

ANGUS COUNCIL

COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE – 17 April 2018

CLOSURE OF RESTENNETH LANDFILL SITE – FOR INFORMATION

1. BACKGROUND

- 1.1 Restenneth Landfill has been used for the disposal of Angus Council collected residual waste (wastes not recovered for recycling or composting) since 1999. The amount of waste disposed at the landfill has reduced in recent years as recycling rates have improved and more waste has went to the Energy from Waste (EfW) facility at Forties Road, Dundee.
- 1.2 A key legislative provision of the Waste (Scotland) Regulations 2012 was a ban on sending biodegradable municipal waste to landfill from 1 January 2021. Measures have been taken to ensure the Council comply with this provision and in partnership with Dundee City Council an alternative long term disposal route for residual waste has been secured.
- 1.3 Following a procurement exercise, the company MVV was appointed in November 2017 to manage the disposal of residual waste from Angus and Dundee City Councils. MVV have taken over operation of the existing EfW facility at Forties Road, Dundee, and over the next three years will construct a new EfW facility directly adjacent to the current plant. The new plant will have a capacity of 110,000 tonnes per annum, enough to treat all residual waste from the two partner councils.
- 1.4 From the date of the signing of the contract, Angus Council have redirected all their collected residual waste to the EfW facility in Dundee reducing the intakes of waste at Restenneth to solely private customers.
- 1.5 Over the last few years, the use of Restenneth by private businesses has declined rapidly through the introduction of a Landfill tax levy, which the current Standard Rate is £84.40 per tonne, rising to £88.95 in April 2018. Over the last 12 months, Restenneth has only supported 12 local businesses as a disposal option for their waste, with only 5 having used the site infrequently over the past 3 months.
- 1.6 Most of these businesses are construction based and alternative routes can easily be sought e.g. recycling centres or via private waste management companies. Existing business customers have been informed by letter of the closure of the Landfill and the offer of support to identify alternative disposal options provided.

2 CLOSURE PLANS

- 2.1 The landfilling of waste at Restenneth Landfill ceased from 1 April 2018. SEPA were notified in advance of the intention to close the landfill. It is proposed to cap the current cell later in 2018, which will involve the placement of a Geo-synthetic and Geo-Membrane liner. This ensures environmental protection through the control of water infiltration rates and acts as part of the site's gas control system.
- 2.2 The placement of a surface water drainage system and restoration top soil cover will then be required to be constructed before hydro-seeding to establish vegetation.
- 2.2 Planning permission will be required to be updated and sought as the current planning conditions set out for the total infill of the remaining void at Restenneth, which will no longer be possible.
- 2.3 A proposal concept for the new restoration profile is already in place and ready to be implemented, which includes tree/shrub planting, the shallowing out of the existing slopes and the introduction of a wetland to the remaining void to support the wildlife birds that frequently use Restenneth for breeding purposes thereby promoting nature conservation.

- 2.4 A Closure, Restoration and Aftercare Plan will in addition require drawing and agreement by SEPA, which will outline how the site will operate, maintain and monitor the gas and leachate control systems until final decommissioning.

3 FUTURE SITE USE

- 3.1 The site will continue to have an environmental responsibility (>25 years) for waste water treatment and gas management, and several on-site operational activities will continue to support the Council's waste management function.
- 3.2 Waste streams such as mixed recycling and food waste from household and commercial collections carried out by the Council will continue to be delivered to Restenneth where it will be bulked and prepared for onward transfer to processing facilities.
- 3.3 Garden Waste is a fundamental operation carried out at Restenneth where the waste material is managed through an open-windrow composting process which promotes the decomposition of garden waste through microbial activity. The end product complies with the quality standard BSI:PAS100 and is sold or used on-site for restoration of former landfill areas.
- 3.4 In addition to the garden waste composting process, the site manufactures a compost/soil which is a blend of BSI:PAS100 material and treated (de-watered) gully waste delivered to the site from Tayside Contracts. The produced material can be used for land restoration projects as per SEPA Guidelines on Compost Material Derived from Waste.

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 The termination of landfilling operations will lead to an estimated £96,000 reduction in operating costs per year at Restenneth. This reduction in expenditure was accounted for as part of the 2018/19 budget setting process and contributes towards costs of residual waste that will now go to the MEB energy from waste facility in Dundee rather than landfill.

5. CONCLUSION

- 5.1 The closure of landfilling activities at Restenneth will allow the site to transition into a period of environmental stabilisation via a site restoration programme, which is very important when considering the results will endure and be visible longer than the period for which the site was operational. Other waste management operations at Restenneth will continue and the site will still to have a crucial role in terms of waste management in Angus.

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