

Agenda Item 9



LINCOLNSHIRE WASTE PARTNERSHIP

9TH JULY 2020

SUBJECT :	Update on the Paper & Card Trial
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BACKGROUND INFORMATION

In July 2019, the LWP agreed to commence a trial to collect paper and cardboard separately from the rest of the mixed dry recycling. The aims of the trial included:

- Improving the quality and volume of paper & card recycled
- By reducing contamination the separated paper & card will be made into paper again, which can be repurposed many times, rather than just into a single use product
- Changing customers' behaviours
- Using the opportunity to improve quality of the MDR stream

3 WCAs were included in the trial, Boston Borough Council (2,969 households), North Kesteven District Council (1,781 households) and South Holland District Council (2,408 households) along with Lincolnshire County Council as the WDA.

Collection in both wheeled bins (Boston BC and North Kesteven DC) and sacks (South Holland DC) has been undertaken to allow comparison between collection methods.

The separate material has then been sent to a dedicated paper re-processor for recycling back into paper products.

OUTCOMES TO DATE

Performance Measures

Data has been gathered since the commencement of the trial and shows the following performance for each authority:

	Boston Borough Council	North Kesteven District Council	South Holland District Council
Total tonnage collected (September 19 to May 20)	147.62	101.90	124.30
Average weekly kg per household	1.31	1.50	1.29
Participation Rate	96% (↑ 98%, ↓ 93%)	94% (↑ 97%, ↓ 92%)	97%* (↑ 100%, ↓ 91%)
Rejection Rate	4% (↑ 11.1%, ↓ 0.3%)	3% (↑ 4.4%, ↓ 1.7%)	0%* (↑ 0.7%, ↓ 0.0%)

* Due to the method of collection in SHDC (collection in sacks), this data cannot be validated

The quality of paper and cardboard has been measured by the paper mill who advise that quality remains consistently high at an average in excess of 98.5% per load with moisture content at an average of 7%, both measures being well within the targets set.

A series of engagement activities have been trialled and undertaken to support the residents in the trial areas including face to face engagement, bin stickers, community drop in events, mailshots, email communications and use of social media.

Boston BC and NKDC have undertaken customer satisfaction surveys in respect of both the paper and card bins and residents' views on the mixed dry recycling bins. A summary of the outcomes is shown below.

	Boston Borough Council	North Kesteven District Council
Do you fully understand what can go in the purple bin?	Yes – 84%	Yes – 88%
What do you think of the size of the purple bin?	About right – 82% Too big – 13% Too small – 4%	About right – 78% Too big – 11% Too small – 11%
What do you think of how often is the purple bin collected?	Just right – 84% Too often – 8% Not often enough – 8%	Just right – 82% Too often – 4% Not often enough – 14%
Would you be happy to continue with a separate	Yes – 93%	Yes – 94%

collection of paper and card beyond the 12 months of the trial?		
Do you feel like you fully understand what can go in the blue recycling bin?	Yes – 57% No – 43%	Yes – 56% No – 44%
Did you know that all of the residual waste is sent to the Energy Waste facility at North Hykeham?	No – 61%	No – 46%

The trial continues and evidence and data will carry on being collected and collated to help inform the decisions to be taken going forward. Covid-19 has slightly delayed some of the data gathering which will now recommence in order to further assess the implications of the trial and its effectiveness.

OPTIONS

Further information to be considered during the period of the trial includes:

- TEEP Assessment
 - Technical – methodology for collection in bins proven
 - Environmental – carbon footprint reduced
 - Economical – cost benefit
 - Practicable
- Roll out – if this were to be implemented across Lincolnshire, what strategic and operational activities would have to be considered.
- Disposal capacity
- Disposal – investigations into the current and future market provisions
- Interlinked with improvement to MDR through reduction in contamination
- Consistent enforcement framework

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Further investigation to determine the options shown in order to understand the implications of rolling the initiative across the county
2. To concentrate on the communications and engagement activities to reduce the levels of contamination in the MDR stream and gather data to understand effectiveness.

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