



REPORT REFERENCE: **2.1**
3 JUNE 2010

LINCOLNSHIRE WASTE PARTNERSHIP

SUBJECT :	Kerbside Green Waste Collection – Boston Borough Council
REPORT BY:	Phil Drury – Strategic Director, Boston Borough Council
CONTACT NO:	01205 314493

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Of the Collection Districts, Boston Borough is unique in that it has been collecting green waste as part of its residual waste stream since the adoption of wheeled bin collections in 1996. Despite the introduction of its Alternate Weekly Collection (twin-bin) regime in 2003, where recycling increased substantially, the Council has been unable to increase its performance radically since then.

District 2009/2010 Year End Estimates

		BBC	ELDC	LINC	NKDC	SHDC	SKDC	WLDC
NI191	Residual household waste per household (kg)	665.12	390.81	493.49	450.7	506.5	432.24	475.59
NI192	Percentage of household waste sent for reuse, recycling or compost	29.43	56.29	43.84	53.8	33.7	50.59	48.85

Boston’s current recycling performance is limited by the fact that green waste is currently deposited by householders in the residual waste stream. Analysis of the Boston waste stream by the County Council has shown that over 30% by weight of this residual waste stream is made up of biodegradable green waste which is suitable for composting. Collecting this green waste separately would see an improvement in Boston’s recycling performance by a further 20%, bringing it up to a similar level to the best performing Councils in Lincolnshire and contributing significantly to the County recycling performance target of 55% to be achieved by 2015.

DISCUSSIONS

To enable the green waste to be collected separately the most cost effective proposal is for the Council to introduce 'split-bodied' refuse freighters as part of its planned fleet replacement. Householders would be requested to deposit green waste for collection in a new additional wheeled bin. Green waste and dry recyclable waste would be co-collected using the new split bodied vehicles.

COSTS

The additional costs of procuring split bodied vehicles and 26000 bins are calculated at £858,500. At this time Boston Borough Council is not in a position to be able to invest in the necessary infrastructure to facilitate a stand alone collection regime for green waste without external support. Currently the cost of landfill to the County Council including landfill tax is £64.68 per tonne compared to the gate fee for green waste presented for composting of £22.50.

The annual saving excluding haulage if Boston's collected green waste could be diverted from landfill to composting ranges between £224,000 and £260,000 (5,320 – 6,250 tonnes per annum).

Previously the Officer Working Group of the Lincolnshire Waste Partnership has considered this matter and is supportive of the County Council and Boston Borough Council working in partnership to fund the introduction of a green waste scheme in Boston.

In giving this support it is recognised that other districts have invested significantly in introducing green waste collection methods and that the County Council has met the associated additional costs of green waste disposal.

NATIONAL AND LOCAL POLICY

The Lincolnshire Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy has been produced to enable to the County to meet the EU targets for a reduction in the use of landfill for disposal. Objective 3 of the strategy reads "Across Lincolnshire to achieve 55% recycling and composting by 2015".

Agreed Action No. 4 of the strategy reads "Boston to work in conjunction with LCC as the Waste Disposal Authority, to divert several thousand tonnes of currently landfilled compostable waste from the residual waste stream to a composting operator".

This supports the Audit Commission Waste Management Agenda for Action Recommendation "*Closer partnership working between waste collection and waste disposal authorities and with other key stakeholders including the private sector, is key to delivering both statutory targets and sustainable waste management*"

In 2009, the County Council commissioned a survey collecting samples of residual waste from each of the Districts within Lincolnshire. An analysis of the stream being scientifically measured immediately thereafter. Across the whole of Lincolnshire garden waste accounted for 11.3% of the sample, in Boston it was 31.3% (April sample) and 36.8%(September sample) whereas across those districts offering a kerbside service, the volume of green waste varied between 3.7% and 6.4%.

OPTIONS

- Lincolnshire County Council and Boston Borough Council to collaborate to deliver a borough wide kerbside green waste collection service.
- Introduce a reduced 'pilot' area.
- Do nothing.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Lincolnshire Waste Partnership is recommended to:

- Consider the issues highlighted in this report and the potential impact for the County recycling target.
- Consider support to a collaboration between Lincolnshire County Council and Boston Borough Council in facilitating a kerbside green waste collection service in the Borough of Boston.