

Agenda Item 4



LINCOLNSHIRE WASTE PARTNERSHIP

18 NOVEMBER 2021

SUBJECT:	Partner Updates
REPORT BY:	LINCOLNSHIRE WASTE PARTNERSHIP
CONTACT NO:	-

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

To provide an opportunity for members of the Lincolnshire Waste Partnership to share any information that may be of interest with the other Partners.

All partner authorities have provided an update which are listed below.

DISCUSSION

BOSTON BOROUGH COUNCIL

The twin stream recycling collection service continues to show very little contamination in the paper and card collection and much reduced levels of contamination in the MDR. It is clear that ongoing engagement is still required with our residents to support them particularly with the MDR bin.

On the 8th October, Cllr Evans lead a meeting with Cllr McNally and a number of Boston Borough Councillors to discuss the HWRC at Boston, due to concerns received from residents trying to access the site. Thank you for Cllr McNally and Mike Reed for attending and listening to these concerns. Our councillors want to work with the county council to try and make it easier for residents to get rid of their waste at the HWRC. We are receiving a constant stream of complaints. The continuing trend in fly tipping means we have to try and tackle the problem at source and not rely on enforcement as the only means of promoting responsible behaviour.

Our fly-tipping numbers remain high consistently showing over 100% increase on the previous year, and we continue to enforce where evidence is obtained. In the last two years the team has issued 2,236 FPNs. Officers have formed a cross departmental group to tackle waste accumulations, which is showing positive results not only for the waste team, but for our housing colleagues and residents also.

CITY OF LINCOLN COUNCIL

Position Statement- Waste issues for Lincoln

Operational status- Collection reliability is 'at risk'.

Although collection arrangements remain stable, as they have throughout the pandemic, we are enduring issues in relation to collection capacity. The city continues to grow, but our contractor has not been able to increase capacity to match due to driver shortages, with some drivers moving to alternative districts.

Retention payments are now being paid for driver loyalty, and rounds are being considered for some minor reorganisation to maximise efficiency. Overrun into the next day does occur at times.

Christmas is expected to put the services under extreme pressure and we have a mitigation plan in place including: Increased comms on waste minimisation and parking for access, short term suspension of some street cleansing to permit transfer of staff, reduction of green waste collection resources.

Strategic.

We have identified potential pressure points for combined street scene services. There are a number of imminent pressures emerging. Increased demands for environmental projects now (tree planting, rewilding etc), paper and card collections 2024, food waste collections 2025 latest, and re-let of all street scene service contracts (largest contract in the council) by 2026 at latest.

All of the above are against a backdrop of significant ongoing budget pressures.

EAST LINDSEY DISTRICT COUNCIL

Our Vehicle Maintenance Unit which we took over in April this year is working extremely well, and we have been able to take on maintenance external to the council. We are hopeful that this service will enable the council to meet its objective to be more commercial.

We were disappointed with the decision not to reinstate Mablethorpe supplementary service and would like to continue to work with Cllr McNally to identify disposal options for the residents of Mablethorpe and surrounding area.

NORTH KESTEVEN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Local waste initiatives

- Twin Stream Rollout. For details, please refer to the update elsewhere in this meeting's agenda papers.
 - Communications and engagement commenced after the Council decision in July. All households were sent an information pack regarding the changes.
 - Purple lidded bins have been delivered and as of writing, there have been two collections. As hoped, the quality improved on the second collection.
 - MDR bins (green lidded in NK) have also had two collections and similar results (albeit significantly more contamination to begin with).
 - Households with known vulnerable residents and those requesting us to do so have had home visits from engagement officers.
 - Follow-up letters were sent to those with contaminated bins. Also, letters have recently been sent to HMO residents and those sharing communal bins. The letters reiterated the need to address contamination.
 - New resident information has been adjusted to inform of the new policy. All new homes now receive 240 litre MDR, paper & card and general waste bins.
 - Reinforced our existing 'no side waste' policy through media.
 - Planning now for the Christmas campaign.

- There has been more close working between strategic and operational officers at West Lindsey and Boston councils to help with consistency of delivery and learning from outcomes.
- This project is again on the Environment Overview and Scrutiny Panel Forward Plan for January 2022.

Environmental Crime Partnership

- The partnership continues to be supported by NKDC to deliver on the operational action plan and has recently received praise from Head of Hertfordshire Waste Partnership's (national) SCRAP campaign.
- Some successes with actions on fly tippers including court prosecutions, fines, and fixed penalty notices.
- Working with the police to impound vehicles. This is a trial with an ambition to roll out countywide.

Corporate

In the coming year, the Council will retain its five core priorities:

- Communities
- Council
- Economy
- Environment
- Homes.

The Council will also retain its current values:

- High Performing
- Honesty
- People Focused
- Professionalism
- Teamwork.

The Council's establishment has recently been amended and increased by five refuse drivers and 13 refuse collectors, the reason being to deliver collection services to an increasing number of households.

The Council has recently approved a new Environment Policy and continues to deliver on the declared climate emergency through an adopted strategy and supporting action plan.

SOUTH HOLLAND DISTRICT COUNCIL

The service is currently undergoing a consultation exercise with a view to implementing new working arrangements for the waste team. This will support the current HGV driver shortage and, moving forward, recruitment to all vacant posts.

Our fly-tipping numbers remain high, with a 90% increase for collections made in April – October compared to 2020, whilst they are 155% higher for the same period in 2019.

Similarly, we are still experiencing increased bulky collections with a 127% increase for April – October compared to 2020, and 173% higher for the same period in 2019.

SOUTH KESTEVEN DISTRICT COUNCIL

- Following a review in response to uneven growth across the garden waste rounds, changes to the collection days for 14,000 garden waste customers are being implemented between 15 and 29 November. This supports efficiencies in mileage and also gives greater operational resilience by zoning collections so that more than one freighter works in a similar area to be able to provide cover when any issues arise.

- Whilst there has been no significant departure of HGV drivers from the waste collection crews, this is something that is being monitored closely and contingency plans prepared.
- Despite the continued impact of Covid-19 self-isolation alongside normal staffing challenges, all waste collection services continue to operate as normal.

WEST LINDSEY DISTRICT COUNCIL

The new Operational Services Depot at Caenby Corner is due to be handed over to us on 23rd November, with a formal opening ceremony on 26th November. There will be a gradual move of operational staff to the new site from the two existing depots.

Members approved our inclusion in the roll out of the paper/card purple lidded bins project, we will look to roll this out next Spring, taking learning from the North Kesteven and BBC experiences.

Members of Prosperous Communities Committee resolved to increase the cost of subscribing to the garden waste collection service to £39 per bin, per year fixed for the next two financial years. This will need further approval at Corporate Policy and Resources Committee at its November meeting.

LINCOLNSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

The amount of waste produced by households is on target for predicted levels however the amount of material presented at HWRCs is lower than pre-covid levels and this is contributing to a slightly reduced overall recycling rate of 42%. The booking system at HWRCs was removed at the beginning of September and it is still to be seen if there is a long term effect of reverting back to the original system.

The twin stream roll out has taken place in Boston Borough and is now ongoing in North Kesteven to have separate collections of paper and card. This is creating a significant improvement in contamination levels and recycling rate and has now been approved by West Lindsey District Council to continue the roll out in that area next. Lincolnshire County Council's Recycling, Performance and Improvement Team are working closely with District Council Officers and collection teams to engage with the public to help ensure that the right thing goes in the right bin. This experience will be invaluable in creating behaviour change if the expected separate food waste collections are required in the new Environment Bill.

Finally, the County Council has now finally satisfied all requirements of the planning conditions to enable Tattershall HWRC to begin construction in November. There will be a six month construction period and the site will replace the existing Kirby on Bain facility which is due to be closed.

RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Lincolnshire Waste Partnership:

1. Note the updates provided
2. Identify any issues to be added to the Forward Plan for future discussion.