



**LINCOLNSHIRE WASTE PARTNERSHIP**

**13 April 2015**

<b>SUBJECT :</b>	TEEP
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## **BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

At the meeting of the Lincolnshire Waste Partnership on 14 July 2014 a report was presented outlining the impact of changes to the Waste Regulations necessary to transpose the EU Waste Framework Directive into English law. This included the requirement from 1 January 2015 for there to be separate collections of the four key recyclable materials of paper, plastic, metals and glass.

The issue of what actually constituted a "separate" collection had been subject to a legal challenge to the original Defra interpretation that this requirement was allowable under co-mingled collections of the sort operated by all Waste Collection Authority partners in Lincolnshire.

Part of the process was to undertake an assessment of the collection methodology being used and whether the introduction of separate collections where materials were collected entirely separate was Technically, Environmentally and Economically Practicable (TEEP).

Despite repeated undertakings to do so Defra failed to produce guidelines on how to complete a TEEP assessment, but a group of organisations involved in the public sector side of the waste industry produced a roadmap which has been widely adopted as the best approach to assessing TEEP.

As a part of the preparatory work for the countywide mixed dry recyclable (MDR) contract all Lincolnshire Authorities have used the roadmap to complete a TEEP assessment, and all have concluded that the collection systems currently in place are TEEP compliant.

The Environment Agency has been tasked with enforcing compliance with TEEP, and has stated that the roadmap has been adopted as the preferred way to demonstrate compliance.

The approach being used by all the Lincolnshire authorities does include a commitment to periodic on-going re-assessment to ensure the collection system in place remains TEEP compliant.

There had been some concern that a legal challenge might be launched against the current widespread usage of co-mingled collections by targeting an authority or authorities soon after 1 January 2015. During soft market testing for the MDR contract a number of Material Reclamation Facility (MRF) operators stated that they did not expect any challenge to be mounted until mid-2016 at the earliest as that is when the first full year of data from testing materials for contamination going into MRFs will be available.

The Lincolnshire Officer Waste Group will continue to monitor this situation from both a local and national perspective.

#### **RECOMMENDATION**

The Lincolnshire Waste Partnership is recommended to note the contents of this report.