

Open Report on behalf of Director of Communities

Report to:	Environmental Scrutiny Committee
Date:	08 July 2011
Subject:	Policy Review of Distance from a Household Waste Recycling Centre

Summary:

To allow Environmental Scrutiny Committee to consider and make a recommendation to the Executive Member to revise the current policy of Household Distance from a Waste Recycling Centre. The current policy provides that the majority of households (90%) should be within 7 miles distance of a Household Waste Recycling Centre (HWRC), the proposed revision provides that the majority of households should be within 12 miles of a HWRC. The need for such a proposal is driven from the need to make savings as part of the Council's core offer.

To also consider the cessation of supplementary payments to those District Councils where there are significant households not within the policy distance to a HWRC.

Actions Required:

To recommend whether to continue with the existing policy, adopt the proposed revised policy or consider a new revised policy.

1. Background

Following due consideration and recommendation from the Waste Policy Development Group, the Council adopted a policy that 90% of households in Lincolnshire should be within seven miles radius of a HWRC, in 2007.

At that time, in order for the County Council to comply with its policy it required the need for an additional four facilities to be built at Middle Rasen, Stamford, Mablethorpe and Long Sutton.

Construction has been completed on the Middle Rasen site and this was opened in March 2011.

Despite the consideration of numerous different locations, it has not proved possible to acquire suitable land for Mablethorpe or Long Sutton facilities. And development work on the Stamford facility has been problematic, due to on-going problems with securing a suitable site, planning and high development costs.

With the changing economic circumstances that are now facing the County Council, it is now appropriate for the Council to review its HWRC policy, so that it is more achievable and appropriate to the present situation.

Distance to HWRCs

Appendix A shows the coverage of the County based on a 12 mile radius from each of the existing or proposed sites.

The adoption of a policy based on this distance would allow almost the entire county with the exception of a small area of South Holland around Long Sutton and Kelsey in West Lindsey to be within a 12 mile radius of a HWRC. There would be a choice of HWRC availability to residents in certain areas where the radii overlap.

Appendix B shows the coverage of the County based on a 10 mile radius from each of the existing or proposed sites.

The adoption of a policy based on this distance allows for the majority of the County to be within ten miles radius of a HWRC, with only areas of South Holland around Long Sutton, South Kesteven around Stamford and the coastal part of East Lindsey around Mablethorpe not being covered.

Appendix C shows the current 7 mile radius policy.

This highlights the requirement for additional sites that was identified when the policy was adopted in 2007.

District Payments

As a part of the original policy it was also agreed on the recommendation of the former Waste Policy Development Group to make payments to the district councils related to the households falling outside the seven mile radius to a HWRC, as well as those within the seven mile catchment areas until such time as the additional facilities were provided. These payments were made on the provision that the District Council receiving the funds used it to increase recycling of household waste.

This resulted in the following payments in 2010/11:

East Lindsey DC	£51,170
South Holland DC	£40,284
West Lindsey	£34,528

The same amounts have been built into the budgets for 2011/12 for South Holland and East Lindsey. The payment to West Lindsey has now stopped as the Rasens HWRC facility opened in March 2011.

The adoption of an expanded catchment area would ensure that all but a small area of the County would be covered by the new policy. Therefore, it is appropriate that the Council should also review whether to continue to make these payments.

In the event of a decision to withdraw the payments notification should be given to the remaining two District Councils as soon as possible in 2011/12 to allow them the opportunity to properly budget in 2012/13.

Payments for 2011/12 have already been made to ELDC and SHDC.

Supplementary Service (South Kesteven)

In order to assist with the lack of a HWRC facility in the Stamford area (also sits outside of the current 7m radius) the provision of a Saturday morning Supplementary Collection Service for residual and garden wastes was agreed by the former Waste Policy Development Group and has since, been continued.

This has been provided by third party refuse operators on annual contracts with the latest being let in November 2010. If this service is to continue as part of the federated core offer, it will either need the one-year extension option in the contract to be taken or a re-tendering exercise to be carried out in October 2011.

Supplementary Service £46,267.

Options

A) Retain the current policy of a 7 mile radius.

With this policy the provision of a HWRC at Mablethorpe, Stamford and Long Sutton remains a requirement, albeit one that is unlikely to be achievable in the near future.

If this policy is retained then a decision will be required on the payments to the districts in lieu of the provision of a HWRC, and whether those payments should be stopped, reduced or increased.

B) Adopt a new policy of a 10 mile radius.

With this policy the provision of a HWRC at Mablethorpe, Stamford and Long Sutton remains a requirement, albeit one that is unlikely to be achievable in the near future.

If this policy is adopted then a decision will be required on the payments to the districts in lieu of the provision of a HWRC, and whether those payments should be stopped or reduced to reflect the smaller number of properties that lie outside the 10 mile radius limit.

C) Adopt a new policy of a 12 mile radius.

If this policy is adopted then a decision will be required whether a payment should be made to South Holland District Council and West Lindsey District Council, and the level at which any payment should be made. The area falling outside HWRC provision within a 12 mile radius is considerably reduced from that under the current policy and this policy is not to provide 100% coverage.

The adoption of this policy would also assist the Council in undertaking a review of the overall level of provision, as part of the County Council's core offer.

2. Conclusion

The County Council is facing a challenging future in terms of allocating increasingly scarce resources to capital schemes, and especially towards facilities such as HWRC's where there is a substantial year-on-year revenue implication for operating the facility once it has been built.

Even with the adoption of the increased travel distances the County is presently still providing seven facilities, with a further six HWRC's owned and operated by private operators, under contract to the County Council.

The indicated level of savings required from the waste services budget based to meet the core offer will require the Council to reduce both the number of facilities from the current level of 13 HWRCs and reduce the opening times of those which are retained.

3. Consultation

a) Policy Proofing Actions Required

The proposal could increase emissions from vehicle usage as a result of residents having to travel further to access a HWRC.

The proposal could have an impact on waste and recycling if the increased travel distances to a HWRC deter residents from using the facilities.

4. Appendices

These are listed below and attached at the back of the report	
Appendix A	Map of 12 mile Travel Distances from Current and Proposed HWRC Locations
Appendix B	Map of 10 mile Travel Distance from Current and Proposed HWRC Locations
Appendix C	Map of 7 mile Travel Distance from Current and Proposed HWRC Locations

5. Background Papers

The following background papers as defined in the Local Government Act 1972 were relied upon in the writing of this report.

Document title	Where the document can be viewed
Report to Waste Policy Development Group 19 February 2007	Lincolnshire County Council Committee Records System

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