



REPORT REFERENCE: **2.5**

**LINCOLNSHIRE WASTE PARTNERSHIP**

**6 DECEMBER 2012**

<b>SUBJECT:</b>	<b>RE-USE INITIATIVE</b>
<b>REPORT BY:</b>	<b>WASTE OFFICER GROUP</b>
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#### **BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

An approach has been received by a District from a fledgling company in Wrangle that does repairs to household goods prior to re-sale, and that only sends items for scrap if they cannot be bought back into use.

This company works to handle the returned white goods from a retailer at Downtown and has been in discussions with Defra with respect to support for setting up a formal regional re-use facility to minimise the volume of white goods (in particular) that end up as scrap or landfill.

Defra have indicated that they are interested in the proposal so this company is now looking for possible local authority partner(s) to work with to supply the goods that are needed to develop the repair business.

Current arrangements for disposal of such items tend to involve districts either using the County Council contract with Repic (the WEEE compliance scheme) or ad-hoc arrangements with local scrap merchants.

All authorities are compliant in terms of disposal routes but items do go for recycling and material recovery and there are no arrangements in place to allow items to go for re-use. This company is looking for an opportunity to collect suitable white goods that can go into re-use as opposed to scrap or recovery.

All items that go onto a Household Waste Recycling Centre become a part of the contract the County Council has with Repic, and that runs until September 2013. However, all WCA's collect this type of item on their Schedule 2 (Bulky Items) collection service and these items only become part of the Repic contract when they

are presented to the County Council.

If WCA's were minded to suitable items could be diverted from that waste stream to the Re-use company although this might require the allocation of a suitable short term storage location for items ahead of collection.

## **OPTIONS**

The Lincolnshire Waste Partnership is invited to consider the following options:

1. To agree to the authority who have been approached to undertake a trial scheme with the company to divert suitable white goods for re-use as opposed to scrap or recovery;
2. To request that further information be obtained as to the feasibility of a wider scheme ideally covering all of Lincolnshire;
3. To defer any involvement in this scheme and to reconsider this matter when the compliance contract with Repic is due for re-tendering.

## **RECOMMENDATIONS**

The Lincolnshire Waste Partnership is recommended to support both option one for a localised trial and option two with a request that the officer group explore the possibilities of this scheme being more widely introduced and to report back to a subsequent meeting of the Partnership.