B', the landfill ban will still go ahead from 2021 (for biodegradable municipal waste – everything we collect from households).

Expected efficiency of 35%, the district heating project will contribute to this. District heating is part of the planning conditions as well as a permit requirement for SEPA (the regulator).

Councillor McKail asked about public protest regarding the location of the plant, we are not aware of any issues in this respect. Aberdeen City Council have been engaging with the local community councils. Councillor Mollison mentioned that Portlethen Community Council had a presentation and seemed satisfied with the in-depth responses received.

## **6. DEPOT STRATEGY UPDATE – IAN MILNE.**

Ian spoke about the current progress of the Council depot strategy using several photos of facilities new and old.

The new depot at Macduff was opened in Autumn 2018. It is a multi-service key depot with purpose-built offices, welfare, storage, workshops, salt storage barn and a modern Waste Transfer Shed. The building 'footprint' and 'open-plan' interior allows flexibility in use and forms the template for all our next generation Waste Transfer Stations.

At Mintlaw, Inverurie and Stonehaven there are depot strategy plans for multi-service depots, like Macduff. No decisions on locations have been made to date. At Stonehaven there is an additional pressure of the lease on the current transfer station having 12 years remaining.

In Banchory, Waste Services collections team will shortly relocate to Crow's Nest where there is the transfer station and Household Waste Recycling Centre. We have built a zero-carbon welfare unit for the site personnel.

In 2017 a Microgen Engine was installed at Crow's Nest which produces 50KW/hour of electricity from burning landfill gas, this is instead of flaring the landfill gases on site. The engine has produced around 400,000 KW's per annum which can be utilised on site as well as the excess electricity being exported. Excess heat from the system is captured to heat the new building. Due to the installation of the Microgen engine and heat exchanger, the whole unit offsets approximately 200 tonnes of Carbon per annum. Excess heat from the heat exchanger not required for the building can be fed into the leachate pond, extending the ability to treat the pond fluid in the leachate plant at the site. This reduces the cost to the Council of offsite treatment for this contaminated water.

## **7. CONTAMINATION CAMPAIGN – CLAIRE LONEY.**

Contamination is when incorrect materials are in the system or when dirty materials are included. This can be done accidentally or on purpose, either way it affects the quality of material collected.

Higher quality recycling with low contamination costs us less to process. High contamination can cause rejection of material by processors, feeding a public perception that recycling doesn't get recycled.

We have started to 'drip feed' information to the public through our social media channels that contamination is bad for recycling.

To begin the contamination campaign, a few crews from each area will focus on following the new process. They will work closely with the Community Waste Officers (CWO) to target contaminated bins and engage with the public.

Following the introduction, rejected bins would no longer be reported as missed collections. Customer benefits are that they will be better informed through the hanger and CWO visits. For the Service, less returning for 'missed' bins that were rejected on purpose. Costs will be reduced for processing recycling due to the increase in quality (less contamination).

Councillors raised issues over other people contaminating bins once presented and difficulty of prosecuting these people. We would not be intending to prosecute initially.

Comments made about ensuring the service always keep the food and waste/recycling separate as intended to protect the Council's reputation. Raised that when new service is introduced there may be a rise in contamination. Issues may come about with bin stores and communal areas getting more contaminated while in situ.

## **8. BENEFITS OF IN CAB TECHNOLOGY – SALLIE ANTILL.**

We are looking into an in-cab system designed for the Waste and Recycling industry. It will utilise handheld fractions as well as in cab parts to the system. Needs to be able to be integrated into current systems, this is key to the success (with finance system, routing software, CRM system).

The system would supersede many paper-based processes and improve efficiency of information transfer. It would reduce administration time and improve consistency. Having such a system gives more resilience and flexibility for using other Council staff/changing the routes for our own team members. The system will give better reporting capabilities, improving the experience for staff and the public, it will greatly assist with the roll out of service changes. In cab systems give a more streamlined approach with less margin for error if fully integrated with web reporting systems. The whole system makes it easier to prevent future issues by looking at patterns. Supervisors would be able to be better informed in 'real time'. This type of system would support the contamination procedure.

The move to this type of platform would be in line with the Councils digital strategy.

Risks are that there would a requirement for capital investment, sometimes there will be duplication of functions. We would need to ensure that there is crew buy-in to the system. There would be a requirement for us to ensure that the needs that we have are outlined clearly in the system requirements before procuring.

Councillors asked about how the data will be uploaded as parts of Aberdeenshire do not have mobile signal, we can have roaming sim cards that select the best local network. If there is no signal, information can still be input and will upload once back in a signal area. Councillor Johnstone asked about using an 'open source' system so that we do not end up tied in with a particular system and its limited capabilities.

## **9. DATE OF NEXT WASTE MANAGEMENT WORKING GROUP:**

Wednesday 8 May, 2019 at 10. 00 a.m. in Committee Room 4, Woodhill House, Aberdeen.