

Agenda Item 6



LINCOLNSHIRE WASTE PARTNERSHIP

9th March 2023

SUBJECT:	Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy Review
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BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The Lincolnshire Waste Partnership's (LWP) current Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy (JMWMS) was adopted in 2019. This JMWMS for Lincolnshire sets out how the members of the LWP will work in partnership to protect the environment by delivering sustainable waste management services and to establish best value waste management practices for the benefit of Lincolnshire. In creating the strategy, a period of public consultation was undertaken between April and July 2018 and the subsequent feedback was used to help shape the final strategy and vision which is:

To seek the best environmental option to provide innovative, customer friendly waste management solutions that give value for money to Lincolnshire.

The strategy set out the agreed set of high-level objectives, which were identified as key drivers for the delivery of the strategy and the vision. Each of these objectives were to be considered in the light of the Partnerships shared values that

All Objectives should ensure that services provided under the Strategy represent the best possible environmental option which gives value for money for Lincolnshire residents.

The ten objectives of the strategy are as follows:

Objective 1.	To improve the quality and therefore commercial value of our recycling stream.
Objective 2.	To move towards a common set of recycling materials.
Objective 3.	To consider the introduction of separate food waste collections where technically, environmentally and economically practicable.

Objective 4.	To explore new opportunities of promoting waste minimisation and of using all waste as a resource in accordance with the waste hierarchy.
Objective 5.	To contribute to the UK recycling targets of 50% by 2020 and 55% by 2025.
Objective 6.	To find the most appropriate ways to measure our environmental performance and set appropriate targets.
Objective 7.	To seek to reduce our carbon footprint.
Objective 8.	To make an objective assessment of what further waste processing/disposal capacity is required and, as necessary, secure appropriate capacity.
Objective 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.
Objective 10.	To consider appropriate innovative solutions in the delivery of our waste management services

The strategy details that delivery of these objectives would be achieved through an action plan, the initial plan was published with the strategy in 2019 and annually the LWP publishes its review to update on progress across the Partnership.

The review period for the JMWMS is set to be at least every five years, in line with government guidance, and will look to ensure that our shared objectives remain appropriate and change them if necessary. Therefore, this report sets out the work being done to review the JMWMS, in accordance with the timeline originally set.

DISCUSSIONS

The published strategy pointed to potential reasons for reviewing the JMWMS, and its objectives, coming from changes to the operational and legislative landscape, including:

- The UK's departure from the European Union, and any changes in UK waste legislation and policy which arise from that; and
- The level of funding provided to each Authority by the UK Government

In the years since 2019, we have seen the UK depart from the European Union and there continue to be legislative changes as a result of that.

We have yet to see the full landscape that will emerge from the commitments made in the 2018 Resources and Waste Strategy and subsequently, the Environment Act 2021. The government have published a number of consultations to further develop proposals on the waste reforms but have not finalised these through secondary legislation. Whilst we have seen more detail on Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) and Deposit Return Schemes (DRS), we await the response for the Consistency in Household and Business Recycling. All policies, in particular the latter, having potentially far-reaching consequences to the Partnership and all partners in the way that waste will be collected and disposed of. Whilst we still await this outstanding consultation response, the missing piece of the reforms puzzle means that we are conscious that assumptions must be made when reviewing our strategy.

In addition to these reasons for review, we have seen changes because of the pandemic and the resulting variations to behaviours and working styles that have impacted the waste composition for our county and nationally.

Furthermore, the current cost of living crisis could well see further spending habit changes and impacts to our compositions, which we will need to monitor and consider when reviewing the strategy.

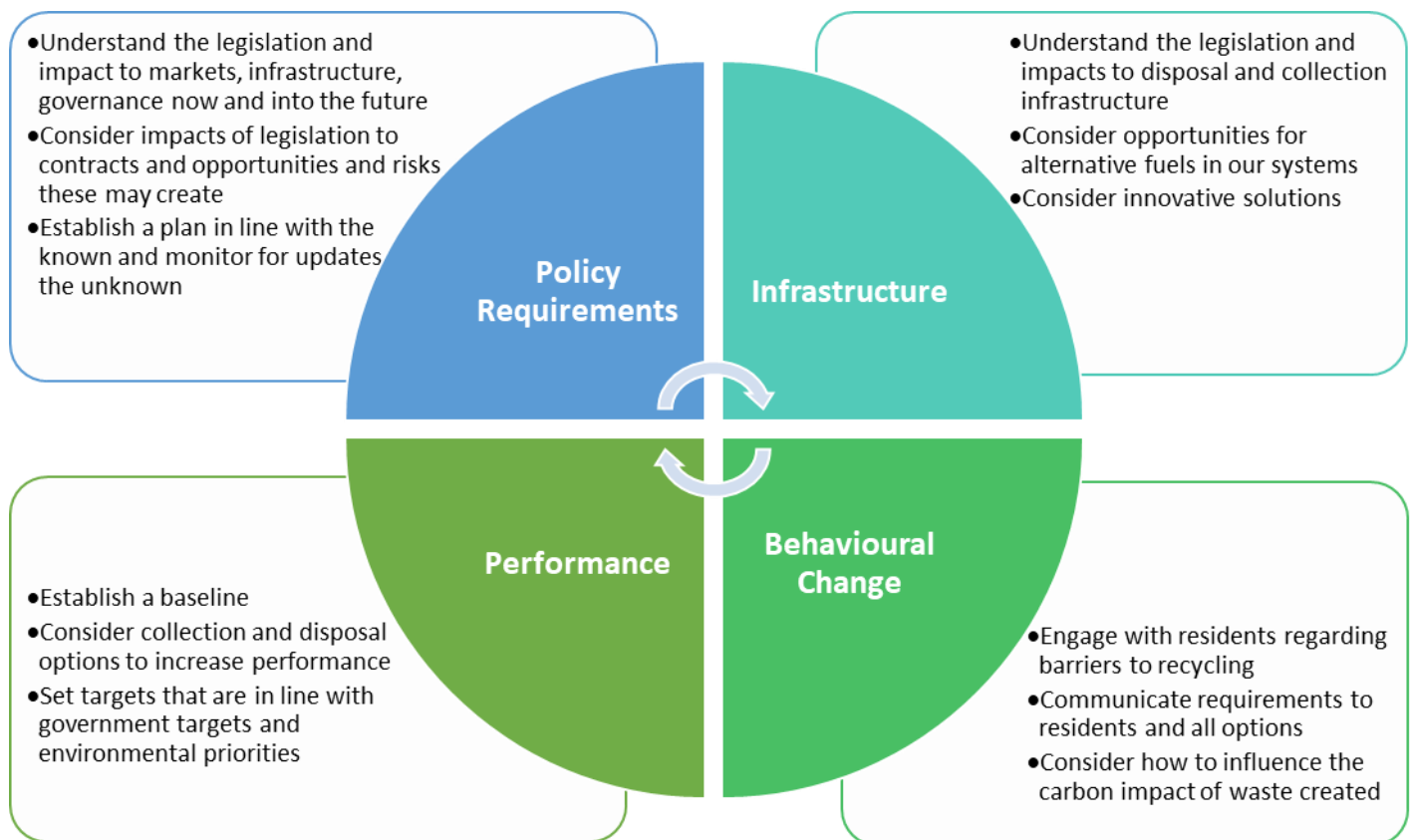
With all this in mind, we have reviewed the objectives set in the original JMWMS to see if these new local and national contexts mean changes are necessary to the objectives. Given that the original objectives were high level, and that we still don't have full clarity on the waste reforms from government, much of the language in the objectives remains relevant and we have only proposed minor tweaks, as set out below:

Objective 1.	To improve the quality and therefore commercial value of our recycling stream. <i>Still applies</i>
Objective 2.	To move towards a common set of recycling materials. <i>Updated wording proposed: To further explore our common set of recycling materials in line with government legislative changes</i>
Objective 3.	To consider the introduction of separate food waste collections where technically, environmentally and economically practicable. <i>Updated wording proposed: To consider the introduction of separate food waste collections where technically, environmentally and economically practicable and in line with government legislative changes</i>
Objective 4.	To explore new opportunities of promoting waste minimisation and of using all waste as a resource in accordance with the waste hierarchy. <i>Still applies</i>
Objective 5.	To contribute to the UK recycling targets of 50% by 2020 and 55% by 2025. <i>Updated working proposed: To contribute to the UK recycling target of 55% by 2025</i>
Objective 6.	To find the most appropriate ways to measure our environmental performance and set appropriate targets. <i>Still applies</i>
Objective 7.	To seek to reduce our carbon footprint. <i>Still applies</i>
Objective 8.	To make an objective assessment of what further waste processing/disposal capacity is required and, as necessary, secure appropriate capacity. <i>Still applies</i>
Objective 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. <i>Still applies</i>
Objective 10.	To consider appropriate innovative solutions in the delivery of our waste management services <i>Still applies</i>

Alongside the above proposed minor amendments to three of the ten objectives, a review of the action plan has been undertaken. The table shows the new high level draft action plan and which objectives these key actions are looking to deliver.

Updated Keys Actions to Achieve Objectives	Objective									
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Identify the requirements of Environment Act and any secondary legislation and consider operational and contractual implications	✓	✓	✓	✓				✓	✓	✓
Understand the market now and into the coming years to establish a plan for materials that need to be collected and disposed of as a result of the government legislative changes	✓	✓			✓					✓
Consider collection and disposal methods, including contracts, that may increase the value of our material and how we can increase capture rates	✓				✓					✓
Engage with residents to understand their barriers and establish plans to overcome or communicate alternative options to deliver our objectives	✓			✓						✓
Establish the baseline of what is currently presented and any differences seen between areas and what is proposed as a result of legislative changes		✓			✓	✓				
Consider opportunities for shared procurement			✓							✓
Establish a timeline for roll out of relevant new initiatives, including communication to residents, purchasing and contracts			✓							✓
Set targets that are in line with government targets and environmental priorities						✓				
Establish the baseline of our current carbon footprint and how we can look to reduce this							✓			
Consider opportunities for alternative fuels in our waste management systems							✓			
Consider how we can influence the reduction of the carbon footprint of what is presented to us							✓			
Consider options appraisal for governance models and risks and opportunities of changing governance									✓	

These key actions have been grouped into 4 themes, that help to better visualise the delivery of the JMWMS and its vision through the key actions delivering our vision.



OPTIONS

1. To retain the existing JMWMS 'as is' and await further clarity on changes in the waste legislation.
2. To agree the proposed review of the JMWMS and invite the Strategic Officer Working Group to formalise the proposals, as set out in this report.
3. To invite the Strategic Officer Working Group to adjust/amend its review work based on feedback from this report, and to bring back to the LWP formal proposals for future delivery.

RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that, in line with option two, the proposed minor alterations to the wording of three of the ten objectives, as set out in the report, are agreed. It is recommended that these will bring the objectives in line with the current landscape as a result of this first review of the JMWMS. It is not considered that these changes will make material differences to what was originally agreed, but that these amendments bring the objectives up to date and support the ongoing work of the LWP to deliver the strategy.

Furthermore, it is recommended that a new action plan is agreed in line with the draft key actions outlined in this report. These are the mechanisms which will deliver the objectives of the strategy.

To monitor delivery, a further report will come forward at a future LWP meetings to consider the performance indicators that will underpin the objectives and the new action plan.

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