

**PRESENT:**

Councillor G Hazelwood representing North Kesteven District Council (Chairman)

Councillor C L Strange	Lincolnshire County Council
Councillor A H Turner MBE (Executive Support Councillor for Waste)	Lincolnshire County Council
Sean Kent	Lincolnshire County Council
Ian Taylor	Lincolnshire County Council
Richard Belfied	Lincolnshire County Council
Mark Humphreys	East Lindsey District Council
Councillor M Brookes	Boston Borough Council
Councillor F Smith	City of Lincoln Council
Steve Bird	City of Lincoln Council
Mark Taylor	North Kesteven District Council
Councillor R Gambba-Jones	South Holland District Council
Sarah Bruton	South Holland District Council
Councillor J Smith	South Kesteven District Council
Tracey Blackwell	South Kesteven District Council
Glynn Pilkington	West Lindsey District Council
James Brackenbury	Environment Agency

10. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors I Parrott (West Lindsey District Council) and S Newton (East Lindsey District Council). George Bernard from Boston Borough Council also submitted apologies.

11. MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 21 SEPTEMBER 2011

RESOLVED

That the minutes of the Lincolnshire Waste Partnership meeting held on 21 September 2011, be agreed and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

12. PROPOSED SCHEDULE OF MEETING DATES

Consideration was given to a report which presented the Partnership with potential dates for meetings of the Lincolnshire Waste Partnership, Member/Officer pre-meeting and the Officer Working Group for 2012 and 2013.

The Chairman requested that the following changes be made to the dates as set out below:

- The meeting scheduled for 17 May 2012 instead take place on 10 May 2012

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- The meeting scheduled for 13 September 2012 instead take place on 27 September 2012

RESOLVED

That the dates as set out in the report be agreed subject to the above amendments.

13. ENERGY FROM WASTE FACILITY AND WASTE TRANSFER STATIONS UPDATE

Consideration was given to a report presented by the Head of Environmental Management which provided the Lincolnshire Waste Partnership with an update on progress made towards the delivery of the Energy from Waste facility and the Waste Transfer Stations in the past three months.

It was reported that construction of the Energy from Waste facility was progressing well as it was on budget and on schedule. It was suggested that a site visit should be arranged for the members of the partnership to the Energy from Waste facility site, as the scale of the project could start to be seen. It was due to the support of the Partnership members that so much had been accomplished so quickly.

The following was reported in relation to progress with the new Waste Transfer Stations:

Grantham – land had been purchased at Vantage Park and construction started on site 14 November 2011 and should be completed by May 2012.

Sleaford – planning permission had been granted for the land purchased at Pride Parkway, Enterprise Park. Works were due to commence on sit in January 2012 and were expected to take approximately six months to complete.

Boston – there had been ongoing issues around land purchase, and the Authority had now agreed with WRG to build another landfill cell for use by Boston Borough and South Holland. Land had been identified at Nursery Road, Riverside Industrial estate and contracts were expected to be exchanged at the end of November.

Gainsborough – the land had been purchased on Marshall Way, Somerby Park. A planning application had been submitted and a decision was expected in February 2012.

East Lindsey – Work was ongoing to find a suitable site in the south of the district to accommodate the impact on collection rounds of the future closure of the landfill at Middlemarsh.

In response to a query it was noted that the waste transfer station planned for Boston, would initially only be able to receive residual waste. Whether it would eventually also receive dry recyclables was an ongoing discussion.

It was confirmed that all the waste transfer stations would be operational from 1 April 2013.

RESOLVED

That the progress on the Energy from Waste facility and the Waste Transfer Stations be noted by the Lincolnshire Waste Partnership.

14. POLICY REVIEW OF DISTANCE FROM A HOUSEHOLD WASTE RECYCLING CENTRE

The Partnership received a verbal update from the Assistant Director (Environment, Planning and Customer Services) in relation to the Policy Review of Distance from a Household Waste Recycling Centre (HWRC). It was reported that it would not be possible to produce a report in relation to this until the budget setting process had been completed.

The Partnership was advised that some feedback had been received from some of the districts in terms of the changes to the working week which had been proposed. It was reported that there would be a move to a four day working week for all remaining HWRC's with the exception of Great Northern Terrace in Lincoln, and Spalding, which would both remain open for 7 days per week.

It was emphasised that the review of the 12 mile verses 7 mile radius policy was not connected to the budget, rather it was about where capital was spent to build new sites. It was about a change of policy as there was now no capital to build any new sites. The distance from a HWRC and the four day working week were two different issues.

It was noted that in relation to the HWRC which was proposed for Stamford and would now no longer be possible, the County Council would continue to provide a supplementary service and provision had been made in the revenue budget for this.

It was reported that the site at Spalding would stay open for 7 days a week as it took in a considerable amount of green waste, more than any other site in the County, and the Authority did not want to see this ending up at landfill.

The Partnership was provided with the opportunity to discuss the proposed changes to the policy and some of the points raised included the following:

- There were concerns that this would leave Mablethorpe outside the 12 mile radius;
- East Lindsey would continue to have discussions around encouraging more recycling rather than having another refuse vehicle on the ground;
- Members of WLDC had raised concerns regarding the impact this would have on recycling rates and the risks of increased fly tipping and put forward an alternative proposal that all the sites which remain open should open for 5 days per week. However, the Partnership was advised that opening for this extra day was not affordable, and some sites were more efficient than others, and so many issues had been considered when finalising the policy. It was noted that the statutory minimum provision was for the County Council to provide two HWRC's in the County;
- There would be no further payments made to SHDC for supplementary services as it was the aim for 95% of the population of Lincolnshire to be within a reasonable distance of a HWRC;

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- The levels of fly tipping would be monitored, particularly around entrances to the sites, and the Fly Tipping Team would continue to provide support to the districts;
- Revenue support would continue to be provided to districts for an on the ground service;
- Options to look at how services in districts could be supplemented in order to maintain a flow of waste into the EfW facility would always be considered;
- There were certain obligation in relation to the amount of waste which was to be sent to the EfW, and the Authority wanted to be sending the maximum amount of waste from the start;
- Permission to build the EfW was only granted on the condition that it only accepted waste from Lincolnshire, there would be no importing of waste from other counties;
- The proposal of keeping the Great Northern Terrace site open 7 days a week was welcomed by the City of Lincoln Council;
- It was suggested that the Officer Working Group monitor the levels of fly tipping and the impact on the domestic waste stream following the change in opening hours to the HWRC's;
- There was a need to realise that all partners have had to examine their budgets to determine where savings could be made, and that it had not been easy, but it was important to work together as a Partnership to work through the situation;
- Prosecutions would help to reduce the amount of fly tipping;
- An important part of the delivery of the new policy would be communication, the more notice people were given regarding the availability and opening hours for HWRC's , then this would also help to reduce fly tipping as people would be able to plan;
- The proposal for the Spalding site to stay open 7 days a week would be beneficial as there were a lot of people in the south of the county who would have access to it;

It was reported by Boston Borough Council that they had recently started a partnership with the Internal Drainage Board where inmates at North Sea Camp were taking part in a scheme to help collect fly tipped waste in the area. This had been very successful so far and it was wondered whether other districts might wish to consider this idea, it was thought it would be possible to extend this to South Holland and East Lindsey.

It was reported by South Holland that they had received a letter from Community Payback about a similar scheme where the probation service was seeking a modest amount of funding of approximately £80 per day and they would provide people to collect waste. It was thought this was a good scheme particularly when going through these austere times, and it was believed that schemes such as these were also very beneficial to the people involved as it provided a way for them to contribute to the community instead of just serving a sentence in prison. The Executive Support Councillor for Waste and Green Issues commented that he had had knowledge of these schemes in the past and had not found any problems with them if they were well supervised.

RESOLVED

1. That the update provided be noted.
2. That the Waste Officers Group monitor the amount of fly tipping
3. That the Waste Officers Group monitor the effect on the domestic waste stream of the changes to opening hours of the Household Waste Recycling Centre's

15. LOVE FOOD HATE WASTE KEY MESSAGES SUMMARY DOCUMENT

Consideration was given to a report which provided the members of the Partnership with a summary document which outlined the key Love Food Hate Waste (LFHW) messages for use in publicity produced by each of the districts. It was noted that this had been produced following a request at the previous meeting.

It was highlighted to the Partnership, that the key thing to be aware of if districts were planning on using any of the figures, then to refer to the WRAP website for the most up to date information.

The districts were wished luck for all of their publicity, were reminded that Johanna Walker, the Sustainability and Climate Change Waste and Recycling Officer, was available to offer help and advice if necessary.

It was commented that a lot of the figures were impressive, but it was queried whether this could be due, in part, to the economic climate, and people being more careful about the food they bought.

RESOLVED

That the summary document be used, where appropriate, for publicity in relation to the Love Food Hate Waste campaign by the districts.

16. LINCOLNSHIRE JOINT MUNICIPAL WASTE MANAGEMENT STRATEGY – ACTION PLAN UPDATE

An update was received from the Head of Environment and Public Protection at North Kesteven District Council in relation to the Lincolnshire Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy Action Plan. It was noted that most actions were progressing relatively well but others were behind target. It was thought the reduction in recycling officer capacity across the county was having an adverse impact on progress in some areas. Emphasis on waste infrastructure questions at the Waste Officers Group had also been at the expense of progress on some of the issues in the Action Plan.

It was suggested that with the EfW coming online in 2014, it would be a good opportunity for the Waste Officers Group to start work on refreshing the Waste Strategy Action Plan next year, to ensure that there was a robust Strategy in place. It was highlighted that this would be a refresh of the Strategy rather than a redraft

RESOLVED

That the progress to date be noted, and that the Waste Officers Group put in place a programme to refresh the Waste Strategy Action Plan and report back to a future meeting.

Following the main business of the meeting, Councillor Strange raised the issue of the increasing occurrence of metal thefts in the County, and asked that the districts shared any experiences they had had of this, and if there was anything that the Lincolnshire waste Partnership could do as a body to help alleviate this problem.

It was reported that there had seemed to be an increase in the theft of lead from church roofs, copper cabling, metal from railway lines, BT and also from farm vehicles, and the Police would now be spending 15% of their time on dealing with problem, as it was becoming a big issue.

The Environment Agency reported that they were doing more work with the police around the issuing and checking of permits for scrap yard dealers as that was usually where any stolen metal ended up.

Some of the points raised during this discussion included the following:

- There had been 69 metal thefts in Lincolnshire in the week prior to this meeting;
- One problem was that man hole covers were being removed, which posed a serious safety risk;
- There had been a rise in the numbers of people going round collecting scrap metal;
- There was a need to be more vigilant and report anything that seemed suspicious;
- One way to tackle this problem would be to reduce demand, and also to consider changing the materials that are used so that they have no value;
- The suggestion of putting together a workshop with the Police and planning enforcement officers was put forward
- There was support for the suggestion of making representations to LGA about tightening up the controls on the issuing of permits, as there needed to be more traceability of materials which were bought and sold by scrap dealers;
- The City of Lincoln advised that their officers had reported that the police had been out checking transfer permits;

RESOLVED

That the Waste Officers Group send a letter on behalf of the Lincolnshire Waste Partnership to all local MP's, the Prime Minister and Caroline Spellman highlighting this issue.

The meeting closed at 11.45am.