

## **COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING – 16 SEPTEMBER 2016**

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

### **PRESENT SITUATION**

#### **Provision of HWRCs**

The HWRCs service is provided through three contracts of staffing, disposal and haulage. New contracts need to be in place from the 1 April 2017 and for the first time we now own and operate 9 HWRCs throughout the county.

We are investigating the possibility of savings; the haulage element was sent out to tender in early August. Tenderers will have the opportunity to cost a longer term contract of 7 years with the possibility of buying the vehicles, potentially saving money in vehicle leasing costs and to allow time for the vehicles to be purchased and built. The staffing and disposal of the various waste stream contracts will be tendered in October.

#### **Mixed Dry Recycling Contamination**

This issue has been hotly debated recently around the country because the government have introduced a regime for assessing the degree of contamination in each load tested. We are working closely with our District Council colleagues to robustly scrutinise the new regime in order to agree whether assessments are indeed accurate and, if so, what levels of contamination we should be aiming to realistically achieve across Lincolnshire.

### **FUTURE AMBITIONS/CONSIDERATIONS**

The significant challenge we continue to face is the delivery of the high performing and well regarded Waste Service, within a reduced budget. We are investigating the alternative service provisions that other Local Authorities have considered or are operating successfully, as possible opportunities for helping to safeguard the core Waste Service in Lincolnshire.

#### **Waste Audit**

In order for Waste to move forward and deliver comprehensive waste services across several authorities, we have to work closely and effectively together. I am not convinced that the Lincolnshire Waste partnership set up is strategic enough to be able to do this. I have asked for a complete audit of the LWP and the officer waste forum, so that we may glean present strengths and weaknesses whilst finding new ways of working in order to create effective bodies fit for the future.

Therefore we are currently undertaking an audit of the Lincolnshire Waste Partnership and the Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy. This will inform an action plan that will be used to help shape the strategic direction and governance of waste in the County. County Councillors, District Councillors, Environment Agency and senior officers from all Authorities have been engaged.

Initial findings will be discussed at the next Partnership meeting in mid-September.

### **Boston Household Waste Recycling Centre (HWRC)**

You will recall that I have referred to a new HWRC for Boston during my past statements:

*'Boston will be our next project and will become number ten of our recycling sites. Presently plans for developing this site to open in April 2017 are underway and will again be a purpose build facility, second to none'.*

Following this we made an application to the Planning Committee for permission to build the HWRC and after their careful consideration planning permission was granted and we are continuing to deliver this centre accordingly.