

# Agenda Item 3.1



**LINCOLNSHIRE WASTE PARTNERSHIP**

**13 April 2015**

<b>SUBJECT :</b>	INCINERATOR BOTTOM ASH AS RECYCLING
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## **BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

The contract with FCC for the Energy from Waste (EfW) facility requires that Incinerator Bottom Ash (IBA) arising from the thermal treatment is sent for cleaning and the removal of oversize material with the remainder then going for recycling in a breeze block type application or as an aggregate substitute in construction.

Under current UK legislation IBA from the plant at Hykeham is reported separately on the national Waste Data Flow system but cannot be counted toward the overall recycling performance of the County.

The position with the Lincolnshire EfW facility is somewhat different to a lot of other similar plants around the country in that it is only taking municipal solid waste and not extensive amounts of other commercial, industrial and demolition wastes that it would clearly be inappropriate to include in any calculation of recycling performance related to domestic arisings.

There may also be an ambiguity within the European Union as it is believed that certain countries do include IBA in the figures used to calculate recycling performance. This may be occurring as the transposition of EU regulations into national legislation is open to different interpretations by different sovereign governments.

The issue at stake here is quite substantive, as in 2014 the EfW produced approximately 35,000 tonnes of IBA, and if this was added to the material collected and sent for recycling it would increase the overall Lincolnshire recycling performance by over nine per cent.

This argument also applies to the scrap metal that is removed from the IBA at the plant itself which is also reported separately but again cannot be counted toward recycling performance.

At a very recent meeting of the National Association of Waste Disposal Officers this issue was raised during discussions in the presence of the representative attending on behalf of Defra and is an issue that other authorities are clearly interested in pursuing.

## **RECOMMENDATIONS**

It is recommended that a letter is sent on behalf of the Lincolnshire Waste Partnership to Defra covering the following aspects:

1. Highlighting the unique approach with the both Lincolnshire EfW and supporting contract requiring this material be recycled.
2. Requesting clarification of the UK position on including IBA in calculating Waste Disposal Authority recycling performance.
3. Requesting clarification of the approach being adopted by other countries within the EU to the inclusion or other wise of IBA in calculating local authority performance.
4. Seeking a change in the UK to allow facilities that only process municipal solid waste to include IBA in the calculation of the Waste Disposal Authority recycling performance.
5. Copy this letter to the National Association of Waste Disposal Officers and request that they also lobby Defra on behalf of all Waste Disposal Authorities for a change to recycling performance accounting allowing the inclusion of Incinerator Bottom Ash from Municipal Solid Waste.