



Open Report on behalf of Andy Gutherson, Executive Director – Place

Report to:	Environment and Economy Scrutiny Committee
Date:	11 April 2023
Subject:	Twin Stream Recycling Update

Summary:

In July 2019, the Lincolnshire Waste Partnership agreed to commence a trial to collect paper and cardboard separately from the rest of the mixed dry recycling (MDR). The aims of the trial included:

- Improving the quality and volume of paper and card recycled.
- By reducing contamination, the separated paper and card will be made into paper again, which can be repurposed many times, rather than just into a single use product.
- Changing customers' behaviours.
- Using the opportunity to improve quality of the MDR stream.

Following the success of the trial a decision was taken in 2020 to implement the model across the whole of the county on a district-by-district basis.

Actions Required:

The Environment and Economy Scrutiny Committee is invited to review and comment on the contents of this report and seek assurance that action is taken that allows Lincolnshire County Council to meet objectives defined within the Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy and help contribute towards the Lincolnshire Waste Partnership objective of "seeking the best environmental option to provide innovative, customer-friendly waste management solutions that give value for money to Lincolnshire."

1. Background

An initial trial to prove a concept and provide learning began in 2019 with Lincolnshire County Council working in partnership with three of the waste collection authorities as part of the Lincolnshire Waste Partnership (LWP). Following the success of the trial, the Lincolnshire Waste Partnership initiated the implementation of a county-wide roll out on a district-by-district basis commencing in 2021.

The implementation of the Twin Stream Programme has now been rolled out in four of the seven districts across Lincolnshire as follows:

- Boston Borough Council – commenced April 2021
- North Kesteven District Council – commenced October 2021
- West Lindsey District Council – commenced April 2022
- East Lindsey District Council – commenced October 2022

A team of Lincolnshire County Council officers, the Performance and Improvement Team, have worked in partnership with each of the Waste Collection Authorities (WCAs) to enable the successful implementation across each of the districts listed above. With each sequential roll in, lessons from previous implementations have been reviewed and learned and each phase of the project adapted accordingly taking these learnings into account and also taking into consideration the unique characteristics of each authority’s area and demographic. The Performance and Improvement Team is now working with each of these authorities to embed and sustain the improvement achieved. Opportunities and challenges are addressed on a regular basis to revisit specific areas of the districts where there is high prevalence of contamination in either the mixed dry recycling or the paper and card collections.

The programme has been supported by a robust and combined communications and engagement plan with ‘Right Thing, Right Bin’ messaging being adopted by all of the WCAs in order to improve quality overall in the materials collected in Lincolnshire for recycling.

Performance data to date:

Since the inception of the roll in of separate paper and card collections, a total of 13,909 tonnes of separate fibre has been collected (up to February 2023) with a breakdown as follows:

Authority	Date commenced	Total tonnage collected
Boston BC	April 2021	3,845
North Kesteven DC	October 2021	5,980
West Lindsey DC	April 2022	2,700
East Lindsey DC	October 2022 (phased)	1,384

Quality metrics show an average of 1.5% contamination in the paper and card collected, reported by the paper re-processor, Palm Recycling, as being the highest quality material presented to them by any local authority client in the country.

In respect of the quality of the mixed dry recycling, combining the quality of the remaining fractions (metals, glass, and plastics) with the paper and card shows that prior to the commencement of the implementation the average contamination rate was 31%. Reports at the end of Quarter 3 show contamination rates combined for the two kerbside bins (MDR and Paper and Card) as follows:

- Boston BC – 16.72%
- North Kesteven DC – 14.98%
- West Lindsey DC – 14.02%
- East Lindsey DC – TBC as roll in has been phased, a full quarter's data will be available at the end of Quarter 4.

In addition to the support to the waste collection authorities, a programme of engagement with Schools and Community groups is now well established and demand on this programme is growing. Over 250 primary schools in Lincolnshire have been contacted to offer the schools engagement programme to. The offer ranges from school assemblies through to workshops on a group or class basis. 21 schools have received direct engagement sessions so far plus two full days at the Lincolnshire Showground schools event meaning over 500 primary school children have taken part in the "Let's Talk Rubbish" engagement programme.

Over 20 community groups and resident groups have also received engagement sessions. A further 20 schools and community groups have booked sessions over the coming months. In addition, we have also delivered engagement at a number of markets across the county.

Examples of feedback:

"The children and staff enjoyed the day very much! Thank you so much!"

"The afternoon was fantastic. It was amazing hearing all the interesting things that the children learned from your visit. Every aspect was engaging for the class, you could see they were all hanging off your every word. Some children that don't normally engage and put themselves out there were fully engaged and interacting. This was amazing."

2. Conclusion

LWP is now working to establish the next steps with the remaining Waste Collection Authorities and updates will be provided as to this at future meetings. A programme of engagement and sustainment is being developed to ensure that the consistency and improvements across those WCAs already in implementation continues to grow and embed as business as usual.

In line with the above, the Environment and Economy Scrutiny Committee is invited to review and comment on the contents of this report and seek assurance that action is taken that allows Lincolnshire County Council to meet objectives defined within the Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy and help contribute towards the Lincolnshire Waste Partnership objective of "seeking the best environmental option to provide innovative, customer-friendly waste management solutions that give value for money to Lincolnshire."

3. Consultation

a) Risks and Impact Analysis

N/A

4. Background Papers

No Background Papers within section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972 were used in the preparation of this Report.

This report was written by Rachel Stamp, Waste Partnership and Projects Manager, and Mike Reed, Head of Waste, who can be contacted on Rachel.stamp@lincolnshire.gov.uk and at mike.reed@lincolnshire.gov.uk.