AGENDA ITEM NO: 19
REPORT NO 756/11

ANGUS COUNCIL
NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES COMMITTEE – 17 NOVEMBER 2011

ANGUS AND DUNDEE CITY COUNCIL’S TRIAL RECYCLING AND DISPOSAL OF CIVIC AMENITY SITE WASTE

REPORT BY DIRECTOR OF NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES

ABSTRACT: The Committee are asked to approve the Director of Neighbourhood Services’ recommendation that Angus Council extend the minute of agreement with Dundee City Council for the processing of residual waste via the DERL facility for a one year trial period to include the processing of civic amenity waste.

1. RECOMMENDATION(S)

1.1 It is recommended that the Committee:-

(i) agree to the Director of Neighbourhood Services’ recommendation that Angus Council extend the minute of agreement with Dundee City Council for the processing of residual waste via the DERL facility for a one year trial period to include the processing of civic amenity waste;

(ii) delegate to the Director, authority to finalise the extended minute of agreement with Dundee City Council if the trial proves successful.

2. BACKGROUND

2.1 Angus Council has had a minute of agreement in place with Dundee City Council for the processing of residual waste through the Dundee Energy Recycling Limited (DERL) energy from waste plant located at Baldovie in Dundee, this since the 1 September 1999. The agreement is still in place though it has been reviewed and updated by joint agreement a number of times since its inception.

2.2 DERL currently processes some 18k to 20k tonnes of residual waste from Angus Council under this agreement.

3. CURRENT POSITION

3.1 In accordance with the minute of agreement, Angus Council delivers waste directly to the DERL plant via the refuse vehicles that collect the waste at kerbside, all such collected waste goes to DERL when the plant is fully operational.

3.2 If the DERL plant is shut down, for example for maintenance and repair, there is limited facility at the DERL site to store waste. Once this storage facility is full, Angus Council waste is diverted to the Council’s landfill site at Restenneth in Forfar.

3.3 Due to a number of upgrades to the plant at DERL, the facility now finds that it can process more waste materials than can be delivered from the current supply chain coming from Angus. Dundee City Council recently approached Angus Council to see if additional waste streams could be sourced from Angus to supply the now surplus capacity at DERL.

3.4 As stated above, when DERL is fully operational, all Angus Council residual grey bin waste is delivered to the facility. On that basis other available waste streams from Angus were examined and the “general” waste skips from the Council’s seven Recycling Centres were identified as a possible source.

3.5 This waste is currently sent to the Council’s landfill site and amounts to in excess of 10,000t per annum. Unfortunately, due to the nature of this waste, it cannot simply be sent directly to the DERL plant but needs to be sorted first to remove items or materials that may be detrimental to the DERL plant.
3.6 The current minute of agreement allows Angus to deliver within a range of 30 to 38k tonnes of waste to DERL annually, therefore, even with adding the recycling centre general waste, the Council will still be within that range and taking up more of the capacity available to the Council.

4. PROPOSALS

4.1 Dundee City Council currently process similar general waste from their own recycling centres, taking out any recyclates contained for reprocessing, plus removing any contaminants that cannot be processed through the DERL facility. The resultant waste left is then sent to DERL for processing.

4.2 Given that DCC were already processing similar waste as to that contained within the Angus general waste skips, a mini trial was set up where by a few skips of general waste were sent to the DCC facility for processing, this to assess if the composition of this waste was similar to that collected from the Dundee Recycling Centres. This trial proved to be successful.

4.3 The mini trial appears to suggest that the approach is viable from a waste composition perspective with Angus Council waste being diverted from landfill, thus helping the Council meet its statutory recycling targets. The waste produced appears to be suitable for processing in the DERL plant, thus providing additional feedstock for the plant.

4.4 The overall processing costs of this approach are expected to be broadly similar to the landfill tax due for the material if landfilled, although the mini trial was too small to confirm this position. Accordingly, it is proposed that the trial be extended to allow a fuller assessment of all the potential benefits be evaluated, including the net financial position, progress towards targets to reduce waste to landfill and progress towards meeting statutory recycling targets.

4.5 The outline proposal for the extended trial is:-

- Angus Council will deliver general waste from Monifieth Recycling Centre by skip load to the DCC facility at Baldovie. The delivered material will be weighed at Baldovie thus providing detail of the amounts delivered and processed;
- DCC will process and sort the delivered waste to remove recyclates and contaminants thus rendering the waste suitable for processing at the DERL facility;
- DCC will deliver the waste to the DERL facility;
- DCC will record the tonnage of the total material delivered to DERL plus that sent for recycling and finally of residual waste that is sent to landfill. This information will be provided to Angus Council for monitoring and costing purposes;
- Angus Council will agree a fee with DCC for sorting and processing the delivered recycling centre waste;
- Angus Council will play DCC the current tonnage rate for the material that is delivered for processing at DERL.

4.6 If the extended trial using the Monifieth general waste skip material proves to be successful in the shorter term, it would be the intention to extend the trial to include materials from both Carnoustie and Arbroath Recycling Centres, these being closest to the processing facilities at Baldovie. This extension would have to be with the agreement of both DCC and DERL to ensure that all parties are benefitting from the process and that DERL continues to have the capacity to accept the additional wastes.

5. RISKS

5.1 There is limited risk to the Council which is no greater than normal operational duties.

6. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS
6.1 It is not possible to report detailed financial implications at this time as one of the purposes of the extension of the trial is to ascertain the financial impact from this approach for the Council. Depending on the tonnages delivered and processed, there is a possibility that some additional cost may become evident, although it is expected that the restricted scope of the trial would mean that this would be marginal. Should this be the case, however, this would be contained within Neighbourhood Services’ Waste Management existing revenue budgets and would be a major factor in any decision to be taken about potentially continuing this approach or extending it to the wider Angus wide.

7. HUMAN RIGHTS IMPLICATIONS

7.1 There are no Human Rights implications arising from this report.

8. EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

8.1 The issues dealt with in this report have been the subject of consideration from an equalities perspective. An equalities impact assessment is not required.

9. ANGUS COMMUNITY PLAN AND SINGLE OUTCOME AGREEMENT

9.1 This report contributes to the following local outcome(s) contained within the Angus Community Plan and Single Outcome Agreement 2011-2014:-

- Our communities are developed in a sustainable manner;
- Our carbon footprint is reduced.

10. CONSULTATION

10.1 The Chief Executive, Director of Corporate Services, Head of Finance and Head of Law and Administration have been consulted in the preparation of this report.

11. CONCLUSION

11.1 The benefits from this partnership agreement to Angus Council will be the reduction in ongoing maintenance costs for the software, the benefits gained by having a user group in the area, this covering joint training, shared skills, best practise and feedback between users. In addition, this proposal is in the spirit of the shared services and joint working agenda.

RON ASHTON
DIRECTOR OF NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES

NOTE: No background papers, as defined by Section 50D of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 (other than any containing confidential or exempt information) which were relied on to any material extent in preparing the above report.

Env.Management/NS/RA/DFI