

REPORT TO CABINET

REPORT OF: CABINET PORTFOLIO HOLDER HEALTHY ENVIRONMENT

REPORT NO.: SS07

DATE: 1 September 2008

TITLE:	Joint Municipal Waste Strategy for Lincolnshire
FORWARD PLAN ITEM:	Yes
DATE WHEN FIRST APPEARED IN FORWARD PLAN:	16 April 2008
KEY DECISION OR POLICY FRAMEWORK PROPOSAL:	Key Decision

COUNCIL AIMS/ PORTFOLIO HOLDER NAME AND DESIGNATION:	John Smith –Portfolio Holder Healthy Environment	
CORPORATE PRIORITY:	Recycling	
CRIME AND DISORDER IMPLICATIONS:	None	
FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT IMPLICATIONS:	This report is publicly available via the Local Democracy link on the Council's website: www.southkesteven.gov.uk	
INITIAL EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT	Carried out and appended to report? Carried out by Lincolnshire County Council	Full impact assessment required? No
BACKGROUND PAPERS:	WCS26 – 3 March 2008	

1. INTRODUCTION

The Lincolnshire Waste Partnership (which comprises Lincolnshire County Council, the seven District/Borough Councils and the Environment Agency) has been consulting on a draft Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy (JMWMS) to replace the 2002 strategy.

A report on the detail of an earlier draft of the strategy document was considered in March 2008 and comments forwarded to Lincolnshire County Council¹.

2. RECOMMENDATION

The Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy be adopted.

3. DETAILS OF REPORT

The resulting strategy takes into account national waste management targets and sets out ten objectives which will provide a clear focus for the partnership agencies. (This document is available electronically via the Council's website: www.southkesteven.gov.uk select Local Democracy menu/browse the agenda/minutes/ Cabinet/meeting for 1 September 2008)

- Objective 1 To prevent the growth in municipal waste by promoting waste reduction and re-use initiatives to ensure that no more than 225Kg of residual household waste per person per year is produced by 2020.
- Objective 2 To promote waste awareness through co-ordinated public education and awareness campaigns and effective community engagement.
- Objective 3 Across Lincolnshire to achieve 55% recycling and composting by 2015.
- Objective 4 Across Lincolnshire to achieve a uniform dry recyclable waste stream by 2013.
- Objective 5 To increase, progressively, the recovery and diversion of biodegradable waste from landfill, to meet and exceed the Landfill Directive diversion targets.
- Objective 6 To ensure that residual waste treatment supports energy recovery and other practices higher up the waste hierarchy.
- Objective 7 To deliver best value for money waste management services, addressed on a county wide basis.
- Objective 8 To engage with local businesses to encourage the reduction and recycling of commercial waste.
- Objective 9 To engage actively, lobby and work with local, national, governmental and other organisations on sustainable waste management issues.
- Objective 10 As Local Authorities to set an example by preventing, reusing, recycling and composting our own waste and using our buying power to encourage positively sustainable resource use.

Objective 3

The recycling rate across the County for 2006/7 was 40% and predicted to be 51% for 2007/8. Provisional performance data on recycling/composting across Lincolnshire during 2007/8 is detailed in the table below:

	%age waste sent to landfill	%age recycled	%age composted	Waste collected kg/head
Boston	70.9	27.7	1.4	408.3
East Lindsey	41.8	26.4	31.8	420.2
City of Lincoln	55.0	25.2	19.8	429.9
North Kesteven	42.8	29.3	27.9	457.1
South Holland	69.3	30.6	0.2	378.4
West Lindsey	62.5	22.2	15.4	427.7
South Kesteven	48.7	35.4	15.9	392.8

The above data is currently provisional however there are unlikely to be significant changes. These results demonstrate that South Kesteven's waste collection policy is diverting the highest proportion of dry recyclable material from landfill in Lincolnshire. South Kesteven recycled and composted 51.3% of waste against a 50% target.

The target for 2008/9 is 55% and quarter 1 data indicates that Council is on track to achieve this level of performance. Recent expansion of the green waste service will increase the overall diversion rate still further.

The combined target set out in Objective 3 of the strategy cannot be achieved by the higher performing authorities continuing to divert even more waste from landfill. Lower performing authorities within the partnership may need to consider significant investment in alternative collection arrangements in order to meet this shared objective.

Following adoption of the JMWMS a joint action plan will be developed to identify how this target will be met across the partner authorities.

Objective 5

The Landfill Directive requires that the amount of biodegradable municipal waste disposed of in landfill is significantly reduced in coming years, to 75% of 1995 levels by 2010, 50% of 1995 levels by 2013 and to 33% by 2020. Whilst it is likely that the 2010 target will be met by current practice (as recycling and composting increases) to achieve the later targets will require the procurement of alternative disposal facilities for residual waste. The JMWMS identifies Energy from Waste with Combined Heat and Power (EfW) as the preferred solution for the treatment of residual waste. A planning application for a facility in North Hykeham is to be submitted in autumn 2008.

The County Council has submitted a bid to DEFRA for Private Finance Initiative (PFI) funding for the EfW plant, and as part of this process DEFRA insist that a JMWMS is in place. Recent legal opinion taken by the County Council indicates that all the local authorities in the Lincolnshire Waste Partnership are required to

formally adopt the JMWMS in order for it to be valid for this purpose. The timetable for procurement of the EfW is extremely tight and the JMWMS needs to be adopted by the end of September 2008 in order that no further delays to the timescale are incurred.

5. COMMENTS OF SECTION 151 OFFICER

It is not clear in the report whether there may be any potential financial implications for the Council arising from the adoption of this strategy but the financial planning process in respect of the service will need to take full recognition of the Council's role within the partnership. Further clarification is needed whether the funding application in respect of the EfW plant will require any match funding from the Lincolnshire Waste Partnership. If this is the case then sufficient budget provision will need to be made available.

6. COMMENTS OF MONITORING OFFICER

It is a statutory requirement, as provided by the Waste and Emissions Act 2003 that waste authorities have a joint strategy for the management of waste. Consequently, the strategy must be adopted in order for this Council to comply with its statutory obligation.

7. CONCLUSION/SUMMARY

District Councils and the County Council have a legal obligation to have a joint strategy in place for the management of municipal waste. Whilst this document does not legally bind the Council to its targets it does set a clear direction for future joint working initiatives and arrangements. Adoption of the JMWMS by all of the authorities in Lincolnshire is a critical step in enabling Lincolnshire County Council to be successful in bidding for PFI credits in the procurement of the energy from waste plant. This Strategy has been subject to extensive consultation with partners, other agencies and the wider Lincolnshire community via road shows and the internet.

8. CONTACT OFFICER

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¹ – WCS26 3 March 2008