

NORTH LONDON WASTE AUTHORITY	
REPORT TITLE: CONSULTATIONS AND POLICY UPDATE	
REPORT OF: HEAD OF OPERATIONS	
FOR SUBMISSION TO: AUTHORITY MEETING	DATE: 7 December 2017
<p>SUMMARY OF REPORT:</p> <p>This report provides the regular update on consultations and policy issues which have the potential to impact on Authority operations or activities. The report outlines a number of consultations and policy matters for which either a draft response is attached or delegated authority is sought. The report also provides an update on consultations responded to since the last Authority meeting in September either under previously delegated authority or submitted by officers under general delegated authority because the responses were needed before this meeting.</p>	
<p>RECOMMENDATIONS:</p> <p>The Authority is recommended to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) approve the draft Authority response to the proposed amendments to the 2013 WEEE (Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment) Regulations being consulted upon by Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) and enclosed as Appendix 1; (ii) approve the draft Authority comments about the Business Environment and Industrial Strategy Department's (BEIS's) draft Clean Growth Strategy enclosed as Appendix 2; (iii) delegate authority to the Head of Operations to submit a response to LB Barnet's planning application for a waste transfer station at Geron Way in Hendon that is expected to replace the Authority's existing rail transfer station in Hendon; (iv) delegate authority to the Head of Operations, in consultation with the Chair, to approve a policy in relation to waste from charity shops; (v) note responses to consultations made since the last Authority meeting to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) WEEE Compliance Fee calculation methodology consultation by DEFRA; b) National colour scheme for waste and recycling containers consultation by WRAP; c) Draft London Environment Strategy consultation by the London Mayor; d) Call for evidence on voluntary and economic incentives to reduce littering of drinks containers and promote recycling issued by DEFRA; and e) Amendments to a planning application for the redevelopment of Berol House in which NLWA's offices are located. 	
<p>SIGNED: _____ Head of Operations</p> <p>DATE: 27 November 2017</p>	

1. PURPOSE AND STRUCTURE OF REPORT

- 1.1 The Consultations and Policy Update report is a regular report which provides an update for Members on consultations and policy issues that are relevant to the Authority such that the proposals have the potential to affect the Authority's operations and/or costs. The report additionally seeks approval for responses where appropriate.
- 1.2 The report is structured as below. In each sub-section national consultations are followed by regional consultations.

Consultation responses for approval (section 2)

- Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) Consultation on proposed amendments to the 2013 WEEE (Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment) Regulations (Appendix 1);
- Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS) Clean Growth Strategy – (Appendix 2);

Delegation of authority (section 3)

- To respond to LB Barnet's planning application for a waste transfer station at Geron Way in Hendon that is expected to replace the Authority's existing rail transfer station in Hendon;
- To approve a policy in relation to waste from charity shops.

Consultations for noting (section 4):

- DEFRA consultation on WEEE Compliance Fee Methodology 2017;
- Waste and Resources Action Programme (WRAP) National colour scheme for waste and recycling containers consultation and
- Greater London Authority (GLA) draft London Environment Strategy;
- DEFRA call for evidence on voluntary and economic incentives to reduce littering of drinks containers and promote recycling; and
- A planning application for the redevelopment of Berol House in which NLWA's offices are located.

2. CONSULTATIONS FOR DECISION

2.1 **DEFRA Consultation on proposed amendments to the 2013 WEEE Regulations**

- 2.1.1 DEFRA is currently consulting (until 8 December) on proposed amendments to the 2013 WEEE regulations. It is a largely technical matter, and the Authority's draft response at Appendix 1 focusses on the principles that are important to maintain the level of WEEE collection and recycling service locally.
- 2.1.2 The WEEE Regulations implement producer responsibility for waste electrical and electronic waste in the UK. It is through the WEEE Regulations that producers of electrical and electronic products are given an obligation to ensure a proportion of the products that they place on the market are recycled and recovered once they become waste. The regulations transpose the EU Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment Directive into UK law.

- 2.1.3 The regulations ensure that local authorities can contract with a collection contractor who will provide a 'free-of-charge' service for the collection of WEEE from the RRCs and other designated collection points. In north London NLWA has a contract with European Recycling Platform (ERP) to provide this service across all seven Borough areas.
- 2.1.4 The proposed amendments to the 2013 WEEE Regulations are largely to ensure that the UK has an appropriate reporting regime for WEEE recycling and recovery following the UK's departure from the EU. The amendments will also implement requirements in the EU WEEE Directive to expand the scope of waste electrical and electronic waste included in the WEEE regime.
- 2.1.5 The consultation focusses on three options of how to categorise WEEE for reporting purposes and asks questions principally aimed at producers, about what additional products they consider will in future be included in the regulations. The proposed changes in this regard will largely be of interest to producers of electrical and electronic waste. Other aspects of the consultation include a proposal for making it mandatory for Producer Compliance Schemes (which take on the obligations for WEEE recycling on behalf of producers for a fee) to join the Producer Balancing Scheme (PBS). The PBS ensures that if a local authority finds itself without a WEEE collection service then this will be arranged centrally via the PBS. The consultation also asks for comments and for a rating of the perceived success of the 2013 WEEE Regulations which NLWA's response includes.
- 2.1.6 The proposed amendments would, if implemented, have the following implications for the Authority:
- None in terms of reporting.
 - A possible increase in recycling rates of WEEE in north London as a result of an increase in scope of the material included in the WEEE regulatory regime.
 - There would also be a benefit for local authorities of requiring PCSs to join the PBS as it would put the PBS on a more robust footing, thus ensuring that local authorities will receive a free-of-charge WEEE collection service
- 2.1.7 The Authority is recommended to approve the draft response to the DEFRA consultation on proposed amendments the 2013 WEEE Regulations which is attached as Appendix 1.

2.2 BEIS consultation on a draft Clean Growth Strategy

- 2.2.1 BEIS is inviting comments (until 31 December) on its draft Clean Growth Strategy. The strategy sets out the government's proposals for decarbonising all sectors of the UK economy through the 2020s. The strategy sets out and explains the government's view about how the whole country can benefit from low carbon opportunities, while meeting national and international commitments to tackle climate change.

- 2.2.2 Overarching policies within the draft Clean Growth Strategy include cutting greenhouse gases from Britain's built environment, improving energy productivity among businesses and the extension of heat networks.
- 2.2.3 In relation to waste the key points are:
- An ambition to see no 'avoidable' waste produced in the UK by 2050
 - Achieving the EU target of at least 50% of household waste being recycled by 2020
 - A commitment to phase out food waste being sent to landfill by 2030.
 - Exploration of "new and innovative ways" to manage emissions from landfill.
 - A new Resources and Waste Strategy to be published by DEFRA in 2018
- 2.2.4 The Authority is recommended to approve the draft response to the BEIS consultation on a draft Clean Growth Strategy attached as Appendix 2. It draws on the Authority's previous response to the Government's draft Industrial Strategy and identifies similar omissions in the draft Clean Growth Strategy, but notes Authority work to improve re-use and recycling rates and support for new policy and legislation to facilitate further improvements.

MATTERS FOR DELEGATION

2.3 Geron Way waste transfer station

- 2.3.1 Notice of a planning application has been received for the new waste transfer facility at Geron Way (as expected to replace the existing Hendon Rail Transfer Station at Brent Terrace). The planning application comprises of proposals for the demolition of the existing building and erection of a new building for use as a waste transfer station for reception, bulking and onward transportation of municipal waste. The application includes works to the A5 Edgware Road/ Geron Way junction including signalisation, and other associated infrastructure and ancillary works.
- 2.3.2 Officers consider it essential to comment as this proposal is for a strategic waste facility that will primarily serve the boroughs of Barnet and Camden. Delegated authority is therefore sought for the Head of Operations to submit a response to LB Barnet's planning application for a waste transfer station at Geron Way in Hendon that is expected to replace the Authority's existing rail transfer station in Hendon.
- 2.3.3 This response will be available in due course on LB Barnet's planning portal at:
<https://publicaccess.barnet.gov.uk/online-applications/applicationDetails.do?activeTab=neighbourComments&keyVal=OY9U6AJI0DC00&neighbourCommentsPager.page=9>.

2.4 Waste from charity shops

2.4.1 Currently in the Authority's area charities are able to apply to LondonEnergy Ltd to register for the free disposal of up to five tonnes of waste per year. It is appropriate to update this position, and therefore the matter will be considered by the Members' Recycling Working Group and it is recommended that authority be delegated to the Head of Operations, in consultation with the Chair, to approve a policy in relation to waste from charity shops.

3. CONSULTATION RESPONSES FOR NOTING

3.1 DEFRA Consultation on WEEE Compliance Fee Methodology 2017

3.1.1 Between 18 October and 1 December DEFRA consulted on the methodology it intended to use for calculating the WEEE Compliance Fee for 2017. The submitted officer response emphasised the principles of importance to the Authority and is available at <http://www.nlwa.gov.uk/consultations/our-responses>.

3.2 Waste and Resources Action Programme (WRAP) National colour scheme for waste and recycling containers consultation

3.2.1 Between 12 October and 9 November, the national charity WRAP consulted on whether there should be an agreed national colour scheme for recycling containers. The consultation posed a series of online questions seeking respondents' views, rather than providing a consultation document with associated questions.

3.2.2 The key benefits of standardising the colours of recycling containers, or lids, across the country would be to improve communications with residents and to make it easier for people to understand straight away what their new recycling containers are for when they move from one area to another. In London where population turnover is high, this would be a real benefit.

3.2.3 The key disadvantages of introducing a standardised colour scheme for recycling containers are the costs of changing over to a new system and potential confusion as a result of the change. However, officers consider that the confusion would be temporary and if a mechanism could be found to overcome the cost disincentive to change then the benefits outweigh the disadvantages.

3.2.4 Whilst it is recognised that other measures may be more significant in improving recycling rates, the officer response to this consultation was positive about the WRAP proposal and the online response submitted by the Head of Operations is available on request from the contact officers for this report.

3.3 Mayor of London's Draft London Environment Strategy

- 3.3.1 As reported at the June Authority meeting the Mayor of London has a duty to develop a capital-wide environment strategy, the London Environment Strategy (LES). The Authority will also have a duty to be in general conformity with the waste elements of the LES.
- 3.3.2 On 11 August the Mayor of London launched the consultation on his draft LES which ran until 17 November. Under delegated authority approved at the September Authority meeting a consultation response was submitted by the Head of Operations, having liaised with Members and the constituent borough councils. A copy of the Authority's response is available at <http://www.nlwa.gov.uk/consultations/our-responses>.

3.4 DEFRA call for evidence on voluntary and economic incentives to reduce littering of drinks containers and promote recycling

- 3.4.1 Between 2 October and 20 November DEFRA issued a call for evidence on the impact of voluntary and economic incentives to reduce littering of drinks containers and promote recycling. Principally this call for evidence was seeking evidence for the potential impact of introducing an England-wide Deposit Return Scheme (DRS) for drinks containers whereby consumers would be incentivised to return empty drinks containers rather than disposing or recycling them for free. Schemes like this already operate in other countries and have been doing so for many years (e.g. in Sweden where a DRS for aluminium drinks containers has been in place since 1984).
- 3.4.2 The Authority response, which was discussed with the Chair before submission drew heavily on already published information. The response is generally supportive of the introduction of a DRS for drinks containers in England but suggests further research is carried out to assess the impact of the proposals. The lack of baseline information regarding the proportion of drinks containers in residual waste and litter in particular is noted as a concern in assessing how much the introduction of a DRS to encourage people to take containers back to central collection points would impact on recycling and residual waste tonnages and litter too. A copy of the Authority's response is available at <http://www.nlwa.gov.uk/consultations/our-responses>.

3.5 Berol Yard Planning application

- 3.5.1 Notice of a planning application for Berol Yard, the site of Berol House (the Authority's principal place of business) was made by LB Haringey 10 November 2017. The planning application comprises of:
- a) Proposals for the demolition of the existing buildings within the Berol Yard site and retention of Berol House. Erection of two buildings between 8 and 14 storeys including a mix of residential and commercial units, and an educational college and associated landscaping etc.

- b) Outline proposals (all matters reserved) for the alteration/conversion of the ground, first and second floors of Berol House with commercial floorspace, a two storey roof level extension of residential units and amendments to the scheme which include replacement of accommodation with "build-to-rent" units. The letter states that the notice is for a re-consultation on the amendments to the above scheme and also on the amendments to the Ashley Gardens Planning Application (HGY/2017/2045) which are: to the massing of Building 1, revisions to dwelling mix and layout.
- 3.5.2 Because there were only 21 days to respond to the letter, officers considered that it was important to comment, and did so in line with previously approved submissions about the redevelopment of NLWA's offices and adjacent areas. The principal point of concern is a proposal to create a walkway through the ground floor of Berol House, which would substantially reduce the size of NLWA's offices. The re-consultation makes the proposals for this walkway much clearer than before. However, it is still unclear whether NLWA's kitchen and toilet block will be removed as part of the redevelopment.
- 3.5.3 The officer response to the re-consultation is available from officers and in due course will be available on LB Haringey's planning portal at: <http://www.planningservices.haringey.gov.uk/portal/servlets/ApplicationSearchServlet?PKID=314033>.

4. RECOMMENDATIONS

The Authority is recommended to:

- (i) approve the draft Authority response to the proposed amendments to the 2013 WEEE (Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment) Regulations being consulted upon by Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) and enclosed as Appendix 1;
- (ii) approve the draft Authority comments about the Business Environment and Industrial Strategy Department's (BEIS's) draft Clean Growth Strategy enclosed as Appendix 2;
- (iii) delegate authority to the Head of Operations to submit a response to LB Barnet's planning application for a waste transfer station at Geron Way in Hendon that is expected to replace the Authority's existing rail transfer station in Hendon;
- (iv) delegate authority to the Head of Operations, in consultation with the Chair, to approve a policy in relation to waste from charity shops;
- (v) note responses to consultations made since the last Authority meeting:
 - a) WEEE Compliance Fee calculation methodology consultation by DEFRA;
 - b) National colour scheme for waste and recycling containers consultation by WRAP;

- c) Draft London Environment Strategy consultation by the London Mayor;
- d) Call for evidence on voluntary and economic incentives to reduce littering of drinks containers and promote recycling issued by DEFRA; and
- e) Amendments to a planning application for the redevelopment of Berol House in which NLWA's offices are located;

5. COMMENTS OF THE LEGAL ADVISER

- 5.1 The Legal Adviser has been consulted in the preparation of this report and has no comments to add.

6. COMMENTS OF THE FINANCIAL ADVISER

- 6.1 The Financial Adviser has been consulted in the preparation of this report and all comments have been incorporated.

Local Government Act 1972 - Access to Information Documents used:

UK Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment Regulations 2013 Consultation on proposed amendments, Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, October 2017 – available at: <https://consult.defra.gov.uk/environmental-quality/weee-regulations-amendments/>

Regulatory Triage Assessment of the WEEE Directive on WEEE Reporting Categories in the UK, Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, 16/10/17 – available at: <https://consult.defra.gov.uk/environmental-quality/weee-regulations-amendments/>

Clean Growth Strategy and Clean Growth Strategy Executive Summary, Department for Business Environment and Industrial Strategy, 12 October 2017 - available at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/clean-growth-strategy>

Geron Way waste transfer station, Hendon. Planning application reference: 17/6714/EIA. Available at: <https://publicaccess.barnet.gov.uk/online-applications/>

Consultation on WEEE Compliance Fee Methodology 2017 Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, 18 October 2017 – available at:

<https://consult.defra.gov.uk/environmental-quality/weee-compliance-2017/>

WEEE Compliance Fee Methodology 2017, Evaluation of Proposals, Defra, October 2017

Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment Regulations 2013, Guidance on submitting proposals for a WEEE Compliance Fee Methodology, July 2016

Proposal to the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra), Operation of a WEEE Compliance Fee for the 2017 Compliance Period, Valpak

Proposal to the Department for Environment Food and Rural Affairs Operation of a WEEE Compliance Fee for the 2017 Compliance Period, Joint Trade Associations

Container colour consultation, Have your say on a national colour scheme for waste and recycling containers in England, Waste and Resources Action Programme, 12 October 2017 – available at <http://www.wrap.org.uk/collections-and-reprocessing/consistency/guidance/container-colour-consultation>

London Environment Strategy, Draft for Public Consultation, Mayor of London, August 2017 – available at <https://www.london.gov.uk/WHAT-WE-DO/environment/environment-publications/draft-london-environment-strategy-have-your-say>

Call for evidence on voluntary and economic incentives to reduce littering of drinks containers and promote recycling, Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, 2 October 2017 – available at: <https://consult.defra.gov.uk/waste-and-recycling/call-for-evidence-drinks-containers/>

Deposit Return Evidence Summary, prepared for Zero Waste Scotland, June 2017 – available at <http://www.zerowastescotland.org.uk/research/deposit-return-evidence-summary>

Slides Deposit Return Evidence Summary, Zero Waste Scotland, June 2017 – available at <http://www.zerowastescotland.org.uk/research/deposit-return-evidence-summary>

Impacts of a Deposit Refund System for One-way Beverage Packaging on Local Authority Waste Services, Final Report, Eunomia, 11 October 2017 – available at

<http://www.eunomia.co.uk/report-category/topic/waste-recycling/deposit-refund-scheme/>

Planning application HGY/2017/2045 Ashley Gardens - available at:

<http://www.planningservices.haringey.gov.uk/portal/servlets/ApplicationSearchServlet?PKID=314494>

Planning application HGY/2017/2044 Berol Yard, Ashley Road available at:

<http://www.planningservices.haringey.gov.uk/portal/servlets/ApplicationSearchServlet?PKID=314033>

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7 December 2017

Dear Sir/Madam

Ref: UK Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment Regulations 2013 – Consultation on proposed amendments October 2017

Thank you for providing North London Waste Authority (NLWA) with the opportunity to respond to the Government's consultation on the WEEE Compliance Fee Methodology for 2017 – Evaluation of Proposals, October 2017. This response will additionally be submitted as requested via DEFRA's on-line consultation tool Citizen Space.

1. About us

1.1. NLWA is the joint waste disposal authority for north London established by the Waste Regulation and Disposal (Authorities) Order 1985. As a joint waste disposal authority NLWA is responsible for the disposal of waste collected from households and local businesses by seven north London boroughs – Barnet, Camden, Enfield, Hackney, Haringey, Islington and Waltham Forest, the 'constituent boroughs'. NLWA manages the residual waste from all seven boroughs, recyclable and compostable waste from six boroughs and all the north London reuse and recycling centres (RRCs) except in one borough. All of the north London RRCs and some other sites (which are not publicly accessible) are registered as DCFs (Designated Collection Facilities). NLWA also delivers extensive behaviour-change campaigns in the fields of waste prevention and recycling.

2. Response

2.1. Questions 1 – 3 and Question 4.

NLWA recognises that the more recent WEEE Directive (Directive 2012/19/EU) introduced a number of changes to the original WEEE Directive (Directive 2002/96/EC) which included a move to 'open scope' to ensure that all electrical and electronic waste is brought within the scope of the Directive from 15 August 2018. NLWA also notes the statement in the consultation that the 2013 WEEE

Regulations fully transposed the requirements of the WEEE Directive, including the change from the UK's 14 categories of WEEE to the 6 revised categories from 1 January 2019. However, the three different options for categorising WEEE under consideration by the Government, to ensure implementation of open scope from 1 January 2019 and to minimise the costs to business as far as possible, are all feasible. Also given that the current overall costs of WEEE collection and recycling will not change as a result of the proposed changes to the categories of WEEE, and none of the three options proposed will change the way in which WEEE is currently collected by local authorities, NLWA does not have a preference for which of three proposed options is best for categorising WEEE for reporting purposes. The proposed changes in this regard will largely be of interest to producers of electrical and electronic goods because a change in WEEE categories would alter the distribution of the amount each producer of household equipment is required to pay. But because none of the options would disproportionately affect NLWA as a local authority we are only commenting upon those questions in the consultation which may directly affect us, as below. We welcome the move to open scope however, and a possible increase in recycling rates of WEEE in north London as a result of an increase in scope of the material included in the WEEE regulatory regime.

2.2. Question 5.

NLWA's key concern regarding the transition to open scope is the necessity for adequate communication by the Government to the producers of electrical and electronic goods so that they understand what new products might become obligated and therefore if their responsibilities might change as a result of the implementation of the new regime. When any change to the regulatory environment is introduced this can bring both communications and budgetary uncertainty as businesses and local authorities alike try to establish and plan for the likely impact of the changes. It is important as a local authority that we are fully aware of what new products might be included within the scope of the regulations when open scope is implemented so that we can train staff, communicate correctly with residents and ensure that collection arrangements are adequate.

2.3. Question 7.

Yes – NLWA supports the government's proposal to amend the Regulations to make members of the Producer Balancing Scheme (PBS) a mandatory requirement.

Comments:

Although NLWA has not found itself in a position where it has been without a Producer Compliance Scheme (PCS) to collect its WEEE since the introduction of the WEEE Regulations we are aware that other local authorities have, for a wide range of reasons, been unable to agree a contract with a PCS and have therefore needed to request a collection under Regulation 34. The Producer Balancing System (PBS) plays a vital role in ensuring that the statutory demands from local authorities (under regulation 34 of the 2013 WEEE Regulations) for the clearance of WEEE from their designated collection facilities is still organised by producers where it has not been possible for a local authority to enter a contract with a specific PCS. Given the vital nature of the PBS, and noting that there are concerns that the financial burden of the Regulation 34 requests is not shared proportionately across the entire producer community, NLWA

agrees that it is right for the current voluntary membership of the PBS to cease and instead for all PCSs to be required to join the PBS. A statutory PBS would simply disburse the cost equitably amongst all PCSs when a local authority is unable to agree a contract with a specified PCS, and this seems a more transparent and equitable arrangement than the current voluntary membership of the scheme where those who do not join avoid the associated costs. From a local authority perspective, statutory membership of the PBS would also give credence and stability to the PBS, which would anchor the WEEE collection arrangements between local authorities and obligated companies on a much firmer footing.

2.4. Question 8.

Yes – NLWA agrees with the principle that EEE producer registration fees should be allocated to the regulator in the nation in which that producer is based.

Comment:

Irrespective of the level at which the charges for regulating the UK WEEE Regulations are set, it seems perverse that the current system of regulatory charging is such that the regulatory fees collected are retained by the regulator in the territory in which a producer's compliance scheme is approved rather than the fees being passed to the regulator in which the business incurring the fees is based. The main cost of regulating the WEEE Regulations is in our view most likely to occur as a result of the day-to-day activities of regulating the many obligated producers, rather than in regulating the producer compliance schemes which the producers join. NLWA also notes that a benefit of allocating EEE producer registration fees to the regulator in the UK nation in which that producer is based is that the work the EA undertakes regulating the producers and the evidence system in England will be paid for by the charges.

2.5. Question 9.

On a scale of 1 – 5 (where 1 – no impact and 5 = high impact) NLWA scores the extent to which the 2013 WEEE Regulations have achieved the objective of increasing levels of WEEE recovery, recycling and re-use in the UK as a 4.

Comment:

NLWA's response is principally in connection with the implementation of the B2C collection, recycling and recovery of WEEE.

In this respect, NLWA considers that the WEEE Regulations have significantly extended both the scope and distribution of WEEE collection systems – the regulations have also set common standards across the country and normalised WEEE as an expected waste material that residents should recycle and that local authorities will collect, thereby increasing WEEE recycling rates significantly. However, where the regulations have been less successful is in encouraging reuse. There is limited incentive on the part of the consumer to take their WEEE back for reuse, and limited information available either about where to take it. For small WEEE in particular the economics of repair also make reuse of smaller less expensive items unattractive. In April 2015 NLWA was awarded funding through the WEEE Distributor Takeback Scheme Phase III¹ to increase reuse of waste electrical and electronic equipment (WEEE) in north London. The project consisted of two elements:

1. A six-month trial at five reuse and recycling centres (RRCs) to develop large domestic appliances (LDA) and cooling equipment WEEE reuse by allocating a defined part of each site to reuse, together with additional promotion and on-site staff training.
2. Funding for local charity ReStore Community Projects² to increase their capacity to repair additional items delivered as a result of the RRC WEEE reuse collections and the fact that they took over the kerbside collection contract for WEEE in north London from 1 July 2015. (Householders in all seven north London boroughs have access to a free '123 Recycle for Free' doorstep WEEE collection service which was supported at the time by NLWA's producer compliance scheme DHL Envirosolutions, and now by ERP).

Overall, the six month WEEE reuse trial resulted in the conclusion that WEEE reuse from the RRCs in north London is not sustainable due to the quality of the appliances brought to site. WEEE appliances tend to be older, damaged and in need of significant repair, making reuse unviable. Whereas kerbside collected material is generally in a better condition than that deposited at the RRCs.

Following on from the six-month trial, NLWA and ReStore continued with the reuse programme from kerbside collected material. ReStore was already collecting the material from the kerbside meaning that increasing the percentage of material that was reused could be achieved at no additional transportation cost and a 4-5 % level of reuse was able to be achieved. However, the RRC element of the trial was discontinued due to low levels of reuse being achieved.

For more reuse to occur product manufacturers will need to be encouraged to redesign products so that they last longer, are easier to dismantle and repair and therefore be reused. Similarly, consumers would need to be incentivised e.g. financially, to take back their WEEE for reuse in order for a more circular model of electrical and electronic product production and reuse to occur.

¹ The WEEE Distributor Takeback Scheme (DTS) Phase III was funded by electrical retailers who contributed to the DTS as part of their obligations under the WEEE Regulations.

² ReStore Community Projects was a registered charity based in north London providing training and employment opportunities in Haringey one of the most deprived borough in the UK. ReStore also sold reuse items to the local community including low income families and social housing organisations.

2.6. Question 10.

On a scale of 1 – 5 where 1 = no impact and 5 = high impact NLWA scores the extent to which the 2013 WEEE Regulations have acted as a stimulus to investment in WEEE re-use, recycling and reprocessing capacity as a 2.

Comments (including ideas for improvement):

Whilst the WEEE Regulations seem to have increased the collection system for WEEE (certainly from a B2C perspective) as a waste disposal authority we have significantly increased the number and distribution of WEEE collection points in north London in conjunction with our PCSs. However, we do not have any evidence that the Regulations have acted as a stimulus to investment in reprocessing capacity. As an example the charity ReStore which took part in the WEEE reuse trial mentioned in our response to Question 9 above is no longer operating. There may have been investment as a result of increased volumes of WEEE that the Regulations have encouraged to be collected, but in north London this is not something that we can see evidenced at a local level.

2.7. Question 11.

On a scale of 1 – 5 where 1 = no impact and 5 = high impact NLWA scores the extent to which the 2013 WEEE Regulations have addressed concerns arising from the previous WEEE Regulations that the amount producers had to pay through producer compliance schemes was often much higher than the true costs of collection and treatment of WEEE as a 4.

Comments (including ideas for improvement and/or details of unforeseen consequences):

From our perspective NLWA considers that producers are more content with the 2013 Regulations than prior to their introduction. However, from a practical perspective as a local authority, we anticipate that it will become increasingly difficult to retain the same level of service that we have had in the past when we re-tender our WEEE contract (our current contract was let just after the 2013 Regulations came into force). From a service perspective the previous WEEE regime enabled us as a large local authority to get some added service benefits such as additional promotion of WEEE collection services, on-street WEEE banks and a door-to-door collection service. This is because if the PCS collected more than they were obligated for, they could sell the evidence to another scheme. Now that the opportunities for evidence trading have been severely curtailed, there is little or no incentive for PCSs to do more than they need to and accordingly the service to residents may suffer as a result. It appears that unless the targets for PCSs are increased significantly, they will no longer have the incentives to maximise the recovery of the rare earth metals and other materials in WEEE in accordance with circular economy principles and to maximise the resource security of the UK. A lowest cost compliance route is also a lowest cost service route for the customer.

2.8. Question 13

NLWA's only additional comments in relation to Open Scope, the regulatory post implementation review, or other possible regulatory amendments proposed in this consultation are that:

- NLWA considers the way in which the WEEE Regulations bring obligated producers and local authorities together to deliver the most effective environmentally and cost beneficial outcome to be generally a success.
- Improvements could be made going forward to ensure that reuse and circular economy thinking is further embedded within the regime.
- There may also be a case for looking at the way in which small WEEE reuse could be incentivised and whether some type of consumer incentive could be introduced to encourage take-back. As the targets increase, it will be essential that ongoing assessment of the implementation of the regulations continues to investigate opportunities for improvement along circular economy lines.

Yours sincerely

Andrew Lappage
Head of Operations

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7 December 2017

Dear Sir/Madam

Ref: The Clean Growth Strategy - Leading the way to a low carbon future

Thank you for providing North London Waste Authority (NLWA) with the opportunity to comment upon the Government's Clean Growth Strategy – Leading the way to a low carbon future.

1. About us

- 1.1. NLWA is the joint waste disposal authority for north London established by the Waste Regulation and Disposal (Authorities) Order 1985. As a joint waste disposal authority NLWA is responsible for the disposal of waste collected from households and local businesses by seven north London boroughs – Barnet, Camden, Enfield, Hackney, Haringey, Islington and Waltham Forest, the 'constituent boroughs'. NLWA manages the residual waste from all seven boroughs, recyclable and compostable waste from six boroughs and all the north London reuse and recycling centres (RRCs) except in one borough. NLWA also delivers extensive behaviour-change campaigns in the fields of waste prevention and recycling.
- 1.2. In relation to the upper elements of the waste hierarchy, NLWA prevented an estimated 10,000 tonnes of waste from arising or entering the local authority waste stream, and reused, recycled and composted 224,469 tonnes¹ in 2016/17,
- 1.3. In relation to waste disposal, NLWA recovered energy (electrical power generation) from 541,278² tonnes of waste and sent 8% of waste to disposal to landfill.

¹ This figure includes waste that was reused and therefore counted in the waste prevention tonnage.

² This figure is the tonnage of waste sent to energy-from-waste; waste sent for anaerobic digestion is included as composted. An additional 68,940 tonnes were sent to landfill with energy recovery.

1.4. The re-use, recycling recovery and landfill with energy recovery of wastes by NLWA and its constituent boroughs saved an estimated 131,545 tonnes of CO₂ relative to what the CO₂ emissions would have been if all had gone to landfill. Both of these indicators are reported upon annually as a result of the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) reporting regime.

2. Comments

2.1. The aspects of the Clean Growth Strategy which are of most interest to NLWA are the aspirations regarding waste management for the UK, namely:

- An ambition to see no 'avoidable' waste produced in the UK by 2050
- Achieving the EU target of at least 50% of household waste being recycled by 2020
- A commitment to phase out food waste being sent to landfill by 2030.
- Exploration of "new and innovative ways" to manage emissions from landfill.
- The commitment to a new Resources and Waste Strategy to be published by DEFRA in 2018

2.2. NLWA is supportive of new national policy and legislation to improve the resource-efficiency of the country, by capturing the full value of our resources in accordance with circular economy principles such that producers are given the responsibility (and therefore the financial incentive) to design-out waste at all stages of the life-cycle of their products and services. This could give greater resource-security and energy-security to the country, and is also an opportunity to improve productivity. We look forward to the new Resources and Waste Strategy being published next year to see if this might provide an opportunity for some new initiatives and thinking about how best to increase recycling rates across the country, with all its diversity in terms of the availability of secondary resources and the opportunities to capture and productively reuse or reprocess them.

2.3. However, we, like many other authorities have seen recycling rates flat lining (in our dense urban case, at c.32-33%) over recent years. The reasons for this are varied including:

- limited amounts of green garden waste relative to other parts of the country, so a lower proportion of the waste stream is recyclable;
- relatively high levels of population turnover, which makes communications more challenging (relative to areas where the proportion of residents who move in each year is much lower); and
- a relatively high proportion of flats which are more challenging in communications terms than low rise properties (e.g. it is difficult to identify if there is someone in a block of flats who doesn't fully understand what can be recycled, because the recycling from many flats is mixed together in a communal bin).

2.4. The commitment to phasing out food waste to landfill by 2030 is noted and all north London boroughs provide a food waste collection service. However, participation and capture is relatively poor compared to dry recycling. An attitudinal shift will be required to improve this. We look forward to engaging with the more detailed implementation plans about food waste reduction and recycling. Food waste is a priority waste stream for our waste prevention programme and the subject of our annual waste prevention exchange in March 2018.

2.5. The ambitions in the Clean Growth Strategy are very positive, but we consider there needs to be more integration between clean growth objectives and the opportunities that a circular economy can provide. In our response to the Industrial Strategy earlier this year we made the comment that there should a much greater level of integration between circular economy thinking and business strategy. Our key points on the Industrial Strategy at that time were as follows:

- That there was no mention of resource scarcity in the document – the urgency of the need for change should be highlighted.
- That the economic opportunities presented by a circular economy model were missing
- Proper valuation of natural capital would provide new economic opportunities
- Opportunities for economic growth from increased secondary materials processing should be highlighted
- Other geographic business development models should be more extensively explored
- That waste infrastructure was omitted from the strategy
- That procurement as a catalyst for change was identified but had some omissions.

2.6. A copy of our response to the industrial strategy consultation is available here: http://nlwa.gov.uk/docs/consultation-responses/beis_industrial_strategy_nlwa_response_6apr2017_web.pdf. We would be pleased to provide further input to the discussion.

2.7. We look forward to seeing the new Resources and Waste Strategy to be published next year and will comment in more detail when that is available.

Yours sincerely

Andrew Lappage
Head of Operations