

## The Highland Council

Minutes of Meeting of the **Waste Strategy Working Group** held in Committee Room 2, Council Headquarters, Glenurquhart Road, Inverness on Friday 7 December 2018 at 2.00 pm.

### **Present:-**

Mr J Bruce	Mrs T Robertson
Mr J Gray	Mr G Ross
Mr A Henderson (Chair)	Ms M Smith

### **In attendance:-**

Mr W Gilfillan, Director of Community Services  
Mr A Summers, Head of Environmental and Amenity Services, Community Services  
Miss J MacLennan, Principal Administrator, Chief Executive's Service

### **Business**

#### **1. Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence were intimated on behalf of Mr I Cockburn, Mrs L MacDonald and Mr H Morrison.

#### **2. Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

#### **3. Progress Update on Waste Communications Strategy and Public Awareness Event**

There had been circulated Report No WS/05/18 dated 30 November 2018 by the Director of Community Services.

The Head of Environmental and Amenity Services provided an update on proposals to promote garden waste collection, the communication strategy and the overall direction of the Waste Strategy. In recognising the need to move quickly with these proposals Members were assured that measures were in place to recruit to the post of Project Manager, a post which had been delayed as a result of the Council's recent recruitment freeze. However, the commercial aspect of this post and the potential detrimental impact on the budget if it was left unfilled had been successfully argued.

The current focus was to have the Residual Waste Management facility in place as soon as possible. The Consultation event on 26 September had fed into and informed the planning application and it had been hoped that a draft planning application would be submitted before Christmas. Although the timescale had slipped slightly, it was still anticipated that it would be submitted before the end of the year with the planning application being considered at the South Area Planning Applications Committee on 12 March 2019. Discussions were still taking place regarding the design and the materials to be used but it was hoped these would be resolved imminently.

Continuing, Members were also informed of the outcome of the Officer Site Visit, the arrangements necessary for procurement for the renewal/replacement of waste handling contracts, the merits of the various options available to

procure a Materials Recovery Facility (MRF) and the sensitivities surrounding the connection of the project with the Inverness Common Good.

During discussion, the following points were raised:-

- details of the current tonnage of garden waste was sought;
- given the changes which had taken place regarding recyclable materials, the time was now prudent for an updated information sheet to be provided;
- other Council Members should be encouraged to read the Council's Highpoints Newsletter which had informative sections on recycling, the current journey of our waste and the MRF proposal;
- the procurement method for a MRF was a key decision. In acknowledging the need to quantify risks and costs, it was recognised that additional time was required to enable officers to be able to make an informed recommendation. Accordingly, Members were supportive of a special meeting being held of the Environmental, Development and Infrastructure Committee in late February/early March. Furthermore, it was accepted that it might be necessary, given the complexities involved, to seek additional professional expertise with assessing the procurement options; and
- Members accepted that the MRF would not result in savings but would meet the Council's legal obligation to comply with the prohibition on landfill which was to come into force on 1 January 2021.

Thereafter, the Working Group:-

- i. **NOTED** the report;
- ii. **AGREED** on the decision making process for agreeing the preferred procurement option for the new facility, as outlined in paragraph 4.7 of the report;
- iii. **APPROVED** the approach being advocated at paragraph 4.14 of the report with regard to there being no additional consultation requirement with specific reference to the use of land held under the Common Good;
- iv. **AGREED** an updated recycling information sheet be provided' and
- v. **AGREED** to support the suggestion of a special meeting of the Environmental, Development and Infrastructure Committee in late February/early March.

#### **4. Date of Next Meeting**

The Working Group **NOTED** that the next meeting was scheduled for Thursday, 7 February 2019 at 2.00 pm.

The meeting ended at 2.50 p.m.