



**LINCOLNSHIRE WASTE PARTNERSHIP**

**06 JULY 2017**

<b>SUBJECT :</b>	<b>WASTE HEALTH AND SAFETY GROUP</b>
<b>REPORT BY:</b>	<b>NINA CAMM - NORTH KESTEVEN DISTRICT COUNCIL</b>

## 1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 To highlight the work of the Lincolnshire Waste Health and Safety Group, examine where it fits with the national picture and provide an example of the work of the group in supporting the waste operations in Lincolnshire.

### Legal Responsibility

The Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974 places legal responsibility on employers and employees as can be seen outlined in the table below:

<b>Employer</b>	<b>Employee</b>
Provide and maintain safe plant, equipment and systems of work; Safe use, handling and transportation of items and substances; Provide information, training, supervision and instruction; Maintain a safe place of work including safe access and egress; Provide a safe working environment.	Take reasonable care of themselves and others; Cooperate with the employer to follow rules, procedures, safe system of work
To prepare a written safety policy	Duty not to misuse or interfere with equipment
To establish a Safety Committee and consult with Safety Representatives	
Duty to ensure people not employed are not adversely affected or exposed to health and safety risks	

The Health and Safety Executive are the enforcing body for the legislation however, working in conjunction is the Waste Industry Safety and Health Forum (WISH). WISH exists to communicate and consult with key stakeholders, including local and national government bodies, equipment manufacturers, trade associations, professional associations and trade unions. The aim of WISH is to identify, devise and promote activities that can improve industry health and safety performance.

## **WISH**

One of the main outputs from WISH is health and safety guidance for the waste management industry. This formal guidance is produced by a series of WISH working groups consisting of industry specialists and others from bodies such as the HSE.

## **Local Authority Waste Safety and Health Forum (LAWS)**

In order to disseminate the work of WISH and updates directly from the HSE the Local Authority Waste Safety and Health Forum (LAWS) was established by local authorities with in house waste collection services, with a vision to promote, share and develop best practice in health and safety within the waste and recycling industry, working together to ensure continuous improvement and provide a forum for networking and learning amongst waste professionals from local authorities. LAWS meet twice a year and is an open invitation for Health and Safety and Waste operational managers to attend.

After a visit to one of the meetings it became apparent that the national group was too big to be effective at a local level and so the Lincolnshire (Health and Safety) Waste and Refuse Forum was established.

## **The Lincolnshire (Health and Safety) Waste and Refuse Forum**

The Lincolnshire (Health and Safety) Waste and Refuse Forum was developed as a peer review resource for employees or principal contractors of Lincolnshire, North East Lincolnshire and North Lincolnshire Local Authorities including District, Borough, County, Government Agencies and others as deemed appropriate by the forum on matters of health and safety in the waste and refuse industry.

Since the group was established in 2011 it has been recognised by HSE and the National Group as the way forward with a move from the national group to smaller more effective local or regional groups allowing a means by which best practice coming down from HSE, WISH and LAWS could be shared. Meeting twice a year, it has become a positive medium for consistent delivery of waste collection.

All waste collection in Lincolnshire is in-house bar City of Lincoln Council but their contract/client relationship is embraced as part of the group with their contractor Biffa bringing to the table national best practice.

The Lincolnshire (Health and Safety) Waste and Refuse Forum has a clear line of report with a standard item appearing on the Lincolnshire Waste Officers agenda.

### **Key areas of success for the group**

The group has a focused agenda and a recent piece of work was completed following the bin lorry crash in Glasgow in December 2014 when six people were killed and eight others injured. Following the publication of Sherriff John Beckett's report the Lincolnshire group began work to review the 22 recommendations and to establish what each of the Lincolnshire authorities currently had in place and to consider if best practice could be shared.

Members may recall, the accident centred on the Refuse Driver collapsing behind the wheel of the refuse collection vehicle and losing control. The catastrophic consequence of this in a highly populated area was devastating. A large number of the recommendations in the report centred on the medical fitness and driver licence checks which Councils have little direct control over. However, the report allowed Officers to review the employment medical checks currently in place and to glean best practice from others with a view to establishing as so far as is practicable, a common approach.

Perhaps one of the most important recommendations was for Councils to identify routes between refuse collection points which so far as is reasonably practicable, minimise the number of people who would be at risk should control be lost of a refuse collection vehicle. Route or road risk assessments are embedded across Lincolnshire as a critical control measure and again highlighted to the group, their importance.

In summary, the members of the Lincolnshire Waste Health and Safety Forum appeared to have a clear understanding of the importance of systems in place and working with their respective HR sections to undertake pre-employment checks and medicals. In addition, using the review by Sherriff John Beckett QC as the basis of challenging the services in place, was a positive experience.

### **Ongoing work**

Working on the Highway – WISH are in the early stages of convening a working group to pull together best practice for Councils that have staff working on the highway undertaking street scene activities such as litter picking, grass cutting.

Driving recklessly on pavements (DROPS) – Biffa (City of Lincoln Council contractor) are leading a campaign to highlight to the Police the cases of road users driving around refuse collection vehicles in such a manner as to endanger the safety of waste collection operatives.

Supervisor training – Health and Safety professionals from the group are preparing a bespoke training course for supervisors in Lincolnshire due to be rolled out during 2017 following a commonly agreed perception that there is a gap in specific training for supervisors, particularly on monitoring.

**RECOMMENDATIONS**

1. That the work of the Lincolnshire (Health and Safety) Waste and Refuse Forum be noted and endorsed by the LWP.
2. That a report on the work of the Lincolnshire (Health and Safety) Waste and Refuse Forum be presented to the LWP annually