



## LINCOLNSHIRE WASTE PARTNERSHIP 19 NOVEMBER 2020

### PRESENT:

#### COUNCILLOR E J POLL (LINCOLNSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL) (CHAIRMAN)

District Councillor Roger Gambba-Jones (South Holland District Council) (Vice-Chairman), District Councillor Yvonne Stevens (Boston Borough Council), District Councillor Bob Bushell (City of Lincoln Council), District Councillor Martin Foster (East Lindsey District Council), District Councillor Mervyn Head (North Kesteven District Council), District Councillor Dr Peter Moseley (South Kesteven District Council) and District Councillor Owen Bierley (West Lindsey District Council)

Officers in attendance:-

Victoria Burgess (East Lindsey District Council), Charlotte Paine (South Holland District Council), David Steels (North Kesteven District Council), Ian Yates (South Kesteven District Council), Ady Selby (West Lindsey District Council), Matthew Michell (Waste Strategy Manager), Rachel Stamp (LWP Programme Manager), Nicole Hilton (Assistant Director - Communities) and Rachel Wilson (Democratic Services Officer)

#### 44 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

No apologies for absence were received.

#### 45 DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

There were no apologies for absence at this point in the meeting.

#### 46 MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 9 JULY 2020

RESOLVED

That the minutes of the meeting held on 9 July 2020 be signed by the Chairman as a correct record, subject to it being noted that Councillor Dr P Moseley was in attendance.

#### 47 PARTNER UPDATES

Each Partner authority was provided with the opportunity to update the rest of the Partnership on any developments or updates which may be of interest to the Partnership. The following was noted:

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South Kesteven District Council

It was reported that the second wave of Covid-19 was starting to have an effect on activities. However, the partnership working and the officer working group had helped with the resilience of the team. Officers and crews had been affected, which had had an impact and the authority had had some live positive cases, but the arrangements which had been put in place had helped to manage this, and with the testing arrangements, people were able to return to work quicker.

It was also reported that capacity for booking bulky items had needed to be doubled as demand had increased by 35 - 40%. There had also been a 42% increase in the volume of fly tipping. Green Waste had managed to continue and had been well received by the customers.

Lincolnshire County Council

The Energy from Waste facility successfully completed its annual scheduled shut down for maintenance.

A lot of hard work was carried out during the first lockdown to set out safe working practices at facilities, waste transfer stations etc., had all been reinstated to protect the workforce as much as possible and maintain services.

Continuing to Progress detailed work on potential sites for replacement recycling centres in the capital programme.

It was also reported that some preparatory work had commenced in relation to the second round of consultations coming out from Defra. The authority would be looking at the technology choices there would be for Anaerobic Digestion, and that work would be starting shortly. The first sampling and composition audits on waste streams arising in Lincolnshire had taken place at the waste transfer station at Boston. Officers were currently in the process of recruiting full time staff, to be able to carry out this work which would give full and detailed information on the waste and recycling in Lincolnshire, which would help to inform the decisions going forward, particularly in light of the changes due to be introduced by the Government in 2023.

West Lindsey District Council

The value of the partnership working which had taken place was reiterated, and it was noted that there had been good work from the officer working group.

It was reported that there had been two confirmed cases of Covid-19 within the operational staff. It had been possible to isolate both individuals and the vehicle they used.

In relation to the new depot, ground would be broken the following week, and it was expected that the build would be completed in late summer/early autumn 2021. Operations would be moved their immediately. Photo voltaic cells had also been added to make it as sustainable as possible.

In relation to the paper and card trial, a report would be brought to members in January/February with a decision expected to be made mid-2021.

It was reported that all services were currently running as normal, bulky uptake and garden waste uptake had increased. Fly tipping rates remained very high, but seemed to have flattened.

#### City of Lincoln Council

The comments around joint working were echoed, particularly the Officer Working Group, and particularly in respect to all the health and safety implications around Covid-19. Cases within the authority remained extremely low which allowed all the services to continue as normal.

Fly tipping remained high and remained an issue, and it had been flagged up through the Strategic Officer Working Group.

#### South Holland District Council

It was reported that bulky waste collections for the last three months were up 170% so capacity had been doubled. Fly tipping had increased by 112% overall, and the figures for October showed that fly tipping was up by 156% compared to the previous year. The garden waste service had also been expanded to enable the district to support residents further with kerbside collections.

As part of the district council's network, work had taken place with Defra on the Environment Bill and sharing this with the Officer Working Group.

#### North Kesteven District Council

It was reported that the district had not seen any impacts of Covid-19 in terms of the ability to deliver services, kerbside collections had continued. Partners were advised that a report was due to be considered by the Executive regarding paper and card collections with an ambition of starting this in autumn of 2021. The report would be looking for member buy in for this and would also include how local communities would be consulted. It was hoped to have these results by March/April 2021. A route review of rounds was also planned and it was hoped that this would be integrated with any changes to collection regime.

An Environmental Crime Partnership Working Group meeting had been organised for the following week, involving the public sector, police, environment agency and other agencies. The aim was to take the SCRAP campaign and positive messages forward. Very good responses had been received. It was noted that it was likely that the Police and Crime Commissioner would organise a follow up meeting in 2021.

#### East Lindsey District Council

At the last full Council meeting, members agreed to bring the fleet maintenance in-house. A workshop had been leased from LCC and it was hoped that equipment could be purchased from the current contractor. An agreement was also reached to purchase two additional RCV's to cover when current fleet were in for service and maintenance. Officers were working towards the commencement of this operation from April 2021.

There were some staffing issues similar to other authorities, it was hoped that these absences could be covered due to the garden waste programme entering its winter phase.

An increase in bulky item collection had also been seen, however, there had not been as much as an issue with fly tipping as other authorities had experienced.

The Chairman commented that the Household Waste Recycling Centres (HWRC's) had continued to remain open during the second lockdown. In relation to complaints, since the sites had reopened, the numbers had jumped from 1 last year to 70 this year, due to changes that had had to be made to continue the services. However, this number was small compared with the number of transactions that had taken place.

It was acknowledged that major changes had taken place at the Household Waste Recycling centres and it was queried whether it was planned to carry out any customer satisfaction work. It was noted that this would be covered under one of the other papers on the agenda.

A discussion took place regarding the booking system at the HWRC's and it was noted that it was this system which had allowed the sites to reopen and continue operating through the pandemic.

It was confirmed that the HWRC at Boston had had to close for a day due to covid-19 related staffing issues. It was also suggested whether the introduction of a late night opening at HWRC's could be considered, and it was confirmed that this would be looked into when operations were being planned for 2021 onwards.

#### 48 PERFORMANCE MEASURE UPDATE

Consideration was given to a report by the LCC Waste Strategy Manager which updated the Partnership on the new Key Performance Indicators (KPI's) which measured progress against the vision and objectives set out in the Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy (JMWMS). The KPI's related to four strategic themes:

- Waste hierarchy –prioritisation of waste minimisation and recycling
- Contamination – recycling contamination rate (kerbside recyclables)
- Carbon – overall LWP waste management carbon footprint (per head)
- Customer friendly – satisfaction with waste collections/HWRC's

The Partnership was guided through the report and the performance against each indicator outlined. Members were provided with the opportunity to ask questions to the officers present

in relation to the information contained within the report and some of the points raised during discussion included the following:

- It was commented that there had been a reduction in tonnage per household, but kerbside collections were up by 30% and it was queried if this was due to the increased number of people working from home. Members were advised that more was now understood about green waste collections, and a huge increase in the uptake of green waste had been seen, as well as an increase in the volume.
- It was noted that kerbside collections had increased but there was less waste coming through. It was noted there was still a need to better understand what was happening and why.
- In terms of paper and card, it was noted that a lot more people were having items delivered and it was queried whether there was an indication of whether this would have an impact on the recycling rates. It was commented that there were projections that the kerbside dry recycling would see an increase on the previous year. It was noted that there were a lot of factors that could influence tonnages, such as the weather could impact on green waste. The Covid-19 pandemic had had a dramatic effect on all waste disposal authorities, not just Lincolnshire.
- It was noted that when the Household Waste Recycling Centres (HWRC's) reopened, Spalding's bookable slots filled up quickly, but it took the other sites a few weeks to catch up. The total tonnages, did show that overall waste was down, and this included any fly tipping.
- It was reported that it was planned to develop a dedicated carbon management plan for the Lincolnshire Waste Partnership, and work on a green masterplan was also underway.
- A residents panel had also been formed, which had 650 people on it. Waste Wednesday's were also continuing through social media. There was a significant amount of engagement with the public taking place.

#### RESOLVED

1. That the Lincolnshire Waste Partnership notes the charts and commentary in relation to the Waste Hierachy
2. That the Lincolnshire waste Partnership notes that data from the new sampling station would be presented at the next meeting of the Lincolnshire Waste Partnership.
3. That the Lincolnshire Waste Partnership approves the development of a draft LWP Carbon Management Plan for consideration at the next meeting.
4. That the Lincolnshire Waste Partnership agrees to postpone user-satisfaction benchmarking pending a return to more normal post-COVID time, but continues with public engagement.

#### 49 JOINT MUNICIPAL WASTE MANAGEMENT STRATEGY ACTION PLAN UPDATE

Consideration was given to a report by the LWP Programme Manager which updated the Partnership on the Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy Action Plan. It was reported that following a review of the current actions and the service requirements going forward, the action plan had been reformatted into four key areas which were:

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- A) Operational Improvements and Projects
- B) Communication, Education and Engagement
- C) Assets and Infrastructure
- D) Performance and Governance

It was reported that the two stream trial (separate paper and trial card collection) would continue. The households had been involved in this trial for just over one year now. A lot of the sampling of the quality of material collected was showing it to be of exceptionally high quality. There had also been an improvement in the mixed dry recycling in the trial areas, following public engagement activity. However, there was not yet enough data to identify any trends.

It was also reported that the Communications Group was working well together to provide consistent messages across the county, and they were maintaining the SCRAP fly tipping campaign.

It was queried whether there was more that could be done to encourage people to recycle, when the country was back to more normal times, possibly through working with schools as children were the next generation of recyclers. It was queried whether there were simple projects which could be introduced into schools. It was noted that some preliminary work had been done with schools and universities. It was suggested that it could be introduced through Children's Services, and the Schools Liaison team, and information could be included within the newsletter which was sent to all schools.

**RESOLVED**

That the Lincolnshire Waste Partnership note the contents of the action plan and continue to receive on-going updates on the progress at future meetings of the Lincolnshire Waste Partnership.

**50      REVIEW OF JOINT MUNICIPAL WASTE MANAGEMENT STRATEGY OBJECTIVES**

Consideration was given to a report by the LCC Waste Strategy Manager, which updated the Partnership on progress since the objectives in the Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy were formally adopted in January 2019. It was reported that much had happened since the objectives were agreed (including COVID-19 and evolving national policy), and so a review had been undertaken to ensure the continued relevance of the Strategy and to consider the LWP's progress towards meeting those objectives and whether the objectives needed updating or adding to.

It was highlighted that the second round of consultations from Defra were expected shortly, and there may be a need to review the objectives in light of what waste management may look like in 2023.

It was commented that there was still a need for more work around upcycling, and it was queried whether there was a benefit to promoting repurposing or reusing items, as there were a lot of items which were thrown away which would still be of use to other people.

RESOLVED

That the Lincolnshire Waste Partnership note and approve the findings of the review that:

- The objectives were still valid and were in line with emerging national policy;
- The LWP was making good progress towards achieving most of the objectives, although Covid-19 had had a negative impact on some, particularly the recycling rate.

51 LINCOLNSHIRE WASTE PARTNERSHIP FORWARD PLAN

RESOLVED

That the Lincolnshire Waste Partnership receive and note its Forward plan for 2021-2022.

The meeting closed at 12.00 pm

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