

## **Briefing Note for Prosperous Communities Committee**

**This paper is for information at this time, no decision is required.**

Lincolnshire Waste Partnership (LWP) is the strategic body overseeing the delivery of waste collection and disposal in Lincolnshire. The Partnership comprises of the seven collection authorities in Lincolnshire and the County Council as the Waste Disposal Authority. At the top level, Cllr Owen Bierley and Adrian Selby, Interim Assistant Director of Operations represent West Lindsey.

In December 2018, Prosperous Communities Committee resolved to approve a refreshed Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy for Lincolnshire. The vision within the document is ***“To seek the best environmental option to provide innovative, customer-friendly waste management solutions that give value for money to Lincolnshire.”***

To move towards the vision the Partnership has developed a set of ten objectives, the relevant ones to this paper are listed below;

**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 4. To explore new opportunities of promoting waste minimisation and of using all waste as a resource in accordance with the waste hierarchy.**

**Objective 10. To consider appropriate innovative solutions in the delivery of our waste management services.**

Waste management is changing; there is a real drive to find quality and value in the materials we collect. Export markets are now demanding top quality products, in general this quality can only be ensured by collecting materials separately; the co-mingled collection methodology favoured by many authorities, including those in Lincolnshire, is increasingly falling out of favour. It is likely the Government will legislate food waste collections for all by 2023 and encourage authorities to harmonise collection regimes in future years.

Against this background, the LWP has commissioned pilots of different collection methodologies. Food waste collections have been trialled in some areas of South Kesteven, whilst these proved popular with residents and levels of food waste collected are above expectations, this additional service is very expensive to provide and there is a lack of disposal facilities in Lincolnshire. In addition, the Government has indicated there will be financial assistance to help authorities implement this service in future. It is not expected this pilot will be rolled out across the County at this stage.

Additionally, three authorities (North Kesteven, Boston and South Holland) have been trialling separate paper and card collections on some of their collection rounds. Outcomes from these trials have been really positive, participation has been high and the material collected has been top quality. Residents are provided with an

additional purple-lidded bin for paper and card, which is collected using the following regime:

Week 1 Blue recycling bin

Week 2 Residual waste bin

Week 3 Purple paper and card bin

Week 4 Residual waste bin

There is no additional cost to collection authorities to operate this service and no changes are proposed to garden waste collections.

LWP is now seeking to roll this scheme out across the County. The Waste Disposal Authority is proposing to purchase bins for Districts and provide support with education and communication during implementation, this would be subsidised through a reduction in the disposal burden.

The initial impact on residents could be:

- Impact of an additional bin
- Having to adapt to a different way of recycling
- Consideration of how to operate in sack collection areas
- Potential confusion over collection regime

In order to overcome these issues, any rollout would focus on a full engagement, education and support package similar to other major service change initiatives such as garden waste implementation.

It is proposed to bring a full report to Prosperous Communities Committee in May for decision. The purpose of this paper is to inform Members of this potential change and to start a debate on the issue.

Implementation would ideally be expected between August and October 2020, subject to approval.