

NORTH LONDON WASTE AUTHORITY

REPORT TITLE:
CONSULTATIONS AND POLICY UPDATE

REPORT OF:
HEAD OF OPERATIONS

FOR SUBMISSION TO:
AUTHORITY MEETING

DATE:
22 June 2017

SUMMARY OF REPORT:

This report provides the regular update on consultations and policy issues which have the potential to impact on Authority operations or activities. The report is focussed on one issue for this meeting, namely the upcoming London Environment Strategy of the London Mayor. It proposes that representations are made to the London Mayor concerning the issues that the Authority considers of greatest importance in the expected London Environment Strategy.

RECOMMENDATION:

The Authority is recommended to delegate authority to the Head of Operations, in consultation with the Chair, to submit representations to the London Mayor concerning the issues that the Authority considers of greatest importance in the expected London Environment Strategy.

SIGNED: _____ **Head of Operations**

DATE: 12 June 2017

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 For this particular report the Authority's interest is in the Mayor of London's upcoming Environment Strategy which is anticipated to be issued for public consultation shortly.

2. THE MAYOR OF LONDON'S UPCOMING ENVIRONMENT STRATEGY

- 2.1 The Greater London Authority (GLA) has a duty to develop a capital wide environment strategy, the London Environment Strategy (LES) and is preparing such a document. The Authority will have a duty to be in general conformity with the waste elements of the LES.
- 2.2 On 13 April London Councils organised a pre-consultation 'strategic engagement workshop' with the GLA about the upcoming LES. The aim of the workshop was to provide an opportunity for attendees to co-create policies feeding into the draft LES which will be consulted on in the near future. Attendees, including officers from the Authority and constituent borough councils, had the opportunity to discuss London's key environmental challenges before identifying potential policy solutions.
- 2.3 Given the long term implications of the aims, objectives and implementation of the Strategy for the capital and its residents, workers and visitors, officers concluded that it may be a helpful addition to the pre-consultation dialogue on the Strategy if the Authority provide further input at this stage. Accordingly this report sets out some key aspects of the draft LES upon which the Authority may wish to make early representations.

3. AMBITIONS FOR THE LONDON ENVIRONMENT STRATEGY

Circular Economy

- 3.1 The Authority has considered the importance of ‘circular economy’ principles on many occasions, most recently in our response to the Government on its draft Industrial Strategy in April. The London Waste and Recycling Board (LWaRB) will be launching its circular economy route-map for London on 19 June (i.e. after this report is written but before the Authority meeting). Officers fully expect that it will draw on thinking and experience from elsewhere, and will look at the role of both consumers and businesses and, most importantly, how the London Mayor can exercise his influence to bring people together to effect change. The LWaRB Business Plan 2017-20 already commits the organisation to helping London (but not just local authority collected wastes) achieve a 65% recycling rate by 2030 and to making a transition to a circular economy, as well as London being on track to be a zero carbon city by 2050.
- 3.2 It will be important for the Authority to understand how the LWaRB route-map will be read into the LES and what policy measures the Authority might then contribute to.

Revised targets

- 3.3 As noted above, the LWaRB Business Plan contains a target recycling rate of 65% by 2030 for waste from households and waste that is similar to waste from households such as much commercial waste (e.g. supermarkets). Officers understand that the GLA currently estimates London to be achieving over 50% recycling of such wastes, but would next need to understand how this measure has been calculated and what might then be expected of the Authority, and its constituent borough councils, for London to reach 65% and for us to therefore be in general conformity with the LES.
- 3.4 As with the above recycling rate changes, it will be important that the Authority is content with any changes that might arise in relation to either the levels of current targets for the overall environmental efficiency of waste services and the carbon intensity of energy-generating waste treatments, or the ways in which these targets are calculated.

Environmental Performance

- 3.5 The previous London Mayor’s provisions for an Energy Performance Standard and a Carbon Intensity Floor may be revisited. If these are to change, the Authority will want to comment on any proposals.

4. WAYS OF REACHING NEW TARGETS

- 4.1 Achieving marked improvements in waste services across London will clearly be a challenging task for all concerned. It is expected that to do so will require developments to services and the ways in which we encourage residents and businesses to use them. Significant change is also likely to require new infrastructure to be delivered which will require, inter alia, favourable investment and planning regimes.
- 4.2 The Authority will also be interested in the level of detail in which the London Mayor sets out his objectives and plans, as the Authority will have a duty to be 'in general conformity' with them once they are adopted.

5. INTERFACES WITH OTHER STRATEGIES AND OBJECTIVES

- 5.1 In the context of the Authority's above duty, it will be important too to understand the interfaces between other parts of the LES on matters such as air quality as well as interfaces with any review of the London Plan.
- 5.2 The previous Government had promised a 25-year plan for the Environment, so if the new Government publishes a waste or resources strategy, the London Mayor and London waste authorities will have to take this into full account too.

6. COMMENTS OF THE LEGAL ADVISER

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

7. COMMENTS OF THE FINANCIAL ADVISER

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

Local Government Act 1972 - Access to Information Documents used:

None

Contact Officers:

Andrew Lappage, Head of Operations
&
Barbara Herridge, External Relations Manager

Unit 1B, Berol House
25 Ashley Road
Tottenham Hale
N17 9LJ

Tel: 020 8489 5730
Fax: 020 8365 0254
E-mail: post@nlwa.gov.uk