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North Kesteven
DISTRICT COUNCIL

Councillor E Poll
c/o Waste Strategy
Lincolnshire County Council
Lancaster House
36 Orchard Street
Lincoln
LN1 1XX

3 July 2018

Dear Eddie

**RE: DRAFT JOINT MUNICIPAL WASTE MANAGEMENT STRATEGY FOR
LINCOLNSHIRE – NORTH KESTEVEN DISTRICT COUNCIL SUBMISSION TO PUBLIC
CONSULTATION**

I refer to the recent invite by the Lincolnshire Waste Partnership (LWP) for comments on the draft Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy for Lincolnshire (“the Strategy”) and ask that you accept this letter as the considered response of North Kesteven District Council (NKDC).

NKDC would strongly agree that the LWP vision for this Strategy should be “To seek the best environmental option to provide innovative, customer-friendly waste management solutions that give value for money to Lincolnshire”. The draft objectives within the Strategy will enable us to meet the challenges we face and therefore achieve the vision of the partnership.

NKDC will actively support the LWP and appropriately prioritise the development and subsequent delivery of a suitably challenging and mutually agreed action plan, and agree that the proposed forward plan should link each identified action directly to one or more of the strategic objectives. Action plans must be developed to give effect to the objectives it is setting, with timelines, resource implications and the benefits identified.

The strategy needs to be focused on what the partnership plans to do taking account of the risks faced. It should be challenging yet achievable. There is some brief coverage of actions achieved as part of the 2008 strategy; but not all. A short, succinct review of the 2008 strategy may help to better understand what worked well and the learning could then be used / replicated as part of the action plans being developed for the latest strategy.

The prominent inclusion of ‘customer friendly’ waste management solutions in the strategy and the subsequent action plans is supported. Agreement on a common dry-recyclables waste stream and a common approach to communicating these will help achieve this vision. This approach should lead to a commonly understood and meaningful recycling mix.

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Waste minimisation / prevention is mentioned within the strategy, specifically through the Waste Hierarchy and the Circular Economy which should result in appropriate challenging actions around ways to minimise the amount of waste collected per household. As above, we would advocate a common approach to communicating this, for instance through local schools and via social media. A local example of this can be seen through the work currently being carried out within North Kesteven through the Youth Council at PartnershipNK.

NKDC are committed to draft objective 9 (to regularly review the LWP governance model in order to provide the best opportunity to bring closer integration and the implementation of the objectives set by the strategy). The strategy currently contains little on if or how this may happen. A new shared governance model for an integrated waste operation to build resilience and reduce cost should at least be explored by partners. We understand and accept that partners may not prefer adopting such a model and recognise that this may be difficult to achieve. However, as partners there is a need to look at where there may be opportunities to work together and cooperate.

NKDC supports the principle of draft objective 3 which gives a commitment to explore separate food waste collection. Once the results of the current food waste collection trial are known, they should be widely distributed to, and promoted by, each partner and presented alongside a financial model which incentivises WCAs and meets the costs of its introduction and operation (within an agreed timeline). Consideration must be given to how such an operation could be locally implemented in each of the WCA areas and any and all potential opportunities as a result of introducing such a service, should be realised.

Energy from Waste facility capacity assessments are mentioned in the context of a local growing population with solutions suggested around the development of infrastructure to mitigate this risk. Consideration could also be given to suitable facilities out of county, based on geographical proximity (e.g. Peterborough). If further local infrastructure is developed, there should be robust and equitable discussions between partners on where these should be located in order to maximise their potential. Such a work stream may also wish to consider ways to maximise the energy outputs from the current Energy from Waste facility.

NKDC supports the role that Household Waste Recycling Centres contribute to the strategy vision and objectives. To that extent, their provision and operations should be regularly reviewed during the period of the strategy to ensure they continue to provide an appropriate strategic fit, alongside all other waste-related actions, initiatives and facilities provided in pursuit of the strategic vision and objectives.

Chapter 8 of the Strategy includes mention of monitoring. This should go further and state that the partnership will review progress annually by means of a report against vision and objectives for formal consideration by each partner, with a strategy review programmed within 3 years.

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The vast majority of the strategy will be delivered after the UK exit from the EU. Currently it is reasonable to assume existing national strategic commitments will remain in place and the strategy should give a commitment to address any changes as part of a strategy review if and when they occur. A similar approach should also be adopted to either respond / react to, or maximise the opportunities offered by any government initiatives or announcements such as those that have been published in the period that the draft strategy has been issued for consultation, for example a consultation has recently taken place on tackling the plastic problem.

It is imperative that the draft strategy not only be agreed and adopted by all partners, but they should also be actively committed and engaged in its delivery. This requires careful management, with appropriate timelines with milestones for engagement for each of the partners' governance structures using project management techniques. Delivery of the strategy should be owned and co-ordinated by the LWP.

I hope that this response is useful and look forward to it being considered by the LWP in due course. In the meantime, please let me know if you would like clarification on any of the issues contained within.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Richard Wright', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Cllr Richard Wright
Leader of the Council

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