

**LINCOLNSHIRE WASTE
 PARTNERSHIP
 17 OCTOBER 2013**

PRESENT:

**COUNCILLOR JOHN SMITH ((SOUTH KESTEVEN DISTRICT COUNCIL))
 (CHAIRMAN)**

Councillor Reg Shore (Vice-Chairman)	(Lincolnshire County Council)
Sean Kent	(Lincolnshire County Council)
Steve Willis	(Lincolnshire County Council)
George Bernard	(Boston Borough Council)
Mark Humphreys	(East Lindsey District Council)
Councillor Fay Smith	(City of Lincoln Council)
Mark Taylor	(North Kesteven District Council)
Councillor Roger Gambba-Jones	(South Holland District Council)
Simon Mitchell	(Environment Agency)
Councillor Anthony Herbert Turner MBE JP	(Lincolnshire County Council)

Councillor D McNally attended the meeting as an observer

38. ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN

RESOLVED

That Councillor J Smith be elected as Chairman of the Lincolnshire Waste Partnership for the ensuing year.

COUNCILLOR J SMITH IN THE CHAIR

39. ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIRMAN

RESOLVED

That Councillor R A Shore be elected as Vice-Chairman of the Lincolnshire Waste Partnership for the ensuing year.

40. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors M Brookes (Boston Borough Council), Mrs I Parrott (West Lindsey District Council) and R Wright (North Kesteven District Council).

An apology for absence was also received from Glen Chapman (South Holland District Council)

41. MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 25 JULY 2013

RESOLVED

That the minutes of the previous meeting held on 25 July 2013 be signed and confirmed by the Chairman as a correct record.

42. ENERGY FROM WASTE FACILITY AND WASTE TRANSFER STATIONS
UPDATE

The Partnership received an update from the Assistant Director Environment, Planning and Customer Service on the Energy from Waste (EfW) facility and the Waste Transfer Stations (WTS).

The Chairman thanked all the districts for their help in the transition to transporting waste to the Waste Transfer Stations and directly to the Energy from Waste facility as it they became operational.

It was reported that the facility was a couple of weeks late in receiving its readiness certificate, but it was thought that considering the length and scale of this project, this was still a good achievement. The six months of hot commissioning had started, and during this time, the districts had started transporting their waste either directly to the EfW facility or to the waste transfer stations.

It was originally planned that the facility would become fully operational just before Christmas 2013, but the current position was that this would now be early in 2014, as there had been a slight concern about one of the grates, but this had now been resolved. The Assistant Director would be attending a progress meeting at the end of October 2013. The Partnership was advised that the 60 day test, where the facility would be run at near optimum capacity for 60 days was imminent.

Some concerns had arisen regarding the types of waste which were being sent to the EfW facility, and it was planned to launch a joint campaign to advise on what waste was suitable to be taken to the facility. It was hoped that this work would be undertaken by the Officer Working Group.

The waste transfer stations were still operational, at the last meeting vast improvements to turnaround times and damage to vehicles had been reported, and it was confirmed that these improvements were still being seen. The plans for the Sleaford Household Waste Recycling Centre were hopefully going to the Planning Committee in either November or December 2013, and the schedule was still on target for the project to be completed in either March or April 2014.

The Assistant Director informed the Partnership that the next challenge would be the establishment of district heating schemes, and officers were working with colleagues in the economic regeneration team on this issue, and would be in a more informed position on how to take this forward shortly. It was noted that the Department for Energy and

Climate Change had announced that it would be providing funding for district heating schemes which could be used to pump prime feasibility studies.

A query was made regarding complaints which had been received by the City of Lincoln Council regarding a noise issue. It was noted that officers were aware of this and the contractor had been requested to install a silencer to the piece of machinery which was responsible for the noise. It was also added that the noises were due to the hot commissioning process, and once the facility was fully operational, this noise would only occur once or twice per year.

RESOLVED

That the update be noted.

43. COMPOSTING CONTRACT FROM 1 APRIL 2014

Consideration was given to a report which provided an update on the position around the transposition of the EU revised Waste Framework Directive (rWFD) into UK law, which stated that in order for compostable material to continue to count towards recycling performance it would need to go through a facility which operated to PAS 100 standard. The Waste Partnership wrote to Defra seeking clarification on this issue as there was a need for the Lincolnshire composting contract to be re-let from 1 April 2013. As this clarification had not been forthcoming, it was agreed to let a short term contract for one year (with the option of a one year extension) to allow time for Defra to respond. This guidance had still not been released and so it was suggested that Lincolnshire County Council exercised the extension option from 1 April 2014 to 31 March 2015.

RESOLVED

That the Lincolnshire Waste Partnership notes the one year extension of the existing composting contract from 1 April 2014 – 31 March 2015.

44. JOINT MUNICIPAL WASTE MANAGEMENT STRATEGY STRATEGIC ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

The Lincolnshire Waste Partnership received a report provided Members with an opportunity to consider the Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy (JMWMS) Scoping Report for the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA). It was noted that a statutory requirement of the work to develop a new waste management strategy was to undertake a SEA of the impact that the JMWMS could have on the wider environment and to ensure that it complied with UKL and European legislation.

The Partnership was advised that the County Council had commissioned Mouchel to undertake this work and a copy of the draft scoping report had been circulated as an appendix to the report.

The Lincolnshire Waste Partnership received a presentation from Hywel Roberts, Environmental Consultant for Mouchel. The presentation provided detailed information in relation to the following areas:

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- Need for a SEA
- SEA Process
- Scope of the JMWMS
- SEA Topic Area (at present)
- Next Steps

Members of the Partnership were provided with the opportunity to ask questions to the officers present in relation to the information contained within the report and presentation and some of the points raised during discussion included the following;

- The objectives which were set out in 2.2 of the draft scoping report were part of the existing strategy and had already been signed up to by Chief Executives and Leaders in the county;
- It was queried why water had been scoped out at the present time, and it was reported that this was due to there not being any new facilities planned in the strategy. If new facilities were to be considered as part of the Strategy then the impact on water would be included;
- Geology and soil had been included as agriculture was an important resource for Lincolnshire which could have an effect on composting;
- It was hoped that the draft document would be out for consultation early in the new year;
- Members were reminded that it was important this document was considered carefully and any comments should be reported back by 15 November 2013;
- There was a need to ensure that an effective waste and recycling collection would be maintained as there was likely to be more housing development in the coming years;
- Once this document was in place, it would need to be taken into consideration by planning authorities, as it was a statutory requirement to have this document.

The Chairman thanked Hywel Roberts, on behalf of the Partnership, for his presentation and report.

RESOLVED

1. That the presentation be received;
2. That the inclusion of the development of waste management facilities in the scope of the JMWMS be agreed;
3. That each member of the Lincolnshire Waste Partnership check the documents related to their authority had been included in Section 9.1 and to make any such changes as were required by no later than 15 November 2013;
4. That any other issues that members had with the Scoping Report of the draft Strategic Environmental Assessment of the Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy be notified to the relevant officer by no later than 15 November 2013.

45. CASE STUDY: IMPROVING RECYCLING PRACTICES

The Lincolnshire Waste Partnership received a report from the Environmental Services Co-ordinator at South Holland District Council which outlined some of the work which had been done to improve recycling practices in the district. It was reported that intensive work was carried out which had a good impact on contamination rates.

A targeted educational and engagement project was undertaken for four months between January and April 2013 which focused on recycling practices. Some of the main aims and objectives of this project included to increase residents knowledge of the kerbside recycling scheme through a targeted door stepping campaign to 1500 properties; to increase the quality of material presented and decrease contamination by 3%; to increase kerbside recycling by 1%; to decrease the number of complaints received regarding the incorrect presentation in 5 of the worst offending areas of refuse or recycling sacks; and to provide support to the migrant community to enable use of the kerbside recycling scheme through specific translated material.

A number of different methods were used to achieve these aims and objectives such as a targeted door knocking campaign in the areas with the highest contamination; a package of information leaflets on what could be recycled; a landlord's fact sheet; a double page spread in the council magazine and a 'recycling wheel' which detailed the best way that residents could dispose of over household items (44,000 were distributed); a telephone survey was conducted with over 300 residents to ascertain the success of the South Holland Now magazine article; as well as close working with a variety of key groups and stake-holders.

The results of the campaign clearly showed an increase in overall recycling performance in those areas which were targeted with a 1-10% increase in tonnage which was collected. The recycling contamination rate also decreased beyond the target of 3%, and it was thought this was due to the door stepping exercise to over 1500 properties and detailed discussions with over 500 residents.

The members of the Partnership were provided with the opportunity to ask questions to the officers present in relation to the information contained within the report and some of the points raised during discussion included the following:

- It was queried how much the campaign had cost as contamination in recycling was on the increase across Lincolnshire. The Partnership was advised that SHDC had received £40,000 of funding for this project, but the production and distribution of the leaflets and recycling wheel had cost £8,000 and it was thought that this had been the most effective part of the campaign;
- The district was able to employ two graduates to work on this project and they had spent about 2 weeks of each month knocking on doors and speaking to residents, it was thought that they had visited about 50 properties per day;
- At the start of the contract there was a 12-14% contamination rate in recycling being presented to a MRF, following the project that was now between 6-8%.

The Environmental Services Co-ordinator was thanked for her very useful presentation, and it was hoped that other districts would take on board some of the methods which had been used and include them in their own recycling agendas.

RESOLVED

That the presentation be noted.

46. DEFRA VIEWS ON CO-MINGLED COLLECTIONS AND TECHNICAL, ENVIRONMENTAL AND ECONOMIC PRACTICALITY (TEEP)

The Lincolnshire Waste Partnership received a report which provided an update on discussions taking place within government concerning the interpretation of TEEP, the Technical, Environmental and Economic Practicability of separate collection of paper, metal, glass and plastic. A copy of a presentation made by Defra to a meeting of the National Association of Waste Disposal Officers was attached to the report for information.

It was reported that the underlying message from Defra seemed clear that the four specified types of recyclables (paper, plastic, metal and glass) needed to be collected separately from January 2015 unless it could be demonstrated that this was either unnecessary or not possible.

A letter was circulated at the meeting which had been received the previous day from Lord de Mauley at Defra regarding this issue.

Members of the Lincolnshire Waste Partnership were provided with the opportunity to ask questions to the officers present in relation to the information contained in the report and the letter and some of the points raised during discussion included the following:

- There was a need for collection authorities to consider how they would prove TEEP;
- It was felt that these changes could be a big risk to the councils and the Partnership and could lead to a reduction in recycling, and there would be extra costs if additional collections were required;
- Extra rounds would also contribute to an increase in Co2 emissions which would need to be taken into account;
- There was a need to look ahead at what could be done in the future. It was hopeful that MRF's would be able to assist with this by sorting co-mingled collections;
- There may be a need to move back to the use of glass banks, in order to remove glass from the waste stream;
- What impact would more glass in the waste stream have on the EfW as if there was a move back to the use of glass banks, people would be more likely to put the glass into the residual waste bin;
- The Partnership needed to work together to increase the quality and income of recyclables;
- There was good practice in terms of recycling all over the country;
- There were concerns that local authorities would not receive full guidance on this issue until it was too late to implement and it was suggested that if anyone came up with a practical solution they should share it with the Partnership;
- South Kesteven and South Holland used to operate a separate glass collection and it was found to be very unsuccessful;

- This was an ideal problem for the LWP to take on as all districts operated co-mingled collections and it was suggested that it be referred to the Officer Working Group;
- A meeting had recently taken place with one of the MRF operators who had indicated that they were intending to invest heavily in new sorting technology to enable them to produce better quality materials;
- It was suggested that there could be further influence through the ADEPT panel;
- It was thought that there would be a need to revisit this issue again at a later date;

RESOLVED

1. That the Lincolnshire Waste Partnership note the contents of the report;
2. That Waste Collection Authority members consider the implications of TEEP in respect of their recycling collection methodology.

47. PARTNER UPDATES

Members of the Partnership were provided with the opportunity to update the rest of the Partners on any developments within their individual districts which may be of interest, and the following was reported:

South Kesteven District Council – work was due to start on a targeted campaign to reduce contamination rather than increase recycling. The 'recycling wheel' was also due to be refreshed. The new rounds for the WTS which had been implemented had settled down very well.

East Lindsey District Council – residents would be able to register for the green waste service from January 2014, and it was hoped that the service would start in March 2014. Officers were working with colleagues in Boston to establish joint collection rounds, and the district was starting to move towards a longer operational day. The district was also facing a challenge in relation to contamination levels and liked the idea of the recycling wheel, and it was actively working with colleagues on targeted work to bring down the contamination reports.

North Kesteven District Council – also reported that it was experiencing contamination in recycling like the other districts. The take up on green waste was very good with about 60% of households now signed up.

West Lindsey District Council – the decision in relation to green waste charging had been delayed until at least 2015, and concentrate on increasing efficiencies and income instead. There was starting be problems with contamination particularly with textiles. Feedback on the EfW from drivers continued to be positive, particularly in relation to turnaround times. The district had distributed a similar recycling wheel a few years previously.

City of Lincoln Council – green waste collections were continuing to go very well, and households were still signing up. Those authorities that had responded to the Council's questions regarding advertising on vehicles were thanked.

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South Holland District Council – officers continued to work on reducing contamination in recycling.

Boston Borough Council – delivering the waste and recycling to the WTS's had made substantial differences to rounds, as well as turnaround times.

Environment Agency – the sites that officers received most complaints about were landfill and composting sites. If districts were looking for more flexibility in what could be collected there was a need to ensure that waste was going to competent and licensed facilities.

Lincolnshire County Council – asbestos could now be received at the Whisby and Boston sites. The Customer Service Centre was aware, and the disposal bags had been acquired.

The meeting closed at 12.15 pm