

**REPORT TO: POLICY & RESOURCES COMMITTEE– 9th DECEMBER 2013**

**REPORT ON: REVIEW OF RECYCLING CENTRE PROVISION**

**REPORT BY: DIRECTOR OF ENVIRONMENT**

**REPORT NO: 518-2013**

## **1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT**

- 1.1 To advise on the outcome of the recent review of the city's Recycling Centre provision and to note the Director of Environment's view that the current level of Recycling Centre provision via the two sites at Baldovie and Riverside is appropriate.

## **2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 2.1 It is recommended that committee agree note the Director of Environment's view that the current level of Recycling Centre provision via the two sites at Baldovie and Riverside is appropriate.

## **3.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 3.1 The Director of Corporate Services advises that the savings remain as previously reported, £264,000 for 2013/14 and £231,000 for a full financial year.

## **4.0 BACKGROUND**

- 4.1 Reference is made to Article III of the Policy & Resources committee of 14 February 2013, which approved changes to the provision of Recycling Centres in establishing the 2013/14 revenue budget. These changes included the closure of the Marchbanks Recycling Centre along with amendments to the materials that could be collected at the remaining Centres at Baldovie and Riverside. As a consequence of these changes revenue budget savings of £316,000 per annum were realised and were an important contribution towards the overall required saving of £6.451m in 2013/14.
- 4.2 Further reference is made to Article XII of the Policy and Resources committee of 19 August 2013, which removed the restrictions on the materials that could be collected at both Baldovie and Riverside. This amendment was estimated to cost an additional £85,000 in a full financial year. Since September, both sites have operated successfully on this basis.
- 4.3 At the meeting on 19 August the Director of the Environment undertook to review the closure of the Marchbanks Recycling Centre and to report back on this matter.
- 4.4 In reviewing the decision to close the Marchbanks Recycling Centre, a number of factors have been considered including:
- review of alternative provision;
  - impact on recycling performance
  - impact on residual waste
  - impact on fly-tipping activity; and
  - comparison of Recycling Centre provision with other city authorities.

## 5.0 FINDINGS

### 5.1 Review of Alternative Provision

- 5.1.1 Since Marchbanks was opened as the city's 3<sup>rd</sup> Recycling Centre in 2003, the range of Recycling Points, Neighbourhood Recycling Points and kerbside collection services that have been extended significantly across the city. The changes that have taken place are detailed in the following table:

Service Type	Extent of Service in 2003	Extent of Service in 2013	Increase
Blue Bins	29,390	37,000	7,610
Brown Bins	7,900	39,000	31,100
Food-waste bins	0	3,000	3,000
Burgundy bins	0	3,000	3,000
Recycling boxes	0	17,000	17,000
RP's	24	44	20
NRP's	0	74	74

The range of services shown above, provide householders with both kerb-side and bring-to facilities in addition to the services that are provided at the Recycling Centres.

- 5.1.2 Following the closure of Marchbanks an additional four NRP's were provided in the area immediately surrounding the facility to support local residents in their recycling efforts. The additional NRP's are located at Brantwood Avenue, Cedarwood Drive, Liff Road and Lorne Street. These facilities allow the recycling of glass, plastics and aluminium and have been well used by local residents.
- 5.1.3 In addition to the above, a bulky mixed waste service is provided to residents within the city. A similar service is available within the comparison city authorities and the costs of these services are as follows:

Authority	Cost of Service	Comments
Glasgow	Free	Charge made for heavy items
Dundee	£12.50	Up to 6 items
Edinburgh	£19.99	Up to 6 items
Aberdeen	£23.00	Up to 4 items

### 5.2 Impact on Recycling Performance

- 5.2.1 During the period April to September 2013, positive increases in recycled materials collected at the Recycling Centres as follows:
- Paper and card +8%
  - Electrical Goods (WEE) +13%
  - Glass +4%
- 5.2.2 Timber recyclate has reduced slightly by 3% whilst there has been a more significant reduction of 20% in the metals collected. This reduction in metals is considered to be a direct consequence of the higher market value of scrap metals.
- 5.2.3 Whilst the overall tonnage of composted material has reduced in comparison with the same period last year, it is broadly in line with previous years. The volume of compost produced is heavily influenced by weather and growing patterns and the first three

months of this year saw a significant reduction due to a very slow start to the growing season in April and May.

<b>April - October</b>	<b>Overall Composting Tonnage</b>	<b>Composting %</b>
2008-2009	6,791	11%
2009-2010	6,588	11%
2010-2011	6,544	11%
2011-2012	6,081	12%
2012-2013	7,457	14%
2013-2014	6,257	13%

- 5.2.4 Overall there has been an increasing trend in the percentage of recyclate collected at the Recycling Centres and this trend has remained unaffected by the closure of Marchbanks.

<b>April - October</b>	<b>Recycling Centre % Recycling</b>
2008-2009	36%
2009-2010	37%
2010-2011	31%
2011-2012	46%
2012-2013	51%
2013-2014	53%

### **5.3 Impact on Residual Waste**

- 5.3.1 There has been no increase in the amount of residual waste as a result of the closure of the site at Marchbanks. As shown in the table below, the general trend over the period assessed has been that of a decrease in the amount of residual waste arisings and a further decrease has been recorded this year.

<b>April - October</b>	<b>DCC Total Residual Waste Arisings (tonnes)</b>	<b>Recycling Centre Residual Waste Arisings (tonnes)</b>
2008-2009	37,609	7,123
2009-2010	34,742	6,331
2010-2011	37,297	6,982
2011-2012	31,122	5,145
2012-2013	36,020	4,613
2013-2014	33,938	3,330

### **5.4 Impact on Fly Tipping Activity**

- 5.4.1 Incidents of fly-tipping within the city are recorded from both 'reactive' and 'proactive' sources. 'Reactive' incidents are those which have been notified via a call or complaint from the public or other establishment / group and 'proactive' are instances of fly-tipping that are noted and dealt with by operational staff in the course of their duties.
- 5.4.2 During the first three months after the closure the number of fly tipping incidents recorded reduced by almost 9%. This pattern reversed in the following three months. The overall difference between April - September 2012 and April - September 2013 has showed a minor increase in incidents of 0.5%. These minor changes are not considered to be linked to the changes in Recycling Centre provision but rather are due to natural statistical variation.

## 5.5 Comparison with Other Authorities

5.5.1 Information obtained from the National List of Household Waste Recycling Centres shows that there is a widerange in the number of sites that local authorities operate within their areas. This ranges from 1 site per 4,020 citizens in Orkney to 1 site per 162,880 in Edinburgh. Such a wide variation exists due to area size and geography and local authorities position their Recycling Centres in order to best minimise the distance their site users require to travel to use them. A comparison with the other main city authorities has been made and is shown in the following table:

Authority	Number of Recycling Centres	Provision per head of population
Aberdeen	4	1 per 56,242
Dundee	2	1 per 73,900
Glasgow	4	1 per 148,770
Edinburgh	3	1 per 160,880
<b>Average</b>	<b>3.25</b>	<b>1 per 109,948</b>

5.5.2 A similar comparison was carried out looking at Recycling Centre provision per Hectare of geographic area per authority:

Authority	Number of Recycling Centres	Provision per Ha of Geographic Area
Dundee	2	1 per 3,000
Glasgow	4	1 per 4,375
Aberdeen	4	1 per 4,650
Edinburgh	3	1 per 8,767
<b>Average</b>	<b>3.25</b>	<b>1 per 5,198</b>

5.5.3 A further similar geographical study was carried out on the maximum required travel distance to a Recycling Centre for the comparison city authorities above and the results of this are as follows:

Authority	Number of Recycling Centres	Maximum Travel Distance
Dundee	2	5.4 miles
Glasgow	4	6.9 miles
Edinburgh	3	9.2 miles
Aberdeen	4	10 miles
<b>Average</b>	<b>3.25</b>	<b>7.9 miles</b>

## 6.0 CONCLUSIONS

6.1 The review of the provision of Recycling Centres in Dundee has confirmed that in terms of provision Dundee is well served in comparison with the main city authorities in Scotland. The maximum travel distance for any resident to their nearest Recycling Centre is 5.4 miles in comparison with the average maximum distance of 7.9 miles. In addition, 95% of current users travel for less than 20 minutes to their nearest Recycling Centre.

6.2 There has been little or no impact of the changes introduced in April and amended in September on recycling performance, fly tipping and residual waste collected. In addition to the two Recycling Centres, a network of Recycling Points and Neighbourhood Recycling Points has been developed across the city, this continues to be developed and expanded where appropriate.

6.3 Taking into consideration all of the above factors it is concluded that the current provision of two Recycling Centres is appropriate for the city and compares well with the provision made by other city authorities.

## **7.0 POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

7.1 This report has been screened for any policy implications in respect of Sustainability, Strategic Environmental Assessment, Anti-poverty, Equality Impact Assessment and Risk Management. There are no major issues.

## **8.0 CONSULTATIONS**

8.1 The Chief Executive, Director of Corporate Services, Head of Democratic and Legal Services have all been consulted in relation to this report.

## **7.0 BACKGROUND PAPERS**

7.1 None

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**Director of Environment**

Kenny Kerr  
**Head of Environmental Protection**

25<sup>th</sup> November 2013