

Agenda Item 7



LINCOLNSHIRE WASTE PARTNERSHIP

19 NOVEMBER 2020

SUBJECT :	Review of Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy Objectives
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BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The Lincolnshire Waste Partnership's (LWP) Waste Strategy for Lincolnshire, formally adopted in January 2019, includes a list of 10 strategic objectives.

Much has happened since those objectives were agreed (e.g. COVID-19 and evolving national policy) so, in order to ensure the continued relevance of the Strategy, a review has been undertaken to consider:

- The LWP's progress towards meeting those objectives, and
- Whether those objectives might need updating or adding to.

With regard to national policy, this review has considered the government's proposals on:

- Consistency of waste collections – e.g. mandatory collection of food waste,
- Enhanced Producer Responsibility (EPR) – A mechanism whereby packaging manufacturers will be financially responsible for the collection and recycling/disposal of their products, and
- Deposit Return Schemes (DRS) – Charging a deposit for certain types of packaging which the public can reclaim upon returning the item for recycling.

With regard to COVID-19, the review has taken into account the impacts on performance which are set out in more detail in a separate paper also being presented at this meeting.

As things stand the draft review, as described in this report, concludes that:

- The objectives are all still valid and are in line with emerging national policy, and
- The LWP are making good progress towards achieving most of the objectives, although COVID-19 has had a negative impact on some, particularly our recycling rate.

DISCUSSIONS

Each of the 10 strategic objectives listed in the Waste Strategy for Lincolnshire has been considered separately, and the results are summarised here.

1) To improve the quality and therefore commercial value of our recycling stream.	
Progress to date	The paper & card trial demonstrates that twin-stream collections, with accompanying public engagement, help to achieve this objective.
Going forwards	The impacts of national policy (e.g. EPR & DRS) are difficult to predict but improving quality will always benefit us.
2) To move towards a common set of recycling materials.	
Progress to date	The LWP have agreed a common list but we need to keep an eye on national policy to ensure continued compliance.
Going forwards	The Government aim to promote the use of recycled material in products, stimulating the market for the specified materials.
3) To consider the introduction of separate food waste collections where technically, environmentally and economically practicable.	
Progress to date	The food waste trial has demonstrated that, although technically possible, these are currently not economically practicable..
Going forwards	These collections are likely to be mandatory from 2023, and will be funded as a "new burden". Work has commenced to establish disposal capacity (AD) for countywide collections.
4) To explore new opportunities of promoting waste minimisation and of using all waste as a resource in accordance with the waste hierarchy.	
Progress to date	Separate paper & card collections are generating higher quality material, allowing for recycling into better products.
Going forwards	We need to consider how we can promote minimisation and reuse. It is important to learn from the experiences of other authorities and internationally.
5) To contribute to the UK recycling targets of 50% by 2020 and 55% by 2025.	
Progress to date	The LWP rate (measured by our new KPI) had grown in 2019/20 to over 45% but has now been hit by COVID.
Going forwards	Rollout of twin-stream, with accompanying public engagement, should help raise our rate, as will food waste collections.
6) To find the most appropriate ways to measure our environmental performance, and set appropriate targets.	
Progress to date	The LWP have agreed initial tonnage-related KPIs, although we may miss our 2020/21 targets due to COVID impacts.
Going forwards	Work is progressing to develop a full suite of other measures for 2021/22.
7) To seek to reduce our carbon footprint.	
Progress to date	The LWP have been asked to approve the development of a shared Carbon Management Plan for waste.
Going forwards	If agreed, the Carbon Management Plan will propose a roadmap for how to reduce our carbon emissions.

8) To make an objective assessment of what further waste processing/disposal capacity is required and, as necessary, secure appropriate capacity.	
Progress to date	Work is currently focussing on AD capacity to process food waste from 2023.
Going forwards	Various options for AD will be examined including the possibility of a tie-in with commercial food waste and the generation of biofuels.
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.	
Progress to date	The paper & card project shows the benefits of closer partnership working, including the recruitment of the first shared officer (LWP Programme Delivery Manager).
Going forwards	We need to consider when to do another formal review of the LWP governance model.
10) To consider appropriate innovative solutions in the delivery of our waste management services.	
Progress to date	Project teams are considering innovations – e.g. various options for delivery of AD facilities to process food waste collections.
Going forwards	In planning any new project or service, we will consider any appropriate innovative options.

Further details of the review of each objective are shown in Appendix A to this report.

OPTIONS

1. Approve the findings of this review as they stand.
2. Recommend additional items to be included in a final report to the next LWP meeting.

RECOMMENDATIONS

That the LWP note and approve the findings of this review that:

- The objectives are all still valid and are in line with emerging national policy, and
- The LWP are making good progress towards achieving most of the objectives, although COVID-19 has had a negative impact on some, particularly our recycling rate.

APPENDIX A – DETAILED FINDINGS OF REVIEW

	Strategic Objective	LWP Progress	COVID Impacts	National Policy – Collections	National Policy – Other
1	To improve the quality and therefore commercial value of our recycling stream.	Paper & card trial has increased quality of those materials and reduced contamination of remaining MDR. This will now be implemented more widely commencing in Spring 2021.	MDR quantity down overall but contamination levels unaffected.	Consistency: Gov't are defining list of materials to collect & we need to comply. Will hopefully help to improve clarity of message and thus quality. Food Waste: Giving a specified container for food waste should divert some contamination.	EPR: Will help to fund collection of recyclables although, depending how it's defined, might we only get "net costs" and miss out on financial benefits of income for quality material? DRS: Significant quantity of material could be diverted from current stream. Whilst losing some valuable material, savings on sorting costs should offset this.
2	To move towards a common set of recycling materials.	List and publicity now consistent across LWP. Regularly reviewed and updated if necessary.		Consistency: Need to ensure we align with any changes in the gov't list of materials. Food Waste: n/a	EPR: May prove a financial incentive for manufacturers to use different materials, so proportions of mix may change. DRS: Diversion of specific materials which gov't may then remove from their required list.
	To consider the introduction of separate food waste collections...	Trial has demonstrated that, although technically possible, these are currently not economically practicable.		Consistency: n/a Food Waste: Likely to be mandatory from 2023 but will be funded as a "new burden".	EPR: n/a DRS: n/a
4	To explore new opportunities of promoting waste minimisation and of using all waste as a resource...	Separate paper & card has higher quality, allowing for recycling into better products. Ongoing communication campaigns consistent across the county.	Overall HH waste tonnage is down so need to find a way to maintain that whilst improving the recycling rate which has fallen.	Consistency: n/a Food Waste: n/a	EPR: Requirement to fund processing of their materials may encourage manufacturers to use more recyclable products. DRS: Some material may be recycled which would otherwise have become litter.
5	To contribute to the UK recycling targets of 50% by 2020 and 55% by 2025.	LWP recycling rate rose in 2019/20 but has now been hit by COVID.	Recycling rate has fallen and needs to be addressed.	Consistency: n/a Food Waste: This will make a step-change in our recycling rate from 2023.	EPR: Manufacturers may use more recyclable materials to save on their pass-through costs. DRS: Diverted material may not count towards LWP rate so may need to lobby for it to count or set a lower target.

APPENDIX A – DETAILED FINDINGS OF REVIEW

	Strategic Objective	LWP Progress	COVID Impacts	National Policy – Collections	National Policy – Other
6	To find the most appropriate ways to measure our environmental performance...	2 new KPIs in place to measure Waste Hierarchy. Soon to approve measures for carbon, contamination & customer-satisfaction.	Targets set for 2020/21 for the new KPIs may become largely irrelevant.	Consistency: n/a Food Waste: n/a	EPR: n/a DRS: n/a
7	To seek to reduce our carbon footprint.	It has been proposed that the LWP have a Carbon Management Plan.		Consistency: n/a Food Waste: Need to assess whether benefits of recycling outweigh additional emissions from collections.	EPR: n/a DRS: Diversion of some materials may reduce the number of trips required by RCVs to disposal points.
8	To make an objective assessment of what further waste processing/disposal capacity is required...	Seeking ways to develop AD capacity to process food waste if, as proposed nationally, it becomes mandatory.		Consistency: n/a Food Waste: Suitable processing capacity (AD?) required by 2023.	EPR: Funding available for any additional capacity which may be required due to population growth? DRS: n/a
9	To regularly review the LWP governance model...	Established first shared post – LWP Project Manager. Already seeing benefits through success of P&C trial and proposed rollout.		Consistency: n/a Food Waste: n/a	EPR: n/a DRS: n/a
10	To consider appropriate innovative solutions...	Trials of new collections for food waste and P&C.		Consistency: n/a Food Waste: Consider a variety of options both for collection and processing.	EPR: Funding may be based on a formula so may enable us to make savings if we can find more efficient ways of collecting & disposing. DRS: n/a

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