

The Highland Council

Minutes of Meeting of the **Waste Strategy Working Group** held in Committee Room 1, Council Headquarters, Glenurquhart Road, Inverness on Friday 10 August 2018 at 2.30 pm.

Present:-

Mr J Bruce	Mr H Morrison
Mr J Gray	Mrs T Robertson
Mr A Henderson (Chair)	Mrs M Smith (by tele-conferencing)
Mrs L MacDonald	

In attendance:-

Mr W Gilfillan, Director of Community Services
Mr M MacLeod, Head of Planning and Environment, Development and Infrastructure Service
Mr A Summers, Head of Environmental and Amenity Services, Community Services (by tele-conference)
Mr A Hume, Waste Management Officer (Strategy), Community Services
Mr S Graham, Project Manager, Chief Executive's Service
Mr M Mitchell, Finance Manager, Finance Service
Mrs C MacIver, Committee and Elections Officer, Chief Executive's Office

Business

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were intimated on behalf of Mr I Cockburn and Mr G Ross.

2. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

3. Outcome of the Site Search for Waste Facility in the Inner Moray Firth

There had been circulated Report No WS/03/18 dated 30 July 2018 by the Director of Community Services.

To identify sites a comprehensive search of potential locations within the Inner Moray Firth had been conducted, the detail of which was provided as Appendix 1 of the report. Various considerations had been taken into account and, based on this analysis, the former Longman Landfill site in Inverness had been identified, specifically the part allocated in the Inner Moray Firth Local Development Plan as IN13. Consequently initial engagement had been undertaken with SEPA and SNH to address issues relating to Waste Management, Site Contamination, Flooding and Habitat and, as the Longman Junction Improvement Scheme was in development, close and ongoing liaison with Transport Scotland would be required. Preliminary work had also been undertaken to develop a Communications strategy and plan, a Risk register and key stages plan and external designs for the facility were being created.

Following detailed discussion, the Working Group:-

- i. **NOTED** the contents of the report; and
- ii. **AGREED** to recommend to the Environment, Development and Infrastructure Committee that officers pursue the site identified at the former Longman Landfill Site in Inverness as the Council's preferred location for its Materials Recovery Facility, in consultation with the Common Good Fund as landowners.

4. **Progress Update on Implementation of the Council's Preferred Option for Managing its Biodegradable Municipal Waste**

There had been circulated Report No WS/04/18 dated 30 July 2018 by the Director of Community Services.

As the former Longman Landfill site was on an important approach to Inverness, landscape and visual considerations were key. As a result, detailed external designs of the facility were being prepared and were to be submitted to the Inverness Design Review Panel on 15 August 2018 where it was hoped design advice would be provided in advance of submitting a planning application for the site. In addition, a site investigation survey would be made to assess ground environmental and foundation characteristics and a site development/management plan would be created. It was suggested that visits to other waste facilities would be beneficial.

There were a number of other key meetings coming up, namely, the Inverness Members' Briefing on 14 August; the Environment, Development and Infrastructure Committee on 16 August; Waste Management Project Board on 24 August; and the City of Inverness Area Committee on 30 August 2018.

The Working Group **NOTED** the contents of the report and highlighted the importance on providing a communication strategy on waste and recycling.

5. **Planning Horizon**

The Head of Planning & Environment provided a verbal report on the next steps in the planning process, should the Environment, Development and Infrastructure Committee agree to pursue the Longman Landfill site option. In particular, Members were informed that it was the intention that an Awareness Notice would be published in the second half of August, a Public Awareness event held by the end of September and with the submission of planning application being possible by the end of 2018.

The Working Group **NOTED** the process.

6. **Committee Approved Solution**

The Director of Community Services reminded Members what had previously been agreed by EDI Committee in May this year namely:

- the establishment of a Materials Recovery Facility (MRF) in the Inner Moray Firth area as the Council's preferred interim arrangement for meeting the requirements of the ban on landfilling Biodegradable Municipal Waste (BMW); and
- that further work is to be carried out to identify the Council's preferred long-term arrangements for the management of its waste for the next 30 years, in particular the viability of Option 3, an Energy from Waste plant located in the Inner Moray Firth area.

It was highlighted that the Longman site has the potential for both a Materials Recovery Facility and an Energy from Waste plant. However, at this stage Officers were recommending that approval is sought from EDI only for the MRF element. This would ensure that they could proceed at a pace that gives the Council the best chance of getting this essential infrastructure in place. Officers would continue to pursue the viability of an Energy from Waste facility, including the possibility of co-location on the Longman site, subject to further environmental assessment and the relevant planning and other regulatory consents being successfully put in place. .

This Working Group **ENDORSED** this approach and **AGREED** to the development of a communication strategy to help explain to stakeholders the Council's medium and long term proposals for managing its waste, and the role people can play in minimising their effect on the environment.

7. Date of Next Meeting

The Working Group **NOTED** that the next meeting is scheduled for 19 September 2018 at 2.00 pm.

The meeting ended at 3.30 p.m.