

ANGUS COUNCIL

COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE – 18 AUGUST 2020

RESTORATION WORKS AT RESTENNETH LANDFILL SITE

REPORT BY DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITIES

ABSTRACT

This report brings forward proposals for the council to enter into a contractual agreement with Delson Demolition Ltd for earthworks associated with restoration, capping and landscaping works at the former Restenneth Landfill Site.

1. RECOMMENDATION

1.1 It is recommended that the Committee agrees that:

- (i) the Director of Communities has the authority to enter into a contractual agreement with Delson Demolition Ltd for earthworks associated with restoration, capping and landscaping works at the former Restenneth Landfill Site as detailed in section 5;
- (ii) The Director of Communities will bring a report to the Communities Committee regarding the award of a contract for specialised capping works at the former Restenneth Landfill Site as detailed in section 5.

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

This report contributes to the following local outcomes contained within the Angus Local Outcomes Improvement Plan and Locality Plans:

PLACE

- A reduced carbon footprint
- An enhanced, protected and enjoyed natural and built environment

3. BACKGROUND

3.1 Restenneth Landfill was used for the disposal of Angus Council collected residual waste (wastes not recovered for recycling or composting) from 1999 until its closure on 31 March 2018. The landfill was closed earlier than originally planned and designed due to changing national policy and legislation, and the commencement of a new waste contract in November 2017 for all Angus Council residual waste to be delivered to the thermal waste treatment facility at Baldovie, Dundee.

3.2 A key step that the Council, as the licence holder with the Scottish Environmental Protection Agency (SEPA), must undertake when closing the landfill is the preparation of a detailed plan laying out the proposed closure, restoration and after-care activities. The site after-care plan must demonstrate that the site can be maintained to avoid any pollution risk prior to the surrender of the site when it no longer poses a hazard to the environment. Information Report No 116/18 (Schedule 1) to Communities Committee on 17 April 2018 provided further information on the closure of the landfill site.

4. CURRENT POSITION

- 4.1 Following dialogue with relevant regulatory bodies, the final restoration profile and landscape design for the site has now been completed and agreed with SEPA. The planning authority have advised they also agree with the condition that a biodiversity plan for the site will follow.
- 4.2 As the landfill closed earlier than designed there are steep slopes leading to a significant void space (area of open land that was intended for landfilling). The final landscape design for the site has had to consider the requirement to form slopes and bunds to properly manage leachate and surface water from the landfill. A specification and associated drawings have been completed, which includes the shallowing out of the existing slopes and the introduction of a wetland within the remaining void space. This will have the added benefit of supporting the wildlife birds that frequently use Restenneth for breeding purposes thereby promoting nature conservation.
- 4.3 All of the land that will be subject to restoration works and required for the after-care plan for the site is fully within the ownership of Angus Council.
- 4.4 The final design and specification for the restoration profile requires approximately 163,000 tonnes of suitable soil/material to be imported and applied onto the site. The Council have an existing agreement with Delson for restoration works at the former Arrats Mill landfill site and were approached by Delson regarding the potential for a similar agreement for restoration works at the Restenneth landfill site.

5. PROPOSALS

- 5.1 Delson Demolition Ltd have offered to supply the approx. 163,000 tonnes of material required for the restoration works at Restenneth and to supply the plant and labour required for placement of the material on site as per the final design drawings. Material delivered to site would be processed by Delson as required using their own sorting/screening machinery.
- 5.2 The agreement would be beneficial for both parties. Delson would have an outlet for surplus material generated from their construction and development projects and the Council would avoid significant costs associated with the supply of material and associated plant and labour for placement of the material on site.
- 5.3 The contractual agreement would require Delson to supply material as per the detailed specification and apply on site as per the design drawings. The agreement would require Delson to complete the earthworks within 12 years, but time critical works, such as formation of bunds to support the final landfill cap, would be required to be completed sooner.
- 5.4 It is proposed to cap the final landfill cell later in 2020, 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. These works will be carried out by a specialised contractor. The remaining earthworks will be completed by Delson over the longer time period. The council have consulted with SEPA and no issues were raised regarding the proposed agreement.

6. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 There would be no payment made to Delson Demolition Ltd for the earthworks detailed in the contractual agreement. There has been agreement with Delson that the arrangement would be mutually beneficial (as detailed in section 5.2) and that accordingly no financial transactions will be made.
- 6.2 As the value of this contract is zero there is no requirement to carry out any form of competitive tendering exercise.
- 6.3 There is £649,000 in the capital budget plan for 2020/21 for capping and restoration works at Restenneth landfill. There are other capping and restoration works to be undertaken by a specialist contractor (as detailed in section 5.4) outwith the proposed earthworks to be carried out by Delson. These specialist works will incur costs (that are still to be confirmed), however this contractual agreement with Delson will most likely lead to a significant underspend in this budget, which can then be reallocated to other Council priorities.

7. CONSULTATION

7.1 The Chief Executive, Director of Finance and the Director of Legal and Democratic Services were consulted in the preparation of this report.

NOTE: The 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 are:

- Report No. 116/18 (Schedule 1)

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