

## **COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING – 20 FEBRUARY 2015**

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

### **PRESENT SITUATION**

- **New Dry Recycling Contract**

As you are aware, LCC negotiated a new countywide recycling contract based upon zero payments from the county. However, sudden changes in the market price of recycled products have resulted in the successful contractor withdrawing his contract. The implications of market price reduction have already been felt locally, with the closure of one company and a drastic increase in the disposal costs at Material Recycling Facilities.

Officers have been working hard to deal with the situation, and a new temporary, countywide contract has been arranged. This will commence in April, as promised.

A new, longer-term contract is now being prepared to put out to tender, based upon the prevailing market conditions, and with more appropriate contractual risk sharing. There will be cost implications to this, and negotiations are taking place in order to determine the fairest formula for every council in Lincolnshire and, of course, the best deal for residents.

The new contract will focus upon the long term future of recycling in Lincolnshire, ensuring that quality of the mix is acutely incentivised, in order to attain the best possible price for the council taxpayer, and to create a firm foundation for going forward.

- **Gainsborough HWRC**

The new centre will open this year, ensuring that a quality facility, that is reliable, safe and cost effective, is available for the residents of the town and its surrounding areas. It is especially good news for Gainsborough that this council-owned HWRC has been provided at very little cost to taxpayers, as it was paid for through Grants won by the Council.

- **HWRC, Lincolnshire South West**

The business case has been made for a further HWRC, and we are progressing this matter to procurement for consideration of a council-owned facility in the south of the county.

## **CHALLENGES**

- The main priority is to tailor a new contract, and put it out to tender, which will satisfy all the districts, and the challenges of the County Council's Fundamental Budget Review. At the same time, it has to offer a quality service, minimise contamination, maximise potential income, and be future proof - a tall order! That is exactly what we are trying to do, and I believe that, with a positive outlook, we will succeed in yet further progressing our aims of working towards the best waste service for the whole of Lincolnshire.
- Managing the relationship between the WCAs and the WDA will continue to be a challenge, as the burden of increased costs will fall heavily in the next few years. However, I am encouraged that some partners understand the situation, and are realistic about the options open to us. With such positivity, we can create the service that works best for us all.

## **SUCCESSSES**

- We have been able to reassure residents of South Holland that Supplementary Services will continue through 2015/16 whilst they decide on the implementation of a green waste service.
- Income from the textiles presented at HWRCs has been secured from 2014-2016. The future of this 'pot' is to be debated at a sub committee of the Environmental Scrutiny Committee, and their findings will be considered when the final decision is made as to where the income is to be spent.

## **FUTURE AMBITIONS/CONSIDERATIONS**

- We have applied for a grant from the Department of Energy and Climate Change to assist in the determination of the heat requirements which will help us to find a destination for the heat produced from the Energy from Waste plant at North Hykeham.