

SUSTAINABILITY AND COMMUNITIES MEETING

29 APRIL 2016

REVIEW OF TARGET “% OF WASTE DIVERTED FROM LANDFILL”

FROM: HEAD OF DIRECT SERVICES

Background

The “% of Waste diverted from landfill” in the 10 year plan target looks at all handling that avoids the need to place waste in landfill, and so takes account of waste that is not only recycled but also waste that is sent for thermal treatment which otherwise disposes of the waste. This contributes towards the national target of 95% to be diverted from landfill by 2025.

“.....the Scottish Government will aspire to achieve an overall recycling and composting level of 70% and 5% (maximum) landfill for the total Scottish waste arisings by 2025.”

Scotland’s Zero Waste Scotland, Part 6 June 2010

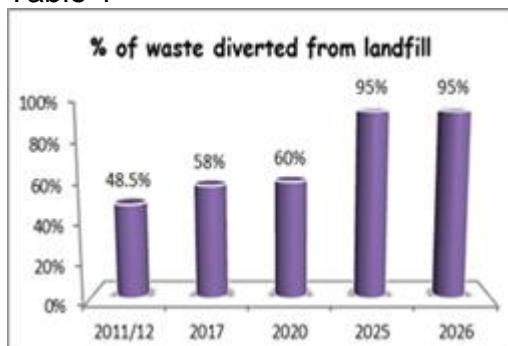
The Council currently relies on landfill for its residual waste. However with a ban on organics by the end of 2020 the Council will have to find an alternative to landfill by this date.

The Council is working in partnership with Aberdeen City Council and Aberdeenshire Council to progress a joint Energy from Waste facility in Aberdeen City. However the current programme will not deliver a plant until 18 months after this date and the Council will either have to seek a derogation from Scottish Government/SEPA allowing it to keep using landfill for a short time or go to the open market (which could be in the UK or in Europe) to secure a short term contract for a thermal treatment process that will meet the ban on landfill.

Target

The current recycling rate is 57% as of the end of 2015 (figures not yet available for year end 2016/17), and are currently on target to meet 58% by 2017 and 60% by 2020 as shown in Table 1 below:

Table 1



From 2017 we will only see a modest increase in recycling rates as this is more difficult to achieve given that we will already be at the top end of what experience in other countries suggests we can reasonably expect to achieve.

The increase to 95% diversion from landfill will only be achieved in 2021 once the ban on organics has been in place (unless we obtain a derogation) at which point the Council will have secured a short term market solution.

Confidence Rating

The Council will be unable to get a commitment from the market on a contract until closer to 2020. Also the Council would want to test an opportunity for a derogation before committing to a contract.

This target is also influenced by the proposed Joint Energy from Waste Plant with Aberdeen City and Aberdeenshire Councils. On the assumption that this project proceeds, it is expected that levels of diversion from landfill will be optimised at 95% by in 2021 and will thereafter remain constant to 2026 as levels are unlikely to be further improved based on anticipated resources and public compliance. The confidence rating cannot be increased until planning permission is granted and the second stage Inter Authority Agreement which underpins the project is signed and a detailed project plan agreed. Expected to be October 2016.