

NORTH LINCOLNSHIRE COUNCIL

**NEIGHBOURHOOD, ENVIRONMENT AND
COMMUNITIES CABINET MEMBER**

RECYCLING FOR THE PUBLIC SECTOR

1. OBJECT AND KEY POINTS IN THIS REPORT

- 1.1 To give consideration to a proposal for the expansion of existing recycling schemes operated by the council to other public sector partner organisations within North Lincolnshire.
- 1.2 The key points in this report are:
 - The recent introduction of recycling schemes to schools and council buildings has created an opportunity to further expand these services to other public sector organisations based locally.
 - The NHS in North Lincolnshire, Humberside Police and the Humberside Fire & Rescue Service are all members of the Local Strategic Partnership and share a common vision and ambitions.
 - The Waste Strategy for England 2007 expects local government to become leading exponents of sustainable development and work effectively with local partners to encourage re-use and recycling.
 - The separate collection of recyclable materials from our public sector partners will assist in the achievement of landfill diversion targets.

2. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 2.1 In November 2008 the council expanded its range of waste recycling services to include all schools and buildings occupied by the council. Early feedback suggests that the schemes are working well.
- 2.2 The acquisition of the necessary infrastructure, including vehicles and waste reprocessing capacity, required to support the school etc recycling schemes has provided an opportunity to expand the services further.
- 2.3 A limited amount of surplus capacity currently exists on the recently established recycling collection rounds. This is believed to be sufficient

to enable the servicing of those public sector partner organisations that are actively involved in the delivery of the North Lincolnshire Sustainable Community Strategy – *Many Faces, One Community*.

- 2.4 The National Health Service (NHS) in North Lincolnshire, Humberside Police and the Humberside Fire & Rescue Service are all active members of the Local Strategic Partnership (LSP) and share the ambition to create '*Communities that are confident and caring*'. A key outcome measure of this is to reduce waste and pollution.
- 2.5 The Local Area Agreement (LAA) has as a priority (SC2/4), the development and implementation of waste management strategy in partnership. This includes a requirement to reduce the amount of waste generated in the area and to increase recycling opportunities.
- 2.6 In the Waste Strategy for England 2007, the Government describes how it wishes to see local authorities working in partnership to pursue the aims of the strategy and for the broader public sector to be a leading exponent of sustainable development.
- 2.7 Waste collected by the council becomes municipal waste by definition. The separate collection of recyclable material will actively contribute to landfill diversion targets and be reported through National Indicator 193.

3. OPTIONS FOR CONSIDERATION

- 3.1 The scope of any expansion of recycling schemes has yet to be agreed. It is proposed to limit this initially to NHS/PCT premises within North Lincolnshire and those occupied by the Police and Fire Authorities.
- 3.2 Waste from those sites referred to in 3.1 above is both household (hospitals) and commercial (police and fire authorities). In the case of hospitals the council has discretion to charge for the collection of waste but no charge can be levied for disposal. In the latter case the council has a duty to charge for both the collection and disposal of any waste generated.

4. ANALYSIS OF OPTIONS

- 4.1 Practical arrangements for the separate collection of recyclable material from other public sector organisations have yet to be explored in detail. Given the similarities between the types of property and waste streams involved, there is no reason to believe that the arrangements now made for schools and council buildings cannot be replicated. It is felt prudent however initially to restrict any expansion to those organisations referred to in 3.1 above.

4.2 Currently, the council has exercised its discretion not to levy charges for the collection of prescribed forms of household waste in the following circumstances only:

- Clinical waste from domestic premises
- Bulky household items (first request only)
- Recyclable materials from schools

Given the uncertainty about the volumes of waste involved and the current economic situation, it is suggested that no further concessions be made at this time, but that the charge levied for separate collections of recyclable materials from those premises referred to in 3.1 does not exceed the level currently applied for the collection of mixed waste.

5. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS (FINANCIAL, STAFFING, PROPERTY, IT)

5.1 The proposed expansion of recycling services into other public sector organisations will assist with the optimisation of the existing collection vehicle resource.

5.2 Provision exists within the capital programme for 2009/10 to equip the anticipated number of sites with the necessary waste collection infrastructure.

5.3 A revenue sum of £50,000 was also allocated in each of two years – 2009/10 and 2010/11 – during the recent budget process. The first £50,000 will be met from efficiencies achieved by virtue of 5.1 above and landfill tax avoidance.

6. OTHER IMPLICATIONS (STATUTORY, ENVIRONMENTAL, DIVERSITY, SECTION 17 - CRIME AND DISORDER, RISK AND OTHER)

6.1 The Household Waste Recycling Act (HWRA) places a duty on all waste authorities to make arrangements for the collection of at least two types of recyclable waste together or separately from the rest of household waste. This duty also applies in respect of those non-domestic premises, including schools and hospitals, that generate such waste. The council has until the end of 2010 to comply with this requirement.

6.2 Diverting waste away from landfill and increasing recycling performance will have a positive benefit for the councils 'carbon footprint' and will assist those partner organisations involved to achieve their respective environmental goals.

7. OUTCOMES OF CONSULTATION

- 7.1 Dialogue with key decision makers within the NHS/PCT, Humberside Police and the Humberside Fire & Rescue Service about the proposals contained within this report has yet to take place.

8. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 8.1 That the proposal to extend recycling services to those public sector organisations detailed in this report is approved in principle.
- 8.2 Early contact is made with representatives of the organisations concerned and consideration given to the practical implementation of recycling schemes.
- 8.3 A further report setting out detailed proposals for the design and roll out of any scheme is submitted to a future meeting.

SERVICE DIRECTOR FOR NEIGHBOURHOOD & ENVIRONMENT

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Background Papers used in the preparation of this report

Many Faces, One Community – the North Lincolnshire Sustainable Community Strategy

Waste Strategy for England 2007

Draft Municipal Waste Management Strategy for North Lincolnshire

LAA Waste Management Action Plan