

**LINCOLNSHIRE WASTE PARTNERSHIP
3 MARCH 2022**

PRESENT:

COUNCILLOR D MCNALLY (LINCOLNSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL) (CHAIRMAN)

Councillor Richard Wright (Greater Lincolnshire Leaders and CX's) (Vice-Chairman), District Councillor Deborah Evans (Boston Borough Council), District Councillor Bob Bushell (City of Lincoln Council), District Councillor Martin Foster (East Lindsey District Council), District Councillor Mervyn Head (North Kesteven District Council) and Councillor Mark Anthony Whittington (South Kesteven District Council)

Officers in attendance:-

Nicole Hilton (Assistant Director - Communities), Matthew Michell (Waste Strategy Manager), Charlotte Paine, Mike Reed (Interim Head of Waste), Alan Robinson (Director of Corporate Services and Monitoring Officer, West Lindsey District Council), Rachel Stamp (LWP Programme Manager) and Rachel Wilson (Democratic Services Officer)

23 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor R Gambba-Jones (South Holland District Council), Councillor O Bierley (West Lindsey District Council), Ady Selby (West Lindsey District Council) and Victoria Burgess (jointly representing East Lindsey District Council, Boston Borough Council and South Holland District Council).

It was noted that Councillor J McNeill (West Lindsey District Council) was in attendance in place of Councillor O Bierley (West Lindsey District Council).

24 DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

There were no declarations of interest at this point in the meeting.

25 MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 18 NOVEMBER 2021

RESOLVED

That the minutes of the previous meeting held on 18 November 2021 be agreed and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

26 PARTNER UPDATES

Partners received a report which provided an opportunity to share any information that may be of interest to the rest of the Partnership. Written updates from each of the Partners had been provided.

In addition to the updates provided, East Lindsey District Council advised they were working with the enforcement team and going out to tender to private companies. All three councils (East Lindsey, South Holland and Boston Borough) would be able to carry out enforcement and tweak the contract according to their own requirements. It was planned that this would be in place for spring 2022 and it was hoped all three councils would benefit. It was noted that the report which set out the detail of this could be shared with the Partnership for information and would be circulated in due course.

27 ENVIRONMENT ACT UPDATE

The Partnership received a presentation which outlined details of potential impacts and implications for Lincolnshire of the Environment Act 2021. The presentation covered areas for discussion including Defra consultations, impacts on the Lincolnshire Waste Partnership – Enhanced Producer Responsibility (EPR); Deposit Return Schemes (DRS); and Consistency of Collections; Food Waste; Food Waste – Waste Disposal Authority (WDA) Actions.

Partners were provided with the opportunity to discuss the information outlined in the presentation and some of the points raised during discussion included the following:

- A stakeholder group to enable officers to speak to neighbouring authorities had been set up
- There would be a need to look at disposal locations for Waste Collection Authorities (WCA's), and also the haulage of materials. This would be a significant risk for WCA's in securing fleets, as all areas of the country would be making these changes at the same time and there would be a limited supply of vehicles.
- It was queried whether there would be an effect on the capacity of the Energy from Waste facility, and once food waste started to be removed from the waste stream, would there be an option to replace it with green waste. In terms of Energy from Waste facility throughput, there was more concern regarding volume than the material that going through it. Capacity had been maximised in recent years, and reducing the volume could have efficiency implications. FCC were currently examining the implications of this. If additional capacity became available, there could be an opportunity to draw in private sector waste.
- Concerns had been raised around transportation, and officers advised that they were aware of potential issues and technology was changing constantly in this area. There would be a need to be pragmatic and be led by what was available in the market and the available infrastructure, for example, in relation to electric vehicles.
- It was noted that positive discussions had taken place with North Lincolnshire and North East Lincolnshire Councils, and had been very welcoming of the approach so far, and there was an aspiration to generate more of a relationship with them to

explore any shared service opportunities in haulage contracts, recycling, composting etc.

- Concerns were raised around potential costs to district councils, for example the food waste trial by SKDC was being stepped down due to the costs involved going forward and the costs to scale up from the current trial including purchase of new vehicles. There would be a need for additional funding from government in order to continue this separate collection. In the consultation, there was an indication that new burden funding would be made available. It was acknowledged that it was not known how much this funding would be, but it was believed that it would be based on modelling rather than actual costs, and if there was a shortfall in funding it would be difficult for all authorities.
- The financial impact of green waste collections being provided as a free service to households was estimated to be around £800,000 to district councils, and the issue of how this would be funded had not yet been addressed. It was highlighted that the requirement to collect garden waste would not necessarily be seen as a new burden, so it might prove difficult to request funding for those households where green waste was already being collected.
- It was commented that if districts planned to purchase new freighters to collect food waste, there would be a lead in time of 10 – 11 months, and if all collection authorities purchased at the same time, this would mean that lead in times were likely to be extended.
- It was very difficult for authorities to be able to start any preparations around what may be required as there was still a lot of uncertainty, particularly around funding.
- It was suggested that haulage was one area where a partnership approach could be taken, particularly as there was likely to be increased demand for vehicles, as costs would increase if demand exceeded supply, which would then have an impact on the revenue position of district councils.
- In relation to capacity for anaerobic digestion (AD) modelling suggested there would be a need across the county of 20,000 – 30,000 tonnes, however, the authority did not want to be dependent on a single facility. It was noted that interest was being received from a number of potential operators.
- It was noted that the County Council was in contact with neighbouring WDA's, and the districts were encouraged to engage with other waste collection authorities (WCA's) as there were still a lot of lessons to be learned.

RESOLVED

That the comments made be noted.

28 SOUTH KESTEVEN FOOD WASTE TRIAL UPDATE

The Partnership received an update from South Kesteven District Council in relation to the food waste collection trial. It was reported that this trial had now been running for four years, the first two years were funded by the County Council, and the last two years it had been funded by South Kesteven District Council. With a national strategy in relation to food waste collection three years away, the district was no longer able to afford to continue with the separate food

waste collection. A decision was due to be made regarding this trial at a meeting of the full Council that afternoon.

Officers suggested that they would bring a full report back to a future meeting of the Partnership, depending on the decision made by the Council. The trial had been very successful, with good participation. Approximately 1.5kg of food waste per household per week had been collected. Lessons had been learned from this work, which the district would share this with the Partnership.

It was noted that South Kesteven District Council had demonstrated that food waste could be collected successfully.

RESOLVED

1. That the update be noted.
2. That a report on the Food Waste Collection Trial be brought back to a future meeting of the Lincolnshire Waste Partnership.

29 PERFORMANCE MEASURES UPDATE

The Partnership received a report and presentation from the LCC Waste Strategy Manager which provided an update on the suite of Key Performance Indicators (KPI's) which measure progress against the vision and objectives set out in the LWP's Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy (JMWMS). The KPI's related to four strategic themes:

- Waste Hierarchy – how we are prioritising waste minimisation and recycling
- Contamination – recycling contamination rate (kerbside recyclables)
- Carbon – overall LWP waste management carbon footprint (per head)
- Customer friendly – satisfaction with waste collections/HWRC's

The report reflected that whilst Covid-related restrictions were gradually being lifted, waste was still being received in different quantities and composition to pre-Covid, particularly in reduced throughput at Household Waste Recycling Centres. It was still not clear how much of that Covid impact was temporary, and to what extent authorities were now seeing a "new normal" (e.g. more working from home) which may continue in the longer term.

Partners were provided with the opportunity to ask questions in relation to the information contained within the report, and some of the points highlighted during discussion included the following:

- In relation to sampling of residual waste, it would be interesting to see how much recyclable material did end up in the waste stream.
- Education was essential in encouraging recycling. It was noted that this was something which had been identified and there was a need to be a bit more proactive with how messages are communications to younger people and schools.

Partners were advised that information packs would be distributed to primary schools and officers would be visiting schools to talk about waste.

- It was suggested that contamination levels had dropped following the introduction of twin stream recycling due to bins not being emptied if they contained material other than paper and card, and this was then leading to increased fly tipping in some areas.
- There had been concerns about people in urban areas needing to have three bins for the twin stream collections. Officers advised that it was the responsibility of individuals to try and abide by the rules which were set. There was a need to take a collaborative approach and engage with the public regarding the rules and requirements.
- Complaints were being received from some residents about additional cardboard and side waste not being collected. If residents did have an excessive amount of cardboard or cardboard which did not fit in the purple lidded bin, they were encouraged to take it to the Household Waste Recycling Centre. It was not possible to collect side waste as once it became wet, it was not able to be processed and it would become contamination.
- It was acknowledged that there had been an increase in fly tipping over the past two years, and this had led to the development of the environmental crime partnership, and it had been recognised by government as a national problem. However, it was emphasised that it was not believed that this material was being discarded by households, and there was a lot of evidence to show that the increase was due to businesses/individuals who were charging a fee to people to dispose of their waste, and then disposing of it as fly tipping. There was a duty of care for households to ensure that it was a reputable firm who was collecting and disposing of waste.
- It was commented that one cause of contamination in bins in Boston was people disposing of takeaway packaging in other people's bins.
- West Lindsey District Council was looking forward to the introduction of the purple lidded bins and had received a very good presentation recently regarding the planned roll out. It was acknowledged that there were some sections of the population that were reluctant to embrace change.
- It was noted that West Lindsey District Council had given consideration to include a three month bulky waste collection, but had concluded that there was no evidence that providing this service would reduce fly tipping.
- It was commented that a lot of the work around recycling needed to be member led, and members should be engaging with their communities to try and resolve any issues. The roll out of the separate paper and card collections also needed to be member led.

RESOLVED

That the Lincolnshire Waste Partnership:

1. Notes the charts and commentary provided in relation to Waste Hierarchy.
2. Notes the improved performance in twin-stream areas in relation to Contamination.
3. Notes that work has now resumed in relation to Carbon.

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4. Notes the comments set out in the report in relation to Customer Friendliness.

30 LINCOLNSHIRE WASTE PARTNERSHIP FORWARD PLAN

The Partnership considered its forward plan, and the following items were noted for inclusion at future meetings:

- Food Waste Collection report from South Kesteven District Council
- Paper and Card collection roll-out – West Lindsey District Council
- Update on progress with the Environment Act, and national, regional and local implications

RESOLVED

That the above items be scheduled for consideration by the Lincolnshire Waste Partnership.

The meeting closed at 12.25 pm