

ANGUS COUNCIL

PLANNING AND TRANSPORT POLICY COMMITTEE	14 JUNE 2001
DEVELOPMENT CONTROL COMMITTEE	14 JUNE 2001
ENVIRONMENTAL AND CONSUMER PROTECTION COMMITTEE	7 AUGUST 2001

SUBJECT: WASTE REVIEW – SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

JOINT REPORT BY DIRECTOR OF PLANNING & TRANSPORT and DIRECTOR OF ENVIRONMENTAL & CONSUMER PROTECTION

Abstract: This report updates members on the key findings arising from the waste review undertaken as part of the wider mineral and waste landfill study by consultants on behalf of Angus Council.

1 RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Planning and Transport Policy Committee -

1. notes the key findings arising from the waste review consultancy study, including the projected shortfall for non-inert landfill capacity in the combined Angus and Dundee area;
2. agrees that the key findings and basic information be taken into account;
 - (a) in the review and development of waste management land use planning policies at both Structure Plan and Local Plan level;
 - (b) as an input into the development of waste strategy for Angus and for use in the development of the Tayside Area Waste Strategy.

It is recommended that the Development Control Committee agrees that the key findings and basic information be taken into account as a material consideration in dealing with development control casework in planning application areas raising disposal/waste management issues.

It is recommended that the Environmental and Consumer Protection Committee note this report for its interest.

2 INTRODUCTION

- 2.1 The Planning and Transport Policy Committee at their meeting of 8 June 2000 noted the requirement for an up to date geologically based audit of major mineral resources and waste landfill opportunities and constraints in Angus as an input to the further development of waste management and minerals policies in accordance with guidance in the Structure Plan and Angus Local Plan (report 630/00 refers). The Committee agreed to commission a special consultancy study for baseline information to contribute to the local implementation of both the national waste strategy and to help further develop a mineral policy in Angus.

- 2.2 Following agreed tendering procedures, Carlbro Group Ltd were appointed as consultants to undertake the study. The mineral resource audit was reported to the Planning and Transport Policy Committee at their meeting of 26 April (report 485/01 refers). The waste review has recently been completed and submitted to Angus Council.
- 2.3 This report summarises the key findings from the consultancy study and implications for the development of waste management policy in Angus and for the wider Tayside Area Waste Strategy.
- 2.4 A copy of the Minerals and Waste Landfill Consultancy Study report is available for reference in the Members' Lounge.

3 SUMMARY OF WASTE REVIEW

- 3.1 The consultancy project comprises two independent but related studies – a minerals review and a **waste review**.
- 3.2 Although not a formal waste management study this review encompassed consideration of future waste arisings, recycling, and legislation in reviewing the need for future landfill capacity and to establish criteria for ensuring adequate and sustainable landfill capacity for the next ten years. The waste study progressed through existing waste disposal sites, projections of waste arisings, recycled aggregates, landfill utilisation and possible future landfill sites. Environmental considerations pertaining to landfill are also considered as part of the study. Consultation with the main waste management companies operating and other involved companies and organisations in Angus were undertaken at various stages throughout the consultancy study.
- 3.3 The key findings of the study are as follows:-
- There are 16 operational landfill facilities in Angus, three of the operational sites (Wellbank, Restenneth and Lochhead) are licensed for household, commercial and industrial wastes, the remaining sites are licensed for inert waste.
 - Wellbank and Lochhead landfills are expected to close within the next year leaving Restenneth landfill site as the only landfill site within the Angus (and Dundee) area being capable of accepting non-inert waste.
 - Of the inert sites, Ardownie Quarry, Burnside Quarry and Border Quarry account for over 80 % of the licensed capacity. Each has remaining capacity for less than 70,000 cubic metres.
 - It should be noted that there are no operational landfill facilities within the Dundee administrative area.
- 3.4 As part of the study, the requirement for future landfill capacity has been projected (five scenarios were considered) for both Angus and the Angus & Dundee areas conjoined for both inert and non-inert waste arisings. The position with respect to landfill capacity has been determined as follows:-

(a) Angus

The available landfill void for:-

- non-inert wastes (landfilling at Restenneth) lies between 9 and 17 years. The **principal projection** suggests some 14 years. Recycling initiatives, failure of the incinerator and increasing rate of wastes production all have significant effects. Generally, however, at the current time Angus has sufficient capacity.
- inert wastes (landfilling various approved sites) lies between 30 and 47 years. The principal projection suggests some 30 years, circa 2032.

(b) Angus and Dundee conjoined:-

The available landfill void for:-

- non-inert wastes lie between 3 and 5 years. The **principal projection** suggests some 4 years 8 months from March 2001 i.e. existing capacity is utilised by November 2005. If the incinerator fails to function properly then the situation deteriorates. Over such a short time span the effect of increasing wastes is scarcely noticed. It is considered significant that all the projections focus upon a short life for existing landfill capacity giving confidence in the projections.

4 DISCUSSION

4.1 Land use planning policy for waste is currently provided at national, Structure Plan and local level by:-

- NPPG10 : Planning and Waste Management;
- Tayside Structure Plan 1993 (approved 1997);
- Angus Local Plan (adopted November 2000).

4.2 In addition, SEPA have now prepared a National Waste Strategy (1999) and this is currently being 'drilled down' through the preparation of eleven Area Waste Strategies. The Tayside Area Waste Strategy is expected to be finalised and submitted to the Scottish Executive in late autumn 2001. The policies and proposals of the National Waste Strategy reflect the significant changes which have been made and continue to be sought in dealing with waste management and also the requirements brought about by both the UK and European legislation. While the National Strategy provides a framework against which the waste management industry can take decisions it also recognises that all sectors of the industry and the community have a key role to play in taking the Strategy forward. Local authorities have a particularly important role within their responsibility for waste management and land use planning.

4.3 The Tayside Structure Plan 1993 (approved by the Secretary of State in March 1997) established strategic land use planning policies for dealing with waste and pollution, including development proposals for incinerators and for new or extended waste disposal sites. In addition, the adopted Angus Local Plan (November 2000) contains guidance for dealing with inert, household, commercial and special waste. Angus Local Plan policies on waste management are summarised in Appendix 1 to this report. In broad terms therefore Structure and Local Plans provided guidance on waste and pollution matters in Angus and the policies established generally conform with the advice presented in NPPG10 : Planning and Waste Management.

- 4.4 Changes in waste management policy and the need for additional landfill capacity for non-inert waste will have an impact on the policies and proposals being developed at both Structure Plan and Local Plan level. The baseline information and findings of the present waste review, together with the emerging Tayside Area Waste Strategy will be an important input into finalising the Dundee and Angus Structure Plan and in a subsequent review of the adopted Angus Local Plan.

Angus

- 4.5 The recently submitted consultancy study – waste review – reinforces the need for long term planning in waste management. It also generally supports the established strategy for dealing with waste in Angus and in particular the investment by the Council in the new contained site at Restenneth (which is being developed in several phases with a projected lifespan of eleven years) and Angus Council's decision to join the DERL Waste Energy project at Baldovie in Dundee. One of the key benefits of association with DERL is the reduction of waste to landfill, thereby considerably increasing the original projected lifespan of the Restenneth site. Angus Council has also developed a recycling plan and implemented a number of specific initiatives which seek to reuse and recover various types of waste. In addition as part of the Local Agenda 21 process the Council has established an Environmental Strategy. In recognising that waste minimisation through reducing packaging etc. and the reuse and recycling of materials can contribute toward the waste reduction targets set by Government, Angus Council will continue to seek:

- to encourage waste minimisation in the use and recycling of materials both within the Council and amongst the community;
- to use the most benign method of disposal for Council waste.

- 4.6 It is evident from the recently submitted consultant's report that the strategy pursued in Angus has resulted in a reasonably healthy position in having landfill capacity at least for a ten year period thereby meeting the requirements of NPPG10.

Dundee and Angus

- 4.7 The consultancy study looks at a range of scenarios linked with the Structure Plan area of Dundee and Angus. It is also noted that Wellbank landfill site will be completed in the very near future. Accordingly, therefore if waste arising from the Dundee and Angus area is to continue to be landfilled locally there is a projected shortfall of capacity in the medium term. The issue of landfill capacity is also a matter that will be dealt with by the Tayside Area Waste Strategy and therefore the consultancy finding is a pointer to future issues in the wider Tayside area.

- 4.8 Integration of waste management planning and facilities within the Area Waste Strategy may provide opportunities to rationalise waste treatment and final disposal. In addition, opportunities are also available to treat waste prior to landfill but this would require additional investment to segregate inerts, recycleables, and to optimise landfill capacity. These aspects will also be considered in the development and appraisal of waste management options as part of the Tayside Area Waste Strategy. Nonetheless the projected shortfall of landfill capacity for non-inert waste within the Dundee and Angus area means that additional capacity will need to be identified to maintain a five year land bank and a ten year period of planned facilities. This has potential implications for Structure Plan policy and subsequently for an Angus Local Plan review since the latter may require to identify suitable further

landfill site(s). The current study begins to consider this aspect through an initial appraisal of existing quarries but the identification and assessment of additional landfill sites for inclusion within any Local Plan review is likely to require support from additional specialist studies. At this stage the scale, nature and any costs for such studies have not been quantified but would be the subject of future reports to Committee as appropriate.

5 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 Report 630/00 indicated that the study would cost between £10-£15,000 and that this cost be met from the figure of £25,000 previously set aside towards securing specialist consultancy studies. The costs of the consultancy study are contained within the budget for the project.
- 5.2 There are no immediate financial implications arising from this report. In further developing waste management policy including implementing the wider Tayside Area Waste Strategy, additional consultancy studies may be needed which would be the subject of further reports to the appropriate Committee.

6 HUMAN RIGHTS IMPLICATONS

- 6.1 There are no human rights implications arising from this report.

7 CONSULTATION

- 7.1 The Chief Executive, Director of Finance and Director of Law & Administration have been consulted in the preparation of this report.

8 CONCLUSION

- 8.1 The waste review endorses the Waste Management Strategy implemented by Angus since the mid-1990s, highlighting that sufficient landfill capacity exists in Angus for both inert and non-inert waste for at least a ten year period. The study also indicates that in the wider Dundee and Angus context there is a projected shortfall for non-inert landfill capacity and this has implications for land use waste management planning at Structure Plan and Local Plan level.

NOTE

The following background papers, as defined by Section 50D of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973, (other than any containing confidential or exempt information) were relied on to any material extent in preparing the above Report.

- Tayside Structure Plan 1993 (approved March 1997)
- Angus Local Plan (adopted November 2000)
- NPPG10 : Planning and Waste Management
- National Waste Strategy : Scotland (1999)

AA/GDP/IAL
6 June 2001

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APPENDIX 1

**ANGUS LOCAL PLAN (Adopted November 2000)
SUMMARY OF WASTE MANAGEMENT POLICIES****Policy ENV 57: Inert Waste Disposal Sites**

Development proposals for the extension of existing sites or the establishment of new sites, for disposal of inert waste, will only be considered where:-

- (a) there is evidence of local need;
- (b) prime agricultural land is not used;
- (c) there is no adverse impact on ground water, site of nature conservation or environmental significance or residential amenity;
- (d) the site can be accessed safely;
- (e) sites are already degraded and the proposal will lead to environmental improvement;
- (f) a suitable after-use can be established;
- (g) the roads leading to and from the site are capable of accommodating the type and volume of heavy traffic movements likely to be generated by such sites.

Policy ENV 58: Household and Commercial Waste Sites

Development proposals for new or extended waste disposal sites for household and for commercial waste will only be acceptable where they:-

- (a) meet the requirements of local need established by Environment Policy 19 of the approved Tayside Structure Plan 1993 and/or the National Waste Strategy prepared by SEPA;
- (b) provide a proven and acceptable system for the containment, collection, treatment and disposal of leachate;
- (c) provide a proven and acceptable system for the containment, collection and active use of landfill gas;
- (d) do not have a detrimental impact on residential amenity or general environment;
- (e) do not affect ground water sources;
- (f) lead to a positive restoration of already degraded areas;
- (g) do not involve the loss of prime agricultural land;
- (h) the project is acceptable in terms of an Environmental Assessment;

- (i) the roads leading to and from the site are capable of accommodating the type and volume of heavy traffic movements likely to be generated by such sites.

Policy ENV 59: Special Waste Treatment Facilities

Development proposals for special waste treatment facilities including incinerators will require to submit an Environmental Assessment and will only be acceptable:-

- (a) there is evidence of a primarily local need and the proposal complies with the National Waste Strategy prepared by SEPA;
- (b) there is no adverse environmental impact or affect on road safety;
- (c) the project is acceptable in terms of an Environmental Assessment.