



**LINCOLNSHIRE WASTE PARTNERSHIP**

**25 JULY 2013**

<b>SUBJECT:</b>	<b>WEALTH FROM WASTE – A LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION REPORT</b>
<b>REPORT BY:</b>	<b>WASTE OFFICER GROUP</b>
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## **BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

The Local Government Association (LGA) has recently released a report entitled "Wealth from Waste" as the key output from their local waste review exercise.

The Executive Summary sets the tone for the whole report by starting with the statement "There is wealth in waste". The approach to the report is acknowledging that waste and recycling are economic as well as environmental issues with the report focusing on the former aspect of waste rather than the latter.

The report is also as expected the basis for the LGA to lobby central government for support and resourcing, as well as an opportunity to re-state support for a number of existing long held policies.

## **RECOMMENDATIONS**

Through twelve recommendations the report seeks to address issues related to:

- Re-investment of landfill tax.
- Improved quality of recyclable waste.
- The continued exporting of waste.
- Improvements to the capacity of the UK to deal with high value recyclable waste.
- Encouraging more re-use and reconditioning of waste items.
- Ensuring producers pay their share toward recycling.
- Rewarding residents for supporting recycling.
- Keeping local waste issues local.

**Recommendation 1:**

Freeze the landfill levy at 2014/15 level (£80/tonne) in recognition that there is no evidence that further increases would have an effect on recycling trends.

**Recommendation 2:**

The MRF (Material Reclamation Facility) Code of Practice should require full transparency of information and a robust system of sampling to enable price differentiation to drive higher quality, improve confidence in quality and recover the associated value for local tax payers.

**Recommendation 3:**

Amend PERN (Packaging Export Recovery Note) system and improve enforcement at ports of waste exports so that the domestic reprocessing industry has a level playing field.

**Recommendation 4:**

Revise the PRN (Packaging Recovery Note) system to include greater transparency, a direct incentive to local authorities for increasing their capture of packaging for recycling and an incentive for producers to use more recycled material and better design for recycling.

**Recommendation 5:**

Revise the WEEE (Waste Electronic and Electrical Equipment) compliance arrangements to ensure that local authorities that collect and store WEEE have the ability if they wish to manage and receive an appropriate income for it. There should also be additional incentives to reuse an increasing proportion of WEEE while providing assurance that the material will not be illegally exported and landfilled overseas.

**Recommendation 6:**

Introduce targeted landfill bans in the UK on selected materials – potentially furniture, paints and textiles – and link them to an increased producer contribution to encourage a thriving recycling and re-use industry.

**Recommendation 7:**

Restore the principle of revenue neutrality with which the landfill tax was originally introduced. Tax receipts from local authorities should be redistributed to local taxpayers. One option for the proportion raised from the commercial sector is to provide underpinning capital for forward thinking waste infrastructure projects, e.g. by capitalising the Green Investment Bank or establishing a network of local Waste and Recycling Boards for investment in recycling infrastructure.

**Recommendation 8:**

Build on the principles of the Courtauld Commitment with a new agreement binding more businesses and directly involving local authorities. The LGA is willing to convene discussions and lead a negotiation process that would result in a new and more effective agreement with business.

**Recommendation 9:**

To build the reuse market, develop a reuse product standard that will provide quality assurance to consumers.

**Recommendation 10:**

To build the reuse market, introduce a tax incentive for reused and refurbished products, possibly by pressing in Brussels for a lower rate of VAT.

**Recommendation 11:**

To drive public debate about reuse, bringing partners together and develop new thinking, the LGA proposes to establish a Reuse Commission tasked with reporting by the end of 2013 on measures government, councils, businesses and the voluntary sector can take to mainstream reuse and drive growth in the reuse of products, including developing specific detail and implementation timetables for the two recommendations above.

**Recommendation 12:**

The Government should recognise that kerbside collection arrangements reflect a local deal between councils and their residents and are not a proper subject of national policies.

The work now underway to develop a new Municipal Joint Waste Management Strategy for Lincolnshire offers the opportunity to consider adopting any of the recommendations in the LGA report, if considered appropriate to Lincolnshire.

**OPTIONS**

Committee has the following options available to it:

- To note the position of the LGA on waste issues.
- To lobby Government to support the LGA recommendations in whole or in part.

**RECOMMENDATIONS**

Committee is recommended to request that the Strategy Review Group take account of the LGA recommendations in the Wealth from Waste report during preparation of the new Strategy.

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