

COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING – 19 DECEMBER 2014

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

PRESENT SITUATION

- The Energy from Waste facility continues to operate efficiently and effectively.

The opening ceremony took place on 27 November and I would like to thank every Member who took part in the event, which was marked with the attendance of The Rt Hon Dr Vince Cable MP. I would particularly like to take this opportunity to thank my predecessor, Council Lewis Strange, for all his hard work in getting this enormously successful project off the ground, whilst ensuring that the contracts that we have surrounding this project are so effective and 'water tight'.

I would have liked every Member of the Council to have been invited to the opening ceremony, as virtually all councillors played a role in making the decisions which enabled the success of this project, and I wished to thank them for that. Unfortunately, despite my preferences, parking was so limited that numbers attending had to be restricted – please accept my apologies if you wished to attend but were not invited.

- The five Waste Transfer Stations continue to provide a seamless service for the districts, as do the 13 Household Waste Recycling Centres (HWRC).
- Work has begun on the ground works for the Gainsborough HWRC, which is due to open in 2015. We are also considering the business case for a further HWRC in the county.

CHALLENGES

- Further progress has been made with the new recycling contract where invitations to tender were issued in September. We are fortunate to have received several tenders for the contract to dispose of our recyclates. A number of options are now open to us, which need to be fully evaluated. We will then share the details with our district partners across Lincolnshire so that we may go forward together.
- Managing a relationship between the WCAs and the WDA will continue to be a challenge but we are determined to ensure that any cash earmarked to support the transition to new contracts must be tied to performance - particularly trying to ensure that the quality of the recycling material is as high as it can be so that we can maximise income for all parties, thus ensuring best value for the Council Tax payer across the county.

SUCCESSSES

- Tenders for the new countywide recycling contract have now come in and offer a number of options for LCC.
- The process of support payments for all districts has been agreed but it has been made clear that these payments must be given in return for significant improvements in the quality of the recycling products. As you may recall, the contract will be for a period of three years, with the option of up to two year's extension. This will allow time for the development of a new countywide waste strategy that will include the best, and most cost-effective, way to deal with these and other waste streams in the future.
- Work at the new HWRC in Gainsborough on the Corringham Road Industrial Estate is going ahead to schedule and on budget.
- We have been able to reassure all parish councils in receipt of Supplementary Saturday Skip Services that this has been funded and will continue until at least April 2015.

FUTURE AMBITIONS/CONSIDERATIONS

- To review the operational service, investigate income opportunities and contractual efficiencies of the 13 Household Waste Recycling Centres
- Work with the District Councils on their potential for trade waste collection
- The provision of an appropriate future service to process and maximise the quality and income from the county's dry mixed recyclables by investigating the potential options, including possible working with neighbouring authorities to share best practices and resources.
- An updated Joint Waste Strategy with the Districts to manage Lincolnshire's waste efficiently and effectively for the next five years.
- Investigate the potential for heat recovery from the Energy from Waste facility and maximising the income from the electricity generation.