

COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING – 21 MAY 2010

**Statement from: Cllr C L Strange, Executive Councillor for
Waste Services & LSP Coordination**

WASTE SERVICES

At this time of year, it is sensible to look back and check on the progress of the Waste Services team, as well as our partners in the Lincolnshire Waste Partnership, chaired by Cllr Jeff Hazlewood of North Kesteven.

Work is focussed on two major areas:

§ Firstly, the disposal of approximately 350,000 tonnes of the county's total municipal waste, including recyclables, green reusable and non-recyclables. Over the last year we have seen recycling rates achieved by the districts, city, and at our own recycling centres increase to 52% - well on the way to our 2015 target of 55%.

Meanwhile, we have seen our annual tonnage to landfill drop from 175,000 tonnes to 163,000 tonnes, largely due to the recession as residents choose not to throw so much away.

It is pleasing to report to council that the Lincolnshire Waste Partnership continues to return recycling figures nationally, not only in the top three but also giving the best value.

§ Secondly, the provision of Energy from Waste plant at Teal Park, North Hykeham.

Continued support over the years from all political sides at County Hall, together with the encouragement of North Kesteven District Council and, most importantly, the support of local residents, has resulted in our hard working team at Waterside South being completely on time with the road map of procurement.

The best value team have narrowed the field down to two companies, which have been invited to go away to see if they can sharpen their pencils! Whoever is successful will be charged with the responsibility of the design, build and operation of this multi-million pound investment, which will eventually remove landfill as an option in our county. We are on target to meet our aim of ensuring that the plant will be operational by the end of 2013.

At the same time, we are working to obtain four waste transfer sites across the county, strategically placed, to receive the non-recyclables for compacting (four loads becoming one) before transporting to Teal Park. The site at Louth already operating is proving a useful model for the next four, and we hope to tweak design and price as a result of this. Exciting times for us all.

A further team is working on the last of our two household recycling sites – Murphys of Sheffield won the contract for the first at the Rasens (to the west of Market Rasen). Work has started, and completion is expected by mid November this year. This is a ‘bare bones’ site without a high ramp, built within our budget, but any extras will come out of savings made.

The other site at Stamford is at a delicate stage of negotiation - the new build is still not written in tablets of stone, and dependent on available funding. Although negotiations proceed, legal advice dictates that it would be unwise and unfair to possible vendors for me to comment further on this.

We are all aware that funding is becoming tighter, and we are rationalising all work in waste services. We have been tasked to focus on 95% of ratepayers having access to a recycling site within 12 miles driving distance, either inside or outside the county. With the provision of these two sites, and an increase in radius, we may well be able to rationalise and close two sites. I have also asked officers to investigate possible savings, should we decide not to open on Mondays and Tuesdays due to the reduced footfall after the weekends.

LOCAL STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS

This cross district, city and county initiative is, hopefully, starting to bear some fruit, with each of the LSPs concentrating on three themes that specifically concern them – these include health matters, policing and rural public transport. The county have two dedicated officers coordinating our members and senior officers who attend, and involve themselves in countywide issues.

We have recently asked our LSP councillor representatives to liaise with all local county councillors on items of concern in their divisions, also to complete a feedback form after each LSP they attend. I am having regular meetings with these Members and dedicated officers, and am visiting one of the LSP meetings in each district during the coming months – I attended the Lincoln LSP yesterday.