



REPORT REFERENCE: **2.4**
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LINCOLNSHIRE WASTE PARTNERSHIP

SUBJECT: PLASTIC RECYCLING

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BACKGROUND INFORMATION

A request has been received from a partner within the Lincolnshire Waste Partnership for clarification of the situation with regard to plastic recycling within the County.

DISCUSSIONS

The current situation in Lincolnshire is that four authorities have released their recyclable waste streams to the County Council to make the arrangements for processing and sale, and three authorities currently have their own independent contracts for processing and sale.

LCC recently undertook a tendering exercise for the recyclable waste streams of the three WCA's whose recycling processing contracts ended on 31st March 2010. This was based on the material mix being collected by those authorities at the time the tender documents were released in November 2009. None of those recycling mixes included yogurt pots, margarine tubs and similar packaging materials at that time.

These items had been excluded from the material mixes prior to that time as this type of packaging material is not popular with Material Reclamation Facility operators. Packaging of this kind is of low value with little scope for actual recycling, and in reality most of it is energised in Energy from Waste facilities.

The situation with the three districts who operate their own contracts is different in that the Material Reclamation Facility that they use is prepared to accept this type of item in the material mix. This operator did tender for the recent contract but was unsuccessful.

Objective four of the Strategy Action Plan does include a target for a uniform recycling stream across the county, as well as a commitment that any MRF contract or facility should be capable of handling all the waste streams that are presented.

Progress is being made toward achieving this objective with Boston having recently introduced glass into their recycling mix, and the processing contract that is to be tendered later this year for this District will allow for that mix to be handled.

The County Council as Waste Disposal Authority remains committed to expanding the range of materials that can be collected by Waste Collection Authorities should the opportunity arise in the future.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Lincolnshire Waste Partnership is recommended to note the current position with regard to the recycling of low grade plastic packaging.