

COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING – 16 SEPTEMBER 2011

Statement from: Councillor C L Strange, Executive Councillor for Waste Services and Green Issues

As the Lincolnshire Waste Partnership approaches the quarterly meeting at which the chairmanship changes to a councillor elected from either city or district council, we can reflect on a year of tremendous progress. Of course, this would not have been possible without the wholehearted support of our colleagues from the City and Districts, as well as the Environment Agency and our own team of excellent staff at Waterside South.

Our commitment is to provide four new transfer stations, one each in Boston, Gainsborough, Grantham and Sleaford, to join the one already commissioned in Louth. Currently, we have secured planning permission at Grantham, and are hopeful of receiving a positive planning decision at Sleaford this month, with an anticipated construction start date for both transfer stations early in 2012. Planning decisions for Gainsborough and Boston are expected in January 2012, with anticipated construction starts by the summer.

These four new transfer stations are included in the overall EfW budget of £145M and, subject to planning permission being obtained, should be relatively simple constructions. The programme is based on the EMPA framework, and we are currently compiling a long list of sub contractors for all the work. Work can then be awarded to include as many Lincolnshire firms as possible in the build, following procurement legislation.

Sean Kent and I have now personally visited all but one of our district and city partners, to seek their views with regard to the rerouting of waste streams to the optimum landfill and transfer stations locations. Any problems raised are being addressed to achieve the best solution agreement, with the full support of our partners to maximise our recycling, and minimise landfill countywide.

The construction of the Energy from Waste facility is progressing well with the construction of the waste bunker. It will not be long before we will be able to see tangible building work, with the construction being completed by the end of 2013.

At the last meeting of the Environmental Scrutiny Committee, the Chairman recommended to me that the new acceptable distance from a household recycling site be moved to twelve miles. This would mean over 98% of our residents would live within that boundary, and we are considering the most appropriate way to provide a service to the remaining residents

Our county recycling rates are now in excess of 52% and, with Boston undertaking a pilot green bin collection over the summer months, we are continually striving towards our 55% target well before 2015.

We are undertaking a survey at the 13 household waste recycling centres to learn what our customers feel about opening times, what we recycle, and any ways of improving what we currently offer. The majority of the current Household Waste Recycling Centres contracts expire in March 2012 and work is currently underway to renew these contracts, reflecting the responses from the Household Waste Recycling Centres survey, and the requirement to meet the core offer.

Our fly tip team receive plaudits across the county. Although fly tipping is a District's responsibility, I feel they provide a tremendous back up operation, especially should a major fly tip occur. As long as we can find the cash from our diminishing budget, then we must keep this service going.