

COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING – 18 MAY 2012

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

Energy for Waste

The new plant emerging at Station Road, North Hykeham resembles a massive meccano set. However, the huge concrete box at the eastern end, containing the hopper that could hold 10 day's worth of Lincolnshire's non recyclable municipal rubbish, is practically complete. It certainly anchors the development to the ground – thousands of tonnes of concrete and steel fabrication, with a small army of men (and some women) bolting beams and welding sections into place. The boiler has arrived in large sections, and will be constructed on site. On 6 July it will be raised from the ground and placed onto its cradle – we will all be holding our breath!

So far, so good. We are on time. The professionalism of Clugstons (a Scunthorpe company) is there for all to see with the construction of the shell. CINM, a French company, are responsible for the interior, and they will be moving in as Clugstons complete the outer casing.

The firing up is expected during early summer of 2013, and commissioning during December 2013. The work on the project, of course, was masterminded by Richard Belfield and his excellent team. I hope when the plant swings into action his single minded approach to delivering this project to a very tight timeline will not be forgotten. As you know, Richard has chosen to move on and we all wish him well.

However, as your councillor responsible for Waste Services, please be assured we are all determined to deliver this scheme to the county on time, and in budget. I know that Richard Wills' steady hand at the tiller will come into play, should we meet any unexpected difficulties.

Of course, the beast will need feeding for the next 50 years. Over the last 18 months the Lincolnshire Waste Partnership have been working out routing to the five new transfer stations, strategically placed across the county. Altogether, exciting times for everyone concerned.

Waste Transfer Stations

Grantham Waste Transfer Station (WTS) should be finished by the end of May, works have commenced at Sleaford, and with planning gained for Gainsborough and Boston, detailed design is now underway for construction to start in the summer.

The WTSs are being procured using a framework contract which allows as many local contractors to be used as possible. This can only be good for local businesses and will help to promote Lincolnshire's economy. All WTS projects are on target to meet their April 2013 deadline, and will be ready to start transporting waste to the Energy from Waste facility when commissioning tests start.

HWRC

The re-tendering exercise for the provision and management of Household Waste Recycling Centres in the county has been completed, and all 13 sites have been retained. However, opening times and days for most of the sites have had to be reduced. Although this decision was only confirmed by Executive on 6 March, it was possible to organise a publicity exercise to inform the public of the new opening times and days.

Inevitably, with a change of this scale, there have been some complaints but every effort has been made to respond to these in positive terms. There have been a small number of incidents of fly-tipping at the entrance to sites. This was inevitable until all ratepayers become aware of the new opening times.

The council has maintained its stated intention for 95% of Lincolnshire residents to have access to a recycling centre within a 12 mile radius of their home.

It will be a challenge maintaining the current level of recycling, given the reduction in both residual and recyclable wastes occurring due to the poor economic situation in the UK. The total may also be affected by operational changes in the districts, where services that were previously provided free are now being charged to create additional income to help hard-pressed districts meet their budget commitments. This trend is likely to increase in future years putting more pressure on the maintenance of the now customary high level of recycling performance in the county.

Sustainability

Home Energy Lincs.Partnership seeks to address affordable Warmth and Fuel Poverty issues in Lincolnshire. At the close of the programme, nearly 14,000 cavity or loft insulations have been completed.

The Council continues to invest in improving our own energy efficiency and carbon management. The Collection energy saving project was initiated after being identified as a poor performing building. The Sustainability Team installed new LED lighting, air handling unit controls, boiler optimisers, boiler room insulation and re-commissioned and optimised the building management system. The team has managed to get a return on investment of less than two years which equates to approximate annual savings of £20,000, and are on course to save nearly 200 tonnes annually of carbon which is 40% over initial estimates.

Similar proposals and investment are being investigated for the Museum of Lincolnshire Life.