

## **COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING – 16 MAY 2014**

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

### **PRESENT SITUATION**

- The Energy from Waste facility, which achieved process acceptance in March and is now operating fully.

The five Waste Transfer Stations continue to operate an effective service for the Districts.

### **CHALLENGES**

- The District Chief Executives are considering a counter proposal to the County Council's proposal of recycling credit payments. This counter proposal will be discussed by the Chief Executives in May, with agreement as to how cost savings can be made, whilst being mindful of the impact on their District budgets.
- The Chief Executives' report by consultant iESE will be considered in the May meeting, in light of the recycling credits decisions.
- A countywide communications campaign regarding the contamination of dry recyclables is being progressed with the Districts to reduce costs and maximise income. Various measures will be considered including investigation of collecting only the high value types of recyclables by the District Councils, with contaminants such as hard plastics being put in the residual waste bin for burning in the Energy from Waste facility.

### **SUCSESSES**

- The construction of the Sleaford Household Waste Recycling Centre within time and budget. The new site opened to the public on 25 April but, on 29 April, Cllr Reg Shore declared the centre 'officially' open at a brief ceremony attended by the Leader of the Council and other dignitaries.
- The operational improvements to the Spalding Household Waste Recycling Centre.
- Income received from HW Martin for use of Sleaford Waste Transfer Station for the bulking and onward transportation of recyclates from the North Kesteven District.
- The confirmation of income from the solar panels at the five Waste Transfer Stations, and the whole Service offsetting of carbon production.

## **FUTURE AMBITIONS/CONSIDERATIONS**

Relevant updates on the various issues:

- A Materials Recycling Facility to take the County's dry recyclables: a feasibility report has been undertaken to consider the outline technical, financial and operational requirements
- Establishment of a countywide trade waste service that includes recycling, by working with the District Councils. Boston Borough Council is already operating such a system.
- Assessing sources of income from the waste resource, such as textiles. A Task & Finish group have completed their policy review, and it is expected that this will be considered at the July meeting of the Environmental Scrutiny Committee.
- Renewal of the contracts for the Household Waste Recycling Centres operational services and waste streams, continues to progress.
- Partnership working with Neighbouring Authorities to investigate cost savings by investigating joint waste services provision: through regular meetings this forum continues to share best practice.
- Completing the Joint Waste Strategy will give the necessary direction required for the next five years with regard to waste collection/disposal.
- Joint feasibility investigation with Economic Regeneration into a Heat Recovery Scheme that could give opportunities for reduced energy costs from the heat generated at the Energy from Waste facility.
- Operational improvements to the Skegness Household Waste Recycling Centre have been delayed due to the planning considerations regarding tree clearance in the bird nesting season.