

SUBJECT:	JOINT MUNICIPAL WASTE MANAGEMENT STRATEGY FOR LINCOLNSHIRE
DIRECTORATE:	COMMUNITIES AND ENVIRONMENT
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1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 To introduce and provide background to the new draft Joint Municipal Waste Strategy document for Lincolnshire.
- 1.2 To seek Executive agreement to endorse the strategy on behalf of the City of Lincoln Council, before onward reporting to full Council.

2. Executive Summary

- 2.1 The Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy (JMWMS) for Lincolnshire attempts to set out how members of the Lincolnshire Waste Partnership (LWP) can work together to protect the environment by delivering sustainable waste management services through the establishment of best value waste management practices across the county.
- 2.2 At the meeting of the LWP on 8th March the draft JMWMS was approved for public consultation, which was launched on 4th April and closed on 2nd July.
- 2.3 During this period the draft strategy was submitted to the City Council's policy Scrutiny Committee for consideration. Feedback was minuted and taken into account in the redrafts.
- 2.4 Attached as appendix A is a copy of the final draft for consideration and endorsement.

3. Background

- 3.1 The Lincolnshire Waste Partnership (LWP) brings together the public bodies within Lincolnshire responsible for the collection and disposal of waste and include:
 - Seven Waste Collection Authorities (WCA's) – Boston Borough Council, City of Lincoln Council, East Lindsey District Council, North Kesteven District Council, South Holland District Council, South Kesteven District Council and West Lindsey District Council;
 - One Waste Disposal Authority (WDA) – Lincolnshire County Council; and
 - One Waste Regulatory Authority – The Environment Agency.

- 3.2 The LWP's previous strategy was adopted in 2008 and now requires review. This new strategy has been developed as a joint venture between the WDA and the WCAs, with significant commitment from all members of the LWP in order to arrive at a shared vision of how a detailed proactive strategy may be developed.
- 3.3 This draft strategy provides the strategic framework through which the LWP can express their shared vision and strategic objectives for the handling of municipal waste. Furthermore, it meets the legal requirements, laid down by the Waste and Emissions Trading Act (2003), to have such a joint strategy.

4. The Strategy

4.1 Attached is a copy of the JMWMS.

4.2 The document is set out in a simple structured format, making it easy to follow.

- 4.3
1. Summary
 2. Introduction
Gives more detailed background information about why we need a new strategy.
 3. What are the key legislative drivers?
Background information which has been taken into account in shaping the Strategy.
 4. How has the strategy been developed?
Details of the process followed to develop this strategy.
 5. Where are we today?
An assessment of the partnership's current services and future needs.
 6. What are we aiming for?
Our vision and objectives for what we want to achieve.
 7. How will we get there?
Sets out the types of action identified to fulfil our objectives which will be developed into an action plan, which will be updated annually, once the strategy is adopted.
 8. The next steps: Monitoring, implementing and reviewing the strategy
How we will check that we are meeting the objectives agreed in the strategy?

4.4 Chapter five sets out information, including:

- An analysis of the nature and performance of existing services;
- Projections of future waste quantities; and
- The impact of changes in waste quantities on overall performance if no changes, other than those already planned, are introduced.

4.5 This information makes it clear that, whilst we have achieved a lot in recent years, we now face a number of challenges:

- A growing population producing more waste each year;

- Funding from central government decreasing;
- A falling recycling rate locally and a stalled rate nationally;
- Waste going into the wrong bin – A quarter of what is received in recycling collections is not recyclable, whilst a quarter of what is received in our general waste collections is actually recyclable.

4.6 The Lincolnshire Waste Partnership’s vision is:

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

4.7 In order to work towards this vision, the LWP has developed and agreed a set of high-level objectives, which are key drivers for the delivery of this strategy. In line with the vision, each of these objectives is to be considered in the light of the partnership’s 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 proposed objectives 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.

4.8

In order to achieve these objectives, this strategy is accompanied by an action plan. The Action Plan will be reviewed and revised annually to ensure that it remains up to date and addresses any new challenges arising during the lifetime of the strategy.

Chapter 7 sets out some of the themes reflected in the Action Plan:

- Seeing the wider picture
 - Developing links with other local authorities
 - Engaging with the commercial sector
 - Addressing any waste processing capacity gaps
- Balancing economic and environmental benefits
 - Ensuring value for money
 - Caring for the environment
- Reviewing what we collect and how
- Getting our messages across
 - To the Lincolnshire public – e.g. What to put in which bin
 - To the national government – We need to try to influence national strategy & policy to tie in with our own
 - To other stakeholders – Parish Councils, Environment Agency, etc.
 - To the commercial sector – To waste producers as well as waste businesses

4.9

Chapter 8 sets out how we will ensure that we keep working to achieve our objectives throughout the lifetime of this strategy. This will include:

- Monitoring the strategy – Measuring our performance both in existing ways (such as recycling percentage) and in new ways which better reflect how we are doing compared to our strategic objectives.
- Implementing the strategy – Ensuring that our work is:
 - Appropriately funded,
 - Done in partnership across the members of the LWP, and
 - Properly focussed through the use of an action plan.

- Reviewing the strategy – Reacting to changing circumstances such as the UK's departure from the European Union and also the emerging approach by government to how waste streams will be handled in the future. For instance:
 - the strategy notes that the government's Resources and Waste Strategy is due imminently, which it is anticipated to include a provision requiring packaging manufacturers to pay 100% of the cost of recycling certain household waste raising an estimated £1bn which local councils may be mandated to use to revamp recycling facilities
 - other periodic announcements from government such as the recent budget announcement of a new tax on the manufacture and import of plastic packaging that contains less than 30 per cent recycled plastic

Such announcements mean the strategy will need to be kept under constant review to take advantage of not just the crystallisation of government thinking but also the potential funding streams that may accompany it, to deliver the strategy.

5. Strategic Priorities

5.1 Let's drive economic growth

Growth generally creates increased waste. It is therefore vital that the county has a strategy for handling the increased projections in waste growth.

5.2 Let's reduce inequality

Equality is reassessed whenever there is a change in service provision.

5.3 Let's deliver quality housing

Easy and effective waste disposal is a key part of delivering improved housing in its widest sense.

5.4 Let's enhance our remarkable place

Poor waste disposal practices increase the chances of problems arising from such as poor presentation and fly tipping.

6. Organisational Impacts

6.1 Finance

All members but one have agreed to jointly fund a project manager to support the work programme arising from the Action Plan. This is estimated to cost in the order of £9,500 pa, and be funded for three years. It is proposed that funding be found from the 2018/19 Business Rate Pilot.

There are no financial implications arising directly from this report, however any changes to the actual collections, or any agreement arising between the WCAs and the WDA as a result of changes, could have significant cost implications.

- 6.2 Legal Implications including Procurement Rules
It meets the legal requirements, laid down by the Waste and Emissions Trading Act (2003), to have a joint strategy.
- 6.3 Land, property and accommodation
There are no implications.
- 6.4 Human Resources
There are no implications.
- 6.5 Equality, Diversity & Human Rights
It is not possible to assess impact based on the existing draft strategy. Only when actions from the strategy drive changes in services will it be possible to assess these impacts. EIAs will be required for all changes proposed.
- 6.6 Significant Community Impact –
There is no impact from having a strategy, however clearly a change to collection methodology could have significant community impact.
- 6.7 Corporate Health and Safety implications –
There is no impact from having a strategy, however clearly a change to collection methodology could have significant H&S impact which would be assessed at the time of making any operational changes.

7. Risk Implications

- 7.1 (i) Options Explored
Having a joint strategy
Not having a joint strategy.
- 7.2 (ii) Key risks associated with the preferred approach
A joint approach is essential in this situation as different organisations have control over different elements of waste management. However, joint working must be widely consultative, so whilst being well informed, it can be much slower to reach actions and compromises may be required.

8. Recommendation

- 8.1 That the Executive endorse the proposed Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy (JMWMS) attached as Appendix A subject to the Strategy in the same form being formally adopted by all the waste collection authorities in Lincolnshire.
- 8.2 To agree funding be used from the Business Rate pilot 2018/19 as City of Lincoln Council's contribution towards the shared post of project manager for the Lincolnshire Waste Partnership, as set out in 6.1 above.

Is this a key decision? Yes

Do the exempt information categories apply? No

Does Rule 15 of the Scrutiny Procedure Rules (call-in and urgency) apply?

No

How many appendices does the report contain?

One

List of Background Papers:

None

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