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Lincolnshire Waste Partnership Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy Workshops

Report for Lincolnshire Waste Partnership
Lincolnshire Waste Partnership JMWMS

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The Lincolnshire Waste Partnership – Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy Workshops

Introduction

As the Lincolnshire Waste Partnership's (LWP)'s only Waste Disposal Authority (WDA), Lincolnshire County Council (LCC) has taken responsibility for the project management of the review of its current Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy (JMWMS).

In order to ensure that the JMWMS is jointly owned by all the authorities in the LWP, the WDA arranged two workshop sessions, to which each LWP member authority was invited. These were designed to encourage input from across the LWP in formulating the Visions and Objectives of the Strategy through the capture of a balance of views from across the LWP member authorities.

The Workshops were held at the Hykeham Energy from Waste Visitor Centre.

The first Workshop, on 6th July 2017, was titled "What do we want to achieve?" and aimed to reach agreement on the Vision and broad brush Objectives for the JMWMS.

The second Workshop, on 20th July 2017, was titled "How do we achieve it?" and aimed to develop a framework for the action plan.

The Workshops were Chaired and facilitated by Ricardo Energy & Environment, to provide an independent voice, with the aim of ensuring all attendees were able to voice their opinions, concerns, experience and ambitions. A key aim of the workshops was to ensure that the JMWMS is equally informed by input from all eight LWP authorities.

Over twenty delegates from the eight authorities (Boston Borough Council, City of Lincoln Council, East Lindsey District Council, North Kesteven District Council, South Holland District Council, South Kesteven District Council, West Lindsey District Council, and Lincolnshire County Council) attended each workshop to contribute to the discussion and put forward their views. A list of the attendees at each workshop can be found at Appendix 1.

Workshop Methodology

Each workshop commenced with a briefing from the Chair outlining the overarching process of developing the Strategy, and consideration of legislative and political constraints, opportunities and other influencing factors impacting on the Strategy. Attendees were then invited to contribute to discussions regarding challenges and opportunities and their priorities for the Partnership.

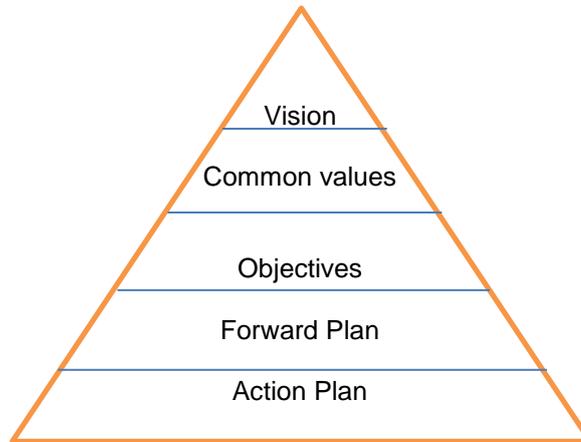
To facilitate discussion, a Scoping Paper had been prepared, setting out the broad Objectives as identified by the County Council. Additionally, information had been compiled to summarise the aims of the current (2008) Strategy, and performance indicators demonstrating performance across the original ambitions.

The Agenda for each Workshop was designed to provide enough time for a thorough analysis of the Scoping Paper, with the option of changing, adding, revising, removing or redesigning each of these elements.

The workshops utilised a combination of group discussions, break-out sessions and summary deliberations to scope the issues, challenges and opportunities, whilst identifying the key priorities for the LWP.

Summary of Outcomes

During the discussions, a general structure of elements of the Strategy began to form: this is illustrated below:



Discussions regarding each of these elements are set out in the following sections.

1. Vision

At the second workshop, the Vision for the Strategy agreed in Workshop 1 was re-presented to the group and agreed:

Vision for the Lincolnshire Joint Municipal Waste Management strategy

“To seek the best environmental option to provide innovative, customer-friendly waste management solutions that give value for money to Lincolnshire.”

2. Objectives

At the second workshop, attendees considered the revised Strategic Objectives. All comments, considerations, concerns and criticisms from Workshop 1 had been recorded, and these were used to thoroughly revise the Objectives in line with the Workshop’s overall feedback and input. Subsequently, these revised Objectives had been circulated by e-mail for further feedback. Comments were generally positive, but further comments were received, and these had been incorporated into a third iteration of each Objective where necessary. Some Objectives had been combined or removed, as they were considered actions.

Attendees at the second workshop analysed, considered and amended each Objective, until agreement was reached on the final iteration of each one. A summary of the evolution of the Objectives, from Scoping Paper to final iteration, can be found at Appendix 2.

Throughout the review of the list of Objectives, it became clear that two over-riding elements were being repeated, and were in danger of making the Objectives unnecessarily wordy and repetitive. It was thus agreed that these two over-riding values should be applied when considering any of the other Objectives.

A hierarchy was thus agreed whereby the LWP will have its vision, underneath which are the elements which describe the values which inform each of the Objectives.

All Objectives should ensure that services provided under the JMWMS represent the best possible environmental option which gives value for money for Lincolnshire residents.

The agreed Objectives will thus all be subject to these overarching approaches, which clearly tie in with the "value for money" and "environmental" aspects of the Vision.

The discussions around the common values developed a preference for ordering the Objectives to reflect the priority order of: value for money; environmental outcomes; and other Objectives.

In the light of the comments from attendees, to reflect this approach, the financial Objectives move to the top of the list, whilst the environmental Objectives follow, ordered by their position in the Waste Hierarchy. This leaves the LWP governance review as the final Objective, recognising that it is currently less of a priority as a review was done in 2016.

The revised list of Objectives in the Summary reflects the revised ordering agreed.

The draft agreed Objectives:

- 1. To improve the quality and therefore commercial value of our recycling stream**
- 2. To consider moving towards a common set of recycling materials.**
- 3. To consider the introduction of separate food waste collections**
- 4. To explore new opportunities of using all waste as a resource in accordance with the waste hierarchy.**
- 5. To contribute to the UK recycling target of 50% by 2020.**
- 6. To find the most appropriate ways to measure our environmental performance, and set appropriate targets.**
- 7. To seek to reduce our carbon footprint.**
- 8. To make an objective assessment of whether further residual waste recovery/disposal capacity is required and, if necessary, seek to secure appropriate capacity.**
- 9. To regularly review the LWP governance model in order to provide the best opportunity to bring closer integration and the implementation of the Objectives set by the Strategy.**

It was noted that further editing of the Objectives may be necessary as a result of the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) and Public Consultation processes, as well as any changes in external factors between now and the adoption of the Strategy.

3. Forward Plan

Attendees at the 2nd workshop were briefed on the need to develop a Forward Plan as part of the main JMWMS document. This Plan will summarise the types of strategic action required to fulfil the agreed objectives.

Whilst discussions at both workshops largely only focussed as far down as the objectives, those discussions did identify a number of types of action required to achieve the agreed Objectives.

The list attached as Appendix 3, prepared by the County Council, was intended to be shared at the 2nd workshop, but the planned session to discuss and revise it was superseded by the need to talk about specific and urgent actions regarding one of the objectives – the introduction of food waste collections.

This list will be circulated in a format which allows for further comment and for the addition of other proposed action types for the Forward Plan.

4. Strategic Action Plan

The initial Action Plan will be a separate document developed from the JMWMS Forward Plan. This will differ from the Forward Plan in that it will:

- 1) Be more detailed – i.e. who will do what and by when.
- 2) Contain targets and activities which are "SMART" – i.e. Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant and Time-based.
- 3) Cover only the first year of the Strategy's lifetime – It will be reviewed annually thereafter.

Work on the Action Plan will begin once the Forward Plan has captured the types of action which are required to meet the agreed strategic objectives.

Food Waste Collections

Having said that work on the Action Plan is to begin later, discussions planned to happen at Workshop 2 regarding actions to go into the Forward Plan were postponed in light of the urgent requirement for movement on the assessment of food waste collections, as identified by elected Members meeting together prior to Workshop 2.

Work is underway, including as part of the WRAP-sponsored assessment of collections consistency, to identify and allocate the necessary actions, including:

- Assessment of the costs to introduce collections.
- Assessment of the possible disposal savings.
- Consideration of a pilot project to begin as soon as possible.
- Information-gathering from other authorities who have introduced such collections.
- Visits to see possible vehicles for doing the collections.

This work will need to be monitored, recorded, and included in the JMWMS documentation.



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