

COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING – 17 DECEMBER 2010

Statement from: Cllr C L Strange, Executive Councillor for Waste Services

On 19 October, after almost two years of procurement, the Executive approved the appointment of WRG as our preferred bidder to design, build and operate our new Energy from Waste facility for the next 25 years. Whilst the commercial terms and conditions are agreed, there is still work to do finalising the contract documentation. Nonetheless, we hope to start the building early next year. This will be an exciting development for Lincolnshire with great opportunities to use the steam from the plant to heat local homes and business.

Five transfer stations have to be in place by summer 2013 to feed this plant, receiving the non recyclable waste from our district colleagues. The sites will be at Louth, Grantham, Boston, Gainsborough and Sleaford, and have been modelled through a number-crunching piece of hardware. A routing model has been procured by the Lincolnshire Waste Partnership to assist the waste authorities in identifying the changes to the present delivery of residual waste to the proposed Waste Transfer Stations, as opposed to landfill sites. The model calculates mileages and collection rates, to ensure the effective use of vehicles and crews, allowing for the optimisation of collection rounds to be made.

Louth is already built, and sites have been secured at Grantham and Sleaford. Boston and Gainsborough locations are still under discussion.

While we are looking forward to the opening of the new Household Waste Recycling centre at Market Rasen, which has just been completed, like all other departments we will be making considerable savings during the next four years. We will be working hard to make the best use of the funds available to us.

The Market Rasen site all but completes our countywide coverage, providing access to over 95% of our residents living within twelve miles. The missing link is Stamford, where we will keep trying to find an appropriate site.

I am pleased to report that recycling rates continue to improve, although moving past the 55% recycling figure (from 52.5%) will be difficult unless everybody plays their part.