



LINCOLNSHIRE WASTE PARTNERSHIP

28 March 2024

SUBJECT :	Food Waste Project Update
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BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Following the Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs (DEFRA) release for 'Simpler Recycling' in October 2023, this briefing paper details the changes required by the Environment Act 2021 that will place statutory responsibilities on all Waste Collection Authorities (WCAs) and Waste Disposal Authorities (WDAs) to separately collect and dispose of food waste by April 2026.

The purpose of the Environment Act changes is to create a cleaner, consistent waste material which is more recyclable and thus creates environmental improvements through less material being incinerated. These are also clear strategic objectives of the Lincolnshire Waste Partnership which make up the framework of the Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy (JMWMS) that align to this initiative.

DISCUSSIONS

The diversion of food waste from the residual waste stream (currently incinerated at EfW) to Anaerobic Digestion (AD) disposal will improve the counties recycling rate. Incineration is classed as recovery on the Waste Hierarchy, but AD is classed as recycling and it is therefore projected that a 7% improvement in the recycling rate will occur.

New burdens funding has been allocated to Waste Collection Authorities for capital funding, including the purchase of new collection vehicles. DEFRA have allowed for a period to challenge the funding allocations. The status of LWP partners on the DEFRA funding allocation is a detailed below:

East Lindsey District Council	£1,440,450
West Lindsey District Council	£1,023,179
City of Lincoln Council	£ 829,410
Boston Borough Council	£ 728,645
North Kesteven District Council	£ 936,516
South Kesteven District Council	£1,371,150
South Holland District Council	£ 806,891

New burdens funding is not available to Waste Disposal Authorities but the projected revenue savings from food waste disposal could justify the capital spend required to make the capital infrastructure improvements.

The Senior Officer Working Group (SOWG) are working towards the planned implementation date given by DEFRA and have recently established a sub-group focusing on Food Waste Project delivery.

The focus points of the sub-group are:

- Waste Collection Authority
 - Vehicle Procurement
 - Caddies
 - Depot Capacity
- Waste Disposal Authority
 - Existing Waste Transfer Station Modifications
 - Greater Lincoln Waste Transfer Station

Future topics will be added as the project progresses such as revenue & resource requirements and resident communication & engagement programme.

Current updates from this sub-group are:

- WLDC have identified a suitable vehicle for handling food waste and are presenting a report to their executive committee in June to commence procurement.
- CoLC are undertaking the re-procurement of their contracted waste collection service. Contract award is programmed for Summer 2024 which will provide the opportunity to negotiate with the appointed contractor.
- SKDC are working towards implementation of the service in March 2026 with their new depot due for completion in Summer 2025 that will have additional space for the new vehicles required.
- NKDC are preparing a report to Council in May to inform of waste policy changes required for the implementation of Food Waste collections. NKDC are reviewing the route optimisations to establish number of vehicles required.
- LCC are preparing their business case for the capital funding required to make infrastructure changes at the Waste Transfer Stations and a new Waste Transfer Station located in the Greater Lincoln area.

- LCC are progressing with a procurement process to commence at the end of March 2024 and to conclude in July 2024, to secure a disposal outlet for the food waste collected. Following pre-market engagement, the intention is to split the County into two lots and create an opportunity in the North and South of the County.

Next steps

SOWG and the sub-group to continue working together to ensure programmes are managed effectively to ensure deliverability of the services in line with the DEFRA timescales. Further update papers will be presented to LWP on the progress of this project.

RECOMMENDATIONS

This paper recommends that the LWP note the progress to date and continue to support the implementation of segregated food waste collection and disposal across Lincolnshire in accordance with the requirements from DEFRA.

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