

COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING – 15 MAY 2015

Statement from: Councillor R A Shore, Executive Councillor for Waste, Recycling

PRESENT SITUATION

- **New Dry Recycling Contract**

A temporary, countywide contract was arranged and commenced in April as agreed. The new, longer-term contract was prepared and put out to tender in March, with a new countywide contract effective from 1 June 2015.

This new contract will form the basis for the next stage of recycling in Lincolnshire. It will help to ensure the quality of the mix is optimised, in order to attain the best possible price for the council taxpayer, and create a firm foundation for going forward.

Working more closely with the Lincolnshire Waste Partnership, we are aiming to produce a sustainable waste solution, which is up to date and fully fit for all the residents of our county.

- **Lincolnshire Waste Partnership – Chairman**

LWP recently mourned the passing of the Chairman, Councillor John Smith, and paid tribute to him. Councillor Smith was the representative for South Kesteven District Council, and had been actively involved as a member of this Partnership since June 2007. He expressed his wish for April's meeting to go ahead, even though he was not at all sure that he would be well enough to attend. He believed firmly that it was important for the Partnership to be able to discuss the items as planned for the agenda.

Councillor Smith had previously informed the Partnership that he had no plans to stand for re-election to South Kesteven in May, and this would have been his last meeting. He wanted it to be known that he had enjoyed his time as a member of the Waste Partnership, and thought that much progress had been made over the years.

Councillor Smith wished to thank everyone who had helped to organise, participate and lead the Partnership since its commencement.

A critical element of Lincolnshire waste going forward will be the working together of the Partnership, and John recognised this. I feel sure that the group will try to honour his memory through cooperation into a brighter future.

- **District Heating**

At the Lincolnshire Waste Partnership meeting in April, several important issues were presented and discussed including the present status of the bid for District

heating from the Energy from Waste Plant. Members will be aware of LCC's successful bid – in conjunction with NKDC and CoLC – to obtain a grant to undertake feasibility investigations to determine whether we can actually deliver heating to areas as far away as Lincoln Centre and Witham St Hughes. Cllr Colin Davies and I will lead the efforts to ensure that this initiative is as effective as it can be.

- **Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy (JMWMS)**

Beginning April 2015, I am the Chairman elect of the Lincolnshire Waste Partnership when, against the backdrop of diminishing funding, all councils have an impetus to work smartly. The Partnership is committed to updating the old strategy, which went a long way towards creating more effective waste systems for Lincolnshire. The new strategy will seek to build upon this good work, whilst taking cognizance of where we want to be as a partnership, and in consideration of statutory changes which have taken place and continue to evolve.

- **Incinerator Bottom Ash as Recycling**

It is important for Lincolnshire to maximise our recycling rates, to ensure that we are as green as we can be, and equal to our European partners - who always seem to be one step ahead of the UK. However, we have discovered that they are regularly counting recyclates like bottom ash amongst their 'green' figures, whereas in the UK we are prevented from doing so. Therefore, the Partnership together with each council has agreed to lobby the lead authorities to get them to allow us to include bottom ash in our recycling figures too.

- **National Framework Home Compost Bin Scheme 2014/15**

Councils across Lincolnshire have agreed to continue with this excellent scheme which enables residents to go on purchasing waste and recycling items at a reduced cost.

- **HWRC, Lincolnshire South West**

A business case has been made to secure a HWRC in Bourne, which I have now signed off. We can commence now with the procurement of a council-owned facility in this strategic area of the county by April 2016.

CHALLENGES

- We have come in long way towards securing the new countywide recycling contract which must be in place to commence on 1 July. Managing the relationship between the Districts and the County Council will continue to be a challenge, as the burden of increased costs is falling heavily on all authorities. The main challenge is around achieving a deal which will minimise these effects whilst confronting our own Fundamental Budget Review considerations. We remain committed to offering a quality service, minimising contamination and

maximising potential income in the future. A positive outlook, will help to progress our aims of working towards the best waste service for the whole of Lincolnshire.

SUCSESSES

- On the 16 March 2015, I officially opened the Gainsborough HWRC and the site has been operating successfully, particularly over the busy Easter weekend.

FUTURE AMBITIONS/CONSIDERATIONS

- To consider the delivery of a countywide Materials Reclamation Facility to process the county's dry re-cyclables, in line with the refreshed Joint Waste Strategy and the operational waste costs.

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