

REPORT REFERENCE: **1.2****PRESENT:**

Councillor C L Strange
 Councillor A H Turner MBE
 (Executive Support Councillor for Waste)
 Sean Kent
 Ian Taylor
 Richard Belfied
 Councillor M Brookes
 George Bernard
 Councillor F Smith
 Caroline Pritchard
 Mark Taylor
 Councillor G Hazelwood
 Councillor R Gambba-Jones
 Sarah Bruton
 Councillor J Smith
 Tracey Blackwell
 Glynn Pilkington
 Simon Mitchell

Lincolnshire County Council
 Lincolnshire County Council

 Lincolnshire County Council
 Lincolnshire County Council
 Lincolnshire County Council
 Boston Borough Council
 Boston Borough Council
 City of Lincoln Council
 City of Lincoln Council
 North Kesteven District Council
 North Kesteven District Council
 South Holland District Council
 South Holland District Council
 South Kesteven District Council
 South Kesteven District Council
 West Lindsey District Council
 Environment Agency

Councillor C L Strange, Chairman of the Partnership for the year 2010/11 expressed his thanks for all the support over the past year, and noted that a lot of progress had been made and it was hoped that all five waste transfer stations should be finalised within the next couple of months, and the build would be completed by 2013.

1. ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN

RESOLVED

That Councillor G Hazelwood be elected Chairman of the Partnership for the ensuing year.

COUNCILLOR G HAZELWOOD IN THE CHAIR

2. ELECTION OF VICE CHAIRMAN

RESOLVED

That Councillor C L Strange be elected Vice-Chairman of the Partnership for the ensuing year.

3. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors I Parrott (West Lindsey District Council) and S Newton (East Lindsey District Council)

4. MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 3 MARCH 2011**RESOLVED**

That the minutes of the Lincolnshire Waste Partnership meeting held on 3 March 2011, be agreed and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

It was noted that in relation to minute number 22, it was suggested that the Environment Agency prepare a report which covered its general responsibilities with a focus on illegal waste sites.

South Kesteven District Council provided an update in relation to minute number 21 referring to the disposal of asbestos, and reported that they were in the process of introducing an internal asbestos disposal service, and once it was up and running, they would then look at expanding it in order to provide a county wide service.

5. DISTRICT COUNCIL COLLECTIONS AND THE FUTURE USE OF WASTE TRANSFER STATIONS AND LANDFILLS

Consideration was given to a report presented by the Head of Environmental Management which informed the Partnership of the progress being made towards the delivery of the Energy from Waste (EfW) facility in order to meet the EU Landfill Directive targets for reducing the reliance on landfill for final disposal.

It was reported that progress with the EfW was going very well, and the Head of Environmental Management and the Chairman of the Lincolnshire Waste Partnership had managed to visit and meet with all districts Leaders and Chief Executives which had helped to give a greater understanding of their needs, however, despite best attempts so far it had not been possible to meet with South Holland District Council.

It was reported that the proposed Waste Transfer Station (WTS) network would include the existing WTS at Louth which was already operational and in use for disposal by ELDC and WLDC, as well as four others which were under development at sites in Grantham, Sleaford, Boston and Gainsborough. A potential sixth site in Middlemarsh was also being looked at and was being progressed with WRG.

With regards to the progress at the other sites, it was reported that the site at Grantham had been granted planning permission and a contractor had been selected for the design and build of the facility and it was expected that construction would commence late 2011. Planning permission had also been granted for the site at Sleaford, and following some objections from Sleaford Town Council, a visit had been arranged to the WTS at Louth for some of the members of the town council, and they were now very happy with the proposals for the site. It was hoped to do something similar for the town councillors for Gainsborough and Boston, and officers would be attending their council meetings to answer queries and concerns. It was also noted that local contractors would be used where possible.

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With the Boston site, the authority was still trying to purchase land on the Riverside Industrial Estate, however, time was now critical and other options for sites were being considered. It was reported that the authority would look to procure the land by Christmas 2011, and the design and build would be done under a framework agreement similarly with the Grantham and Sleaford sites. The Partnership was informed that there was a contingency being worked on. However, this could not be discussed in more detail as it was still commercially sensitive.

Following concerns raised regarding a possible shortfall of waste if the WTS's were not all operational on time, the Partnership was reassured that the EfW contract allowed for a shortfall in the delivery of municipal waste delivered to the facility,.

The Gainsborough site would be able to be progressed as the objections raised by WLDC had now been resolved, and it was hoped that the land could be purchased before the end of the month. Planning permission would then be submitted and it was hoped that construction would begin early in 2012.

It was reported that the WTS's would not be used until they were required for the EfW, but there could be opportunities if they were needed for storage of dry recyclates subject to detailed discussions between LCC and districts. It was commented that districts would need to be informed as soon as possible when the waste transfer stations would be operational as the collection rounds were planned well in advance. It was confirmed that, subject to progress, districts should work towards being ready to tip away at WTS's from 1 April 2013.

It was reported that permits for all the WTS's were in hand, and the Environment Agency informed the Partnership that they had received the permit for the Grantham site. The Partnership was informed that if anyone had any concerns they should contact the Head of Environmental Management directly.

It was also reported that subject to final negotiations with WRG LCC were hopeful that Colsterworth landfill could be retained for the long term, and this would provide SKDC with the flexibility they were looking for. Colsterworth would also provide the county with additional operational flexibility.

RESOLVED

That the Lincolnshire Waste Partnership note that best endeavours were taking place and that the County Council was well aware of the work and information needed for the Districts to re-plan their collection rounds, and also to confirm that the end of 2011 was an acceptable date for formal confirmation of the future timetable for landfill closures.

6. LOVE FOOD HATE WASTE CAMPAIGN

Consideration was given to a report presented by the Head of Environmental Management which provided an update to the Partnership of the results of Lincolnshire's Love Food Hate Waste (LFHW) Campaign which ran between November 2010 and March 2011. It was reported that post campaign monitoring found that whilst the campaign did not appear to meet the original objectives, a number of successes were noted.

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Some key points highlighted to the Partnership included the following:

- 55 events were delivered across Lincolnshire, and 5600 people were reached directly;
- South Holland was found to have the highest proportion of Committed Food Waste Reducers (CFWRs), and Lincoln had the lowest proportion;
- The proportion of CFWRs was above the national 12 month rolling average in South Holland, North Kesteven, South Kesteven and Boston;
- Between the pre-campaign and post-campaign the total estimate of cumulative reduction in food waste away from landfill was 757 tonnes;
- WRAP considered some of the results from the Lincolnshire post-campaign research to be puzzling;

The Partnership was informed that there were two potential options available for how LFHW messages could continue to be promoted which were a low cost option which involved making information leaflets, recipe cards etc available at existing events; press releases; providing information through the Recycle for Lincolnshire website; including articles in County and district publications and featuring at complementary events, and also a medium/high cost option involving specific awareness raising events requiring district council support in terms of financial contributions and staff time, additional budget would also be required if cookery demonstrations were undertaken. This option would require commitment from all partners to develop and deliver the programme.

A discussion of the two options followed and some of the points raised included:

- The concept of including messages within districts own recycling publicity was popular, but it was thought that some key headline messages which were the same across all districts would be helpful;
- Simple, key messages would be more effective, as the public did get a lot of information;
- It would be beneficial if these messages could start being published as soon as possible;
- It was suggested that a summary document be produced which could be distributed to all districts which outlined the main messages for use in their publicity. It was thought that initiatives such as this showed the Partnership working at its best;
- There was a lot of information on television regarding food labelling and it was important for the public to be provided with clear information about this;
- It needed to be highlighted to people that by thinking about the food they buy and reducing the food which was wasted, a household could save up to £750 per year;

It was widely agreed that the low cost option proposed was the right one to support, and it was commented that there was a lot that districts could do to ensure the good work continued.

RESOLVED

1. That the Lincolnshire Waste Partnership support the low cost option as a way of continuing the Love Food Hate Waste campaign;
2. That a summary document would be produced and distributed to all districts which outlined key messages in relation to the Love Food Hate Waste Campaign which would be used in their publicity

**7. THE ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE ENVIRONMENT AGENCY –
FOCUS ON WASTE**

The Partnership received a report and presentation from the Environment Agency which gave an outline of its roles and responsibilities. It was reported that the Northern Area, which covered Lincolnshire, Northamptonshire, Rutland, Peterborough, North Lincolnshire and North East Lincolnshire, regulated 43 active and 65 closed landfills, 13 incinerators, 298 other waste management operations, 814 water treatment works, 32 food and drink factories, 127 poultry rearing units and 24 pig farms. Some of the roles of the Environment Agency included the following regulation of major industry (power generation and food production), flood and coastal risk management (this consumed the biggest part of their budget), waste management, agriculture, navigation, fisheries, contaminated land, conservation and ecology, water quality and resources and climate change.

The Lincolnshire Waste Partnership received a presentation which provided examples of occurrences where the Environment Agency had been called in to deal with illegal waste sites. Following the presentation, Members were provided with the opportunity to ask questions and some of the points raised included the following:

- The Environment Agency (EA) would deal with large scale fly tipping involving organised crime or hazardous materials, as outlined in the fly tipping matrix agreed jointly with the LGA. The majority of fly tipping tended to be smaller scale and was dealt with by the districts;
- The EA always tried to work with individuals to help them comply with the law, with the exception of fly-tipping where enforcement action was the preferred option.
- The need to register septic tanks and any enforcement of this was being reviewed nationally. The EA would be involved in this but was taking a relaxed approach and would help and inform people of what was required of them. It was queried whether the Partnership could have more information on this matter when it was available.
- It was commented that feedback from the public indicated that many did know what was the responsibility of the EA and what was the responsibility of the districts;
- The EA aimed to have good working relationships with all the districts, and this was working particularly well in East Lindsey. Officers were allocated specific geographical areas;
- The suggestion of providing a single point of contact for residents, such as the Customer Service Centre (CSC), for all issues was put forward. It was suggested that the EA national call centre or pollution hotline could be linked through the CSC, and then from that point of contact be diverted to the relevant agency/authority to deal with, as it already worked jointly with some of the districts. It was noted that this was the direction that work in relation to flood risk management was taking.
- The EA was happy to provide reports for any further discussions in the future

The Chairman thanked Simon Mitchell from the Environment Agency for his presentation.

RESOLVED

That the report and presentation be noted.

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

Consideration was given to a report presented by the Head of Environmental Management which provided the Partnership with an opportunity to comment on the report submitted to the Environmental Scrutiny Committee on 8 July 2011 which outlined the proposal to revise the policy of household distance from a Household Waste Recycling Centre (HWRC), prior to it being considered by the Executive on 1 November 2011. The existing policy stated that the majority of households (90%) should be within a 7 mile radius of a HWRC, and the revision proposed that the majority of households should be within 12 miles of a HWRC.

A comprehensive discussion of the proposed revision of this policy took place and some of the issues highlighted included the following:

- The proposed revision would ensure that 98.8% of the Lincolnshire population were within 12 miles of a HWRC
- LCC had issued a survey questionnaire to all HWRC's to enable the public to provide feedback on the proposals, so far 25% of the questionnaires had been returned;
- The potential to revise the provision and opening hours of the 13 HWRC's was discussed. On the basis of the survey results it was discussed that opening hours could be reduced, as very little, if any, waste was received between 8 and 9 am or after 4pm. It was also discussed that the HWRC's at Whisby and Leadenham could close from 1 April 2012. Great Northern Terrace in Lincoln could remain open 7 days per week, as could the HWRC at Spalding, due to the amount of garden waste it collected. All the remaining sites could be open 4 days per week (Friday, Saturday, Sunday and Monday);
- Several districts expressed concerns regarding these potential proposals as it was feared this could lead to a poorer service for the public, whilst they understood that there was a need for the County Council to make savings, it was important that they were fully informed on the reasons for the closures and changes so that they could provide answers if challenged by other councillors or residents;
- There were concerns that reduced opening hours could lead to an increase in fly tipping;
- Concerns were also raised that having to travel further to a HWRC would increase the carbon footprint;
- It was thought that these changes could send out the wrong message, as the public were constantly encouraged to do more recycling, and these proposals would appear to make that more difficult;
- The responses from the survey would be fed into the Executive report;
- It was commented that travelling 12 miles was not the same in all parts of the county, it would be more beneficial if it was looked at in terms of travel time for households to a HWRC;
- Some of the HWRC's were run by WRG and so whether these remained open or not were out of the control of the County Council;
- The information and feedback received through the survey would be shared with all the districts to enable them to take this back to their Members;
- The Assistant Director for Environment, Planning and Customer Services informed the Partnership that he would be happy to delay taking this to the

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Executive for consideration to allow time for the members to take this back to their own districts, and then have a more detailed discussion at the next meeting of the Lincolnshire Waste Partnership. He made it clear thought that a decision would have to be taken at the LCC Executive in early December to enable the authority to draft new contracts and re-tender for operation of the HWRC's (existing contracts expire at the end of March 2012) ;

- It was queried what savings would be made through the changes to a four day week and the closure of sites, and Members were informed that this information was being worked on and would be provided to them over the course of the next month or so.;
- It was also suggested that information be obtained on how the service provided in Lincolnshire, in relation to distance to HWRC's, compared with other authorities.

RESOLVED

That the Policy Review of Distance from a Household Waste Recycling Centre together with the Proposed Changes to the Operation of the HWRC's (closures and opening hours) be submitted to the Executive for consideration at it's meeting on 6 December 2011, to enable the Lincolnshire Waste Partnership to fully consider the information and feedback received from the survey and from further member/officer working group discussions, at its next meeting on 1 December 2011.

9. NATIONAL WASTE POLICY REVIEW

The Partnership received an update from North Kesteven District Council in relation to the Government Review of Waste Policy in England 2011, which was published by DEFRA on 14 June 2011. It was noted that this report followed a year long consultation exercise, and both the Lincolnshire Waste Partnership and some of its constituent authorities had responded due to the potentially major impacts the Review could have had on the frequency and costs of collection of waste.

Several aspects of this Review were brought to the attention of the Partnership for more detailed consideration, and these included:

- Frequency of waste collection
- Food waste and anaerobic digestion (AD)
- Business waste
- Taxation and landfill allowance trading scheme (LATS)
- Regulation and enforcement
- Recycling on the go
- Rewards for recycling

It was thought that there were most concerns about a return to weekly collections and the impact of food waste collections, as Lincolnshire had now committed to the Energy from Waste route, rather than anaerobic digestion. It was suggested that the Waste Officers Group closely monitor the situation for developments

RESOLVED

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That the Lincolnshire Waste Partnership notes the review and instructs the Officer Group to report back with further developments as and when they arise.

The meeting closed at 12.40pm.