

Agenda Item 10



LINCOLNSHIRE WASTE PARTNERSHIP

7 March 2019

SUBJECT :	Waste Strategy for Lincolnshire and National Resources & Waste Strategy
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BACKGROUND INFORMATION

This report summarises the contents, with regard to municipal waste, of the new Resources and Waste Strategy for England. Given that elected members have already been briefed on this subject by their own officers, this report focuses on the synergies between that national Strategy and the recently-adopted Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy (JMWMS) for Lincolnshire.

The report also sets out how the objectives of those strategies are beginning to be enacted through the emerging JMWMS Action Plan, as well as how the Lincolnshire Waste Partnership (LWP) can be involved in the consultations promised in the national Strategy.

DISCUSSIONS

Following nearly two years of work, as of January 2019 the new JMWMS has been formally adopted by all eight of the LWP's partner councils.

Meanwhile, Defra were working on a Resources and Waste Strategy for England, and that was published on 18th December 2018. Consideration had been given to postponing the preparation of the Lincolnshire JMWMS so that the contents of the national Strategy could be fully taken into account. However, it was decided that this would unduly delay the final adoption of the JMWMS, particularly as many of the themes of the national Strategy have been reasonably clear for some time. This approach has proven to be justified as there are many synergies between the two Strategies.

The main links and synergies between the documents are as follows.

National R&WS	Lincolnshire JMWMS
Opening "Case for Action" and throughout	
Multiple consultations planned. <i>e.g. Introduction (page 7)</i>	We want to lobby national government <i>e.g. Notes on Objective 4 (page 48)</i>
Promoting a circular economy. <i>e.g. Introduction (page 7)</i>	We want to promote this. <i>e.g. Section 3.1 (page 12)</i>
Chapter 3 – Recovering resources and managing waste	
Better quantity and quality in recycling. <i>Section 3.1 (page 68)</i>	Objective 1 – To improve the quality and therefore commercial value of our recycling stream. Action Plan – Strategic Review of Kerbside MDR... (Stream 1)
Consistent dry recycling collections. <i>Section 3.1.1 (page 68)</i>	Objective 2 – To move towards a common set of recycling materials. Action Plan – Strategic Review of Kerbside MDR... (Stream 1)
Separate food waste collections. <i>Section 3.1.2 (page 70)</i>	Objective 3 – To consider the introduction of separate food waste collections... Action Plan – Food Waste Trial (Stream 2) Action Plan – Location of additional processing/disposal sites. (Stream 4)
Better partnership working between councils. <i>Section 3.1.4 (page 73)</i>	Objective 9 – To regularly review the LWP governance model... Action Plan – Strategic Review of Options for Continuous Improvement... (Stream 3)
Amending recycling credit system. <i>Section 3.1.5 (page 74)</i>	Section 7.2.1 – "finding innovative ways to fairly distribute costs and savings..." Action Plan – Strategic Review of Options for Continuous Improvement... (Stream 3)
Reviewing HWRC provision. <i>Section 3.1.6 (page 74)</i>	Action Plan – Review of the Household Waste Recycling Centres. (Action 1.11)
Need For new facilities (e.g. AD). <i>Section 3.2.2 (page 78)</i>	Objective 8 – To make an objective assessment of what further waste processing/disposal capacity is required and, as necessary, secure appropriate capacity. Action Plan – Location of additional processing/disposal sites. (Stream 4)
Chapter 7 – Research and innovation	
Support for innovation. <i>Section 7.1 (page 124)</i>	Objective 10 – To consider appropriate innovative solutions... Action Plan – Strategic Review of Options for Continuous Improvement... (Stream 3)

Chapter 8 – Measuring progress: data, monitoring and evaluation	
Move away from weight-based targets. <i>Section 8.1.2 (page 136)</i>	Objective 6 – To find the most appropriate ways to measure our environmental performance, and set appropriate targets. Action Plan – Choosing performance indicators appropriate to measure environmental performance. (Stream 5)
Use "carbon accounting". <i>Section 8.1.2 (page 136)</i>	Objective 7 – To seek to reduce our carbon footprint. Action Plan – Choosing performance indicators appropriate to measure environmental performance. (Stream 5)
Monitor composition of residual waste. <i>Section 8.1.6 (page 137)</i>	Section 5.3.2 – LWP-wide sampling undertaken in 2017.
List of proposed new performance indicators. <i>Section 8.2 (page 138)</i>	Objective 6 – To find the most appropriate ways to measure our environmental performance, and set appropriate targets. Action Plan – Choosing performance indicators appropriate to measure environmental performance. (Stream 5)

Whilst noting that the objectives of the two Strategies are broadly aligned, it is also clear that there are specific elements of the national Strategy which need to be taken account of in enacting the JMWMS through its accompanying Action Plan. These include the following which could change the quantity and composition of the waste which we need to handle, as well as the budget available to do so:

- A proposed deposit return scheme for drinks containers,
- "Ensuring a consistent set of dry recyclable materials is collected from all households and businesses",
- "Ensuring that producers pay the full net costs of managing packaging waste at end of life",
- Measures to reduce waste, particularly food and packaging, and
- Promoting higher recycled content in packaging.

A recurring theme throughout the national Strategy is that the government commit themselves to undertaking consultations on many of the key elements. These will give the LWP the opportunity to lobby for policies which align with and support the strategic objectives set out in the JMWMS.

Four of these consultations have already begun. They each close either on 12th or 13th May 2019.

- Consistency in Household and Business Recycling Collections – includes:
 - A core set of materials for recycling,
 - Free garden waste collections,
 - Separate food waste collections,
 - Non-binding performance indicators for local authorities,
 - Alternatives to weight based metrics;
- Reforming the UK Packaging Producer Responsibility System;

- Introducing a Deposit Return Scheme (DRS) for England, Wales and Northern Ireland; and
- Plastic Packaging Tax.

OPTIONS

Ideally, the LWP should respond to all relevant consultations arising from the Resources & Waste Strategy for England. The LWP could decide, possibly separately for each consultation depending on the theme, to submit:

1. A combined response agreed by the LWP;
2. A separate response by some or all of the partner authorities; or
3. Both of the above.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. That Lincolnshire Waste Partnership note the common themes of the respective Lincolnshire and national strategies, and ensures that these are considered in the ongoing delivery of the strategic objectives through the Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy Action Plan.
2. That the Lincolnshire Waste Partnership responds to all relevant consultations arising from the Resources & Waste Strategy for England.
3. That any Lincolnshire Waste Partnership partner authority making their own separate consultation response to address local issues considers how to align that response with the joint Lincolnshire Waste Partnership submission.