

## **COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING – 21 FEBRUARY 2014**

**Statement from: Councillor R A Shore, Executive Councillor for Waste, Recycling**

### **PRESENT SITUATION**

The two current construction projects are:

- The Energy from Waste facility, which continues to progress through hot commissioning, with final certification expected in March 2014.
- The construction of the new Sleaford Household Waste Recycling Centre. This new facility is being built beside the recently opened Waste Transfer Station, and is expected to be opened to the public in April, providing a much improved service over the present site.

The 13 Household Waste Recycling Centres continue to provide a first class service for the public.

### **CHALLENGES**

There are presently some interesting challenges for the service:

- The Chief Executives are supporting our bid to move forward by investigating how the County and the District Councils can make cost savings, improve joint partnership working and how resources can be shared, to ensure that the collection and disposal services are optimised for every council tax payer in Lincolnshire.
- The 2015/16 Fundamental Budget Review will inevitably impact on all the County's services. Waste services will have to share in these budget cuts. Consequently, there will be some hard decisions to be made on the future provision of Waste services in the county.
- Contamination in dry recyclables needs to be addressed in order to reduce costs and encourage income. A countywide media campaign will be undertaken to help inform Lincolnshire residents of major contamination items, such as plastic bags. It is important to encourage best practices, which may include the increased use of paper bags and environmentally friendly packaging.

### **SUCSESSES**

The recent significant successes include:

- The seamless change by the District Councils to take their waste from their collection rounds to the county's five Waste Transfer Stations (instead of to

landfill for disposal), and the haulage contract for onward transportation to the Energy from Waste facility.

- Enabling Boston Borough Council and East Lindsey District Council to work in partnership by facilitating landfill waste collected in the south of East Lindsey to be deposited at the Boston Waste Transfer Station. This has resulted in operational cost savings to the Districts, as this waste is no longer being transported to Louth.
- The future income from the solar panels at the five Waste Transfer Stations, and the whole Service offsetting of carbon production.

## **FUTURE AMBITIONS/CONSIDERATIONS**

The service continues to evolve by looking at waste as resource and, consequently, will be considering:

- A Materials Recycling Facility to take the County's dry recyclables.
- Establishment of a trade waste service that includes recycling.
- Assessing sources of income from the waste resource, such as textiles.
- Renewal of the contracts for the Household Waste Recycling Centres operational services and waste streams.
- Partnership working with Neighbouring Authorities to investigate cost savings by investigating joint waste services provision.
- Completing the Joint Waste Strategy will give the necessary direction required for the next five years.
- Carrying out a feasibility study on a District Heating Scheme that could give opportunities for reduced energy costs.