

ANGUS COUNCIL

MINUTE of SPECIAL MEETING of the **ENVIRONMENTAL AND CONSUMER PROTECTION COMMITTEE** held in The Town and County Hall, Forfar on Wednesday 8 November 1995 at 6.00 pm.

Present: Councillors STEWART MOWATT, KATHLEEN RITCHIE, RICHARD SPEIRS, HELEN ANGUS, IAN ANGUS, GLENNIS MIDDLETON, IAN HUDGHTON, GEORGE ALLAN and FRANK ELLIS.

Apologies: Apologies for absence were intimated on behalf of Councillors Mrs RENATE LAMONT, WILLIAM CROWE, THOMAS YOUNG and ROB MURRAY.

Councillor MOWATT, Convener, in the Chair.

1. EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC AND PRESS - ITEMS RELATING TO EXEMPT BUSINESS

The Committee resolved that the public and press be excluded during consideration of the following item so as to avoid the disclosure of information which was exempt in terms of paragraph 6 of Part 1 of Schedule 7A to the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973.

2. WASTE DISPOSAL - FUTURE POLICY

There was submitted Report No AC138/95 by the Director of Environmental and Consumer Protection advising that the Lochhead Landfill Site which Angus Council would inherit was almost full and that consideration now required to be given to long term follow-on facilities which met environmental considerations, were financially viable and provided future security for the waste disposal service.

The lifespan of the Angus District Council centralised landfill site at Lochhead, Forfar was likely to expire by October 1996 although, with careful management, its life might be slightly extended. The District Council intended that the site at Restenneth, adjacent to Lochhead, would be developed as a follow-on facility, but due to groundwater issues and consequent design amendments, the site had not yet been made available to the Council, legal agreements with the current proprietors not yet having been concluded.

Dundee Energy Recycling Limited (DERL) had also formally approach Angus District Council offering to incinerate part of the Angus waste stream in their proposed waste to energy plant at Baldovie, conserving the life of the Restenneth landfill, and Angus District Council officials had been instructed to conduct negotiations with DERL to bring forward proposals for a joint venture involving the Baldovie plant and the Restenneth waste disposal site. However, the Government had recently announced plans for the introduction of a landfill levy tax, details of which were likely to be made known in the forthcoming budget and continuing use of landfill sites would be adversely affected under the proposals.

Consultants had been commissioned by Angus District Council to examine the most appropriate environmental and financial arrangements for the disposal of Angus wastes in terms of security and financial accountability. They had investigated two options, namely (1) the incineration of waste and generation of electricity at the DERL plan, and (2) landfill at a variety of sites. The consultants had concluded that the favoured option should be the disposal of combustible waste by incineration at Baldovie with a view to securing a joint venture agreement to provide incineration at Baldovie with a view to securing a joint venture agreement to provide incineration of municipal solid waste at an agreed price for a period of years. The development of Restenneth should also be included in the joint venture to provide a facility for the remaining wastes from Angus and provide a facility to the joint venture for the disposal of putrescible waste should the waste energy facility be out of commission.

The Director concluded that the choice of the two routes for waste disposal would ensure that Angus Council would not be placed in jeopardy should one route be closed for a period unexpectedly and made a number of recommendations which were detailed in the Report.

Following discussion, the Committee noted the terms of Report AC138/95, approved in principle the recommendations contained therein, and instructed officials to proceed accordingly.

3. LOCAL GOVERNMENT ETC (SCOTLAND) ACT 1994, SECTION 55 - BALDOVIE WASTE TO ENERGY PROJECT

With reference to Article 12 (Angus Council, 1 November 1995) when it was agreed to refer the above matter to this Committee, there was resubmitted letter dated 17 October 1995 received from the City of Dundee District Council, together with Report No AC139/95 by the Director of Environmental and Consumer Protection, advising that the City of Dundee District Council had approved the next phase of the Baldovie/DERL Waste to Energy project and, in terms of Section 55 of the Local Government Etc (Scotland) Act 1994, they now sought Angus Council's consent to commit certain expenditure on the project.

Following discussion, and having noted the terms of a letter from the Director of Finance of the City of Dundee District Council, the Committee agreed to approve the project for Angus Council's interest, on the strict understanding that the City of Dundee District Council would contribute no more than £2.5m to the equity capital of DERL in the 1995/96 financial year.

After some questions by members, the Convener thanked the two officers for their presentations.