

COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING – 18 SEPTEMBER 2015

Statement from: Councillor R A Shore, Executive Councillor for Waste, Recycling

PRESENT SITUATION

- **New Dry Recycling Contract - The Next Steps**

The new countywide contract became effective from the 1 July 2015. This will help to ensure that the recycling mix is optimised, in order to attain the best possible quality and price for the council taxpayer. Furthermore, by working closely with the Lincolnshire Waste Partnership, we are aiming to produce a sustainable waste solution for all the residents in our county.

- **Lincolnshire Waste Partnership**

There are a number of operational issues which we will want to take to the Partnership during the ensuing months, and this includes gaining a comprehensive understanding of what constitutes the contamination of recyclables. All councils and contractors have their own views on what constitutes recycling contamination: one important task, therefore, is to work towards gaining a consensus of what is 'contamination', and at what level we in Lincolnshire should be striving to achieve. Personally, I would love to see it fall consistently below 5%!

To achieve these ambitions, we need the help of our residents. With a comprehensive and sustained education programme, everyone in our county would be clear about what to do with their recyclables: what to put in the recycling bin, what goes to local recycling centres, and what goes to the Energy from Waste plant to be burned.

CHALLENGES

- The greatest challenge for all portfolio holders during this coming year will be trying to make the books balance following the latest budget review. The actual amount of savings the Council needs to find are eye watering, and really quite depressing. As a result, we are having to rethink the way the council does business and, indeed, what business it can effectively do. My portfolio is no different to any other and must share equally the burden of responsibility. With this in mind, all non-statutory services, which have for so long been taken for granted, must be subject to review. This may lead to closure of some and rationalisation of others, and I hope that Members will understand should this have implications for their area.

SUCSESSES

- Planning permission has been awarded for the Energy from Waste facility to increase the total capacity from 150,000 tonnes to 170,000 tonnes.
- Payment from the Salvation Army for the recycling of textiles at our HWRCs. I would like to thank the Environmental Scrutiny Committee for their good work in this matter.
- Planning permission has been awarded for LCC-owned Household Waste Recycling Centre in Bourne.

FUTURE AMBITIONS/CONSIDERATIONS

- To reconsider the present recycling scheme for charitable bodies, and whether a more appropriate method could be found to support charities' income whilst decreasing the burden on LCC.
- The outline business case for our own Materials Reclamation Facility will be completed by end of September and, following timely scrutiny evaluation, we will work towards developing the soundest possible waste service for our county.
- Researching and finding imaginative ways to maximise the effectiveness and efficiency of Lincolnshire's waste service, within a reducing budget provision.
- Partnership possibilities with other authorities of sharing waste services.