

ANGUS COUNCIL – 9 MAY 2019

**INFORMATION REPORT – TEMPORARY RETURN OF GENERAL WASTE CONTAINERS TO
RECYCLING CENTRES**

REPORT BY – MARGO WILLIAMSON, CHIEF EXECUTIVE

ABSTRACT

To inform members of the decision made by the Chief Executive under delegated powers to return general waste containers to all Recycling Centres between the dates of 12 April 2019 and 5 May 2019.

1. ALIGNMENT TO THE ANGUS LOCAL OUTCOMES IMPROVEMENT PLAN/CORPORATE PLAN

This report contributes to the following local outcome(s) contained within the Angus Local Outcomes Improvement Plan and Locality Plans:

- Safe, secure, vibrant and sustainable communities

2. BACKGROUND

Reference is made to report 264/18 agreed at the meeting of Angus Council held on 6 September 2018. Recommendation (iv) of the report related to the removal of general waste containers from the Recycling Centres in Brechin, Carnoustie, Monifieth and Kirriemuir, and their replacement with containers for the collection of recyclable materials. The general waste containers were subsequently removed from these Centres on 4 February 2019 and early improvement in our recycling rates became evident.

3. CURRENT POSITION

On 22nd March 2019, Unite the Union announced their intention to undertake industrial action in relation to the introduction of a shift pattern for waste operatives. They announced a full week of strike action beginning on 8th April 2019, followed by a series of 48 hour stoppages thereafter each week until 25th June 2019. It was anticipated that this industrial action would lead to widespread disruption to bin collections across Angus, and as part of the Council's contingency planning measures to support the public during this time, general waste containers were provided at each of the Council's seven recycling centres. On 25 April 2019 Unite the Union suspended their industrial action with immediate effect. As a consequence the general waste containers at Brechin, Carnoustie, Monifieth and Kirriemuir were removed on 5th May 2019, and once again replaced by containers for recyclable materials in accordance with report 264/18.

This decision was taken in accordance with Section 3(5) of the Scheme of Delegation which authorises the Chief Executive "in an emergency, to initiate action under any statutory procedure related to a function of the Council, subject to a report being made to the appropriate Committee at the first opportunity on any item for which Committee approval would normally be necessary"

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no direct financial implications associated with this report, although removal of the additional recycling containers provided as a result of report 264/18 will have a short term impact on our recycling rate, and could therefore result in additional waste disposal costs compared to the Council's budget provision. The position will be kept under review as part of assessing the wider financial implications from the strike action and will be reported to members through the regular budget monitoring reports to Policy & Resources Committee.

5. CONSULTATION (IF APPLICABLE)

5.1 The Corporate Leadership Team have been consulted in the preparation of this report.

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

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