

Minutes of a meeting of the **JOINT PERFORMANCE MONITORING PANEL AND POLICY DEVELOPMENT PANEL** held in the Council Chamber, Council Offices, Priors Road, Spalding, on Tuesday, 24 April 2018 at 6.30 pm.

PRESENT

G R Aley	L J Eldridge	E J Sneath
J R Astill	A Harrison	A C Tennant
F Biggadike	J D McLean	J Tyrrell
M D Booth	A M Newton	Whitbourn
T A Carter	J L Reynolds	A R Woolf
H Drury	M D Seymour	

Apologies for absence were received from or on behalf of Councillors B Alcock, C J T H Brewis and J L King.

In Attendance: The Executive Councillor, Commercial and Environmental Management at Lincolnshire County Council (Chairman of the Lincolnshire Waste Partnership), the Portfolio Holder for Place (SHDC), the Senior Commissioning Officer (Waste) at Lincolnshire County Council, the Environmental Services Manager (SHDC) and the Democratic Services Officer.

30. ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN

Councillor A R Woolf was elected Chairman for the duration of the meeting.

31. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

There were no declarations of interest.

32. CONSULTATION OF THE LINCOLNSHIRE JOINT MUNICIPAL WASTE MANAGEMENT STRATEGY

The Senior Commissioning Officer (Waste) at Lincolnshire County Council provided the Joint Panel with a presentation. It provided information on the following:

- Who formed the Lincolnshire Waste Partnership (LWP);
- Which waste functions were undertaken by which partner of the LWP;
- Strategic Drivers to the proposed Strategy;
- Vision for the Strategy;
- Process for consultation on the Strategy, how the Strategy would be finalised and actioned; and
- Members roles in the process

Action By

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Members of the Joint Panel had also received a report, appended to which were the Strategy consultation draft, the Strategy consultation draft (summary), and the Waste Strategy Public Consultation Survey.

Members considered the information from the report and the presentation, and the following issues were raised. Responses were provided by a panel of officers and members consisting of the Executive Councillor, Commercial and Environmental Management at Lincolnshire County Council (who was in attendance in his capacity as the Chairman of the Lincolnshire Waste Partnership); the Portfolio Holder for Place (SHDC); the Senior Commissioning Officer (Waste) at Lincolnshire County Council; and the Environmental Services Manager (SHDC).

- The Portfolio Holder Place stated that the proposed Strategy would lay out high level ambitions and goals. SHDC was out of step with neighbouring local authorities with regard to waste collection, but the Authority would hold with the principle of responding to what local residents said as part of the consultation. If change was proposed, a significant body of evidence would be required to illustrate why changes were being made. The Lincolnshire Waste Partnership was currently in the early stages of considering processes for waste collection and recycling. The main priority was to get best value for Council Tax payers, and trying to keep costs down while being tuned in to residents wishes.
- SHDC was unique in the area in undertaking weekly waste and recycling collections in sacks. Would this continue?
 - Weekly collections could continue if this was the preferred option. Once all issues had been considered, and where there was sufficient evidence to be presented to elected members, current collection methods could continue, despite cost, if members were happy to continue as currently. The purpose of the partnership was to make most effective use of resources however, waste collection was still a local choice.
 - Officers also clarified that legislation meant that the waste collection authority decided how waste would be collected. The disposal authority stipulated where it was dropped off.

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- Incorrect items being placed in waste and recycling bags continued to be a problem. This problem had to be overcome for the Strategy to work well. What could be done to help educate the public?
 - Contamination in recycling was a problem and going forward, consideration needed to be given to ensuring that only products that did not cross-contaminate were put together. Instructions for the public needed to be kept simple – this was not necessarily the case presently. Clear instructions of what could go in each bag was required.

- An action plan was not included as part of the consultation – it was suggested that by having sight of this, it would be easier for respondents to see how proposals may affect them.
 - The consultation process had specifically not included an action plan as the consultation aimed to produce ideas and opinions. Officers would use these ideas and opinions to produce an action plan using responses that were felt to be feasible and affordable.

- Why was the Strategy being looked at now, before the outcomes of Brexit and how legislation may be affected was known?
 - There were many factors affecting waste issues, not only Brexit. The LWP had not had a new Strategy for many years, hence the need for one now. In addition, the Partnership did not want a stationary strategy – it would to be responsive and would not be a static document.

- Table 5.18 within the draft Consultation document (providing information on residual and total waste vs recycling rates for local authorities in Lincolnshire in 2016/17) showed that household waste reused, recycled or composted within SHDC was the lowest of all authorities in the County. Could other districts' practices be used to improve SHDC's figures?
 - Other authorities included garden waste tonnage in their figures which accounted for much of their higher rates. SHDCs figure of 28% was a good representative figure however, contamination issues were a problem – this needed to be looked at but money was required to do this.

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- Could the Authority be fined for not hitting targets?
 - No, it was a national target and SHDC contributed to this as a whole. Targets were not necessarily the best measure, it was more important to do the right thing and recycling needed to be dealt with in the correct way.

- How could the message relating to waste/recycling/littering be communicated, both to the indigenous population and those residents whose first language was not English?
 - This was an issue and sometimes cultural differences were more of a problem than language. These messages generally needed to be communicated but would be one of the most difficult to address.
 - Education in schools would be important, with children spreading the message.

- Could engagement with businesses be undertaken e.g. what were businesses doing to reduce waste or, from a commercial perspective, could digestion plants take product in?
 - There were a number of issues with anaerobic digestion, including the need for a consistent feedstock, the exact makeup of which varied between facilities.
 - Officers reiterated that there was a real desire to do something productive with the waste collected, and going forward, viable options needed to be investigated.

- Real efforts needed to be made in clearing up the District – the public had to be educated in disposing of waste correctly, and fines given to those that fly-tipped and littered.
 - Members were advised that two Community Warden posts had been created and appointments to these posts made – funding for these posts was for two years. Their prime role was to issue fixed penalty notices to those that littered, and an increase in fines should be seen at a local level.

- Could people be incentivised to recycle?
 - Education was the main factor – this had been scaled back over the years at a local level, but it was hoped that one of the outcomes of a new Strategy would be a greater focus on education.

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- Over the years, there had been a number of changes to the way in which recycling was undertaken. There was a real feeling that the public wanted to be 'greener' and recycle effectively. Ways needed to be found to engage with the public in this respect and make it easier for them.
 - Consistency of collections was more important than how it was undertaken by different authorities. The current combination of materials collected could be changed, and there were many combinations and collection methods available. It was important to gain an idea of the desire/commitment to change and then officers/members would work out how this could be taken forward.
 - Members were of the opinion that recycling should be split, keeping glass, metal and plastics together, separate from paper and cardboard, but collected on the same days.

Members thanked officers for the information provided. Officers advised that, in addition to the points raised in the meeting, members should also respond individually to the consultation:

The link to the Lincolnshire Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy consultation web page was:
<https://www.lincolnshire.gov.uk/recycle-for-lincolnshire/waste-strategy-for-lincolnshire/>

The email address for queries was:
wastestrategy@lincolnshire.gov.uk

AGREED:

- a) That the contents of the report and appendices be noted;
- b) That the following issues raised by the Joint Panel be taken forward:
 - Educating residents was seen as an essential tool in reducing littering, and increasing the uptake of valid recycling;
 - Enforcement - encourage the public not to litter or fly tip and where possible, fine perpetrators;
 - Keep recycling processes simple – the national mood to be 'greener' should be harnessed and the most cost effective and environmentally friendly solutions should be sought;

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- The Portfolio Holder Place and the Environmental Services Team to look at how glass, metal and plastics could be collected with paper and cardboard but kept separate;
 - Continuity of collections; and
- c) That members respond on an individual basis to the consultation on the draft Lincolnshire Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy.

33. ANY OTHER ITEMS WHICH THE CHAIRMAN DECIDES ARE URGENT

There were no urgent items.

(The meeting ended at 8.31 pm)

(End of minutes)