

Agenda Item

NORTH LONDON WASTE AUTHORITY	
REPORT TITLE: OPERATIONS UPDATE	
REPORT OF: HEAD OF OPERATIONS	
FOR SUBMISSION TO: AUTHORITY MEETING	DATE: 29 September 2016
SUMMARY OF REPORT This report provides information relating to the development of the Authority's operational services including recent waste prevention activity.	
RECOMMENDATION: The Authority is recommended to note the information concerning the Energy Centre, the Kings Road re-use centre, new arrangements for the disposal of waste tyres, MRF services, general waste services and recent waste prevention activity.	
Signed by: Head of Operations _____ Date: 20 th September 2016	

1. OVERVIEW

- 1.1. This report is to advise Members of operational matters. It addresses the particular issues of the forthcoming temporary shutdown of the Energy Centre for maintenance; progress at the Second Time Around re-use centre within the Kings Road RRC; new tyre recycling arrangements; a brief update on contamination levels within the mixed dry recyclables delivered by constituent borough councils; general waste services; and recent waste prevention activity.

2. ENERGY CENTRE

- 2.1. In July Authority officers notified borough colleagues of the possibility of a shutdown of the Energy Centre so that essential repairs and maintenance can take place to support the operation of the facility through until 2025 (the end of the current contract).
- 2.2. The works will commence 28th September and are scheduled to continue until the 16th November. However, the actual shutdown (i.e. the period where the Energy Centre is not incinerating waste) will only last from Saturday 15th October until Wednesday 19th October 2016. The longer period is noted because the impact of the shutdown will be felt outside of the actual period of the works as the waste levels in the bunkers need to be greatly reduced prior to these works commencing, and a staged restock of wastes to the bunkers will be needed so that sufficient amounts of waste is available for incineration once the relevant works are complete.
- 2.3. The closure will result in more waste being sent to landfill than would normally be seen but the increased cost of landfill tax has been factored into the overall costs of the project and as such will be borne by the company as part of the cost of maintaining its facility.
- 2.4. Authority officers are working closely with LWL to ensure any impacts on borough deliveries throughout this period are kept to a minimum, and will remain in close contact with borough colleagues too.

3. KINGS ROAD RE-USE CENTRE (SECOND TIME AROUND)

- 3.1. Members will recall that the Kings Road Re-use Centre (Second Time Around – STA) was officially launched in November 2015 (albeit limited trading took place from September). It was previously agreed that following the first full year of trading (November 2015- October 2016), a review of STA would be undertaken to inform decisions about its longer term management and operation. It is expected this review will be presented to Members in the New Year.
- 3.2. By way of a latest update in relation to the STA target of covering its costs from the sale of re-use items, Members may wish to note that STA has seen a trend of steady improvement in its takings since opening, and with further promotional activity planned for the upcoming months it is expected the improvements will continue. Following Portable Appliance Test training by STA staff some electrical

goods are now being sold and in addition STA is now open four days per week (Wed-Sat) as well as the first Sunday of each month.

- 3.3. For the period September 15 – August 16, STA achieved a gross income of nearly £40,000 from sales, meaning it is likely to meet its target of covering its day-to-day running costs by the end of the year. A further benefit is that STA diverted approaching 50 tonnes of waste from disposal.

4. TYRES

- 4.1. In August 2016 the Authority's tyre reprocessor McGrath Waste Management advised they would cease to handle tyres with immediate effect. The service was last procured in October 2014, and due to its relatively small scale and simplicity the service was procured by advertising the opportunity and inviting quotations (along with information as to how the tyres would be recycled) rather than through a full OJEU tender with a full suite of contract documentation; McGrath was appointed using an exchange of letters to confirm the Authority's acceptance of its offer. Under the arrangements with McGrath borough vehicles delivered tyres directly to their sites in Hackney or Barking for reprocessing.
- 4.2. There are no alternative tyre reprocessing facilities in the north London area where borough vehicles could direct deliver to as previously. As such Authority officers have had to make new arrangements with LWL for borough vehicles to deliver tyres to the Edmonton EcoPark. Tyres will then be bulked at the EcoPark and transported to a suitably licensed reprocessor where tyres are mainly baled and used for engineering projects such as flood defences and motorway embankments. The financial impact has been limited because whilst there are additional bulking costs, the actual cost for collection and then treatment is now lower than the previous arrangements.

5. MIXED DRY RECYCLING

- 5.1. At the September 2015 Authority meeting, Members were advised that as a result of new statutory regulations there had been an increased level of inspection and analysis of the mixed dry recyclables being delivered by constituent borough councils to the Authority's contracted Materials Recovery Facilities (MRFs) and that more incoming loads were being rejected and reported contamination rates had increased. The additional inspections are enabling the Authority to provide boroughs with specific information to help them target efforts at reducing contamination within their collection services; the inspections also enable the Authority to report borough-specific contamination rates for the mixed dry recyclables, which will then feed through into the boroughs' published recycling rates.
- 5.2. Although work is ongoing by boroughs to reduce contamination levels, loads are continuing to be rejected before they are processed through the MRF. In the period April - June 2016/17 there has been 737 tonnes of material rejected out of a total delivered amount of 29,734 tonnes. In 2015/16 a total of 1,958 tonnes was rejected out of a total delivered amount of 120,000 tonnes.

6. GENERAL OPERATIONAL SERVICES UPDATE

- 6.1 In January 2016 the Authority introduced a rubble policy limiting householders to depositing six bags of rubble per month at the RRCs on the basis that more than that would constitute construction and demolition wastes, for which the Authority has no duty to provide a service. During the first seven months since the policy was introduced, overall hardcore tonnages have decreased by 11% and provided a financial saving of around £9,000. Only one written complaint has been received since the introduction of the policy which was from a resident renovating his house who was unhappy with the limits in place and the apparent lack of communication about the change in policy. A response was sent by the Head of Operations that satisfactorily resolved the concerns raised.
- 6.2 Services with all the Authority's waste services contractors have been generally good, including operations under the main waste contract with LondonWaste Ltd.
- 6.3 Officers are commencing discussions on the future provision of the Gateway Road Reuse and Recycling Centre with the incumbent contractor (Bywaters Leyton Ltd). Members will recall that Bywaters owns the site and has applied for planning consent to redevelop the site, but with a somewhat reconfigured RRC.

7. WASTE PREVENTION ACTIVITY

- 7.1 At the February 2016 Authority meeting, Members approved the *North London Waste Prevention Plan 2016 - 2018*. The aim of the Plan is to reduce the amount of waste produced in north London, promote resource efficiency and improve the local environment through an effective and ongoing programme of activities. The Plan sets a target to divert 20,000 tonnes of waste from disposal over the two years.
- 7.2 From April to September 2016 the following activity has been delivered:
- 56 outreach events (of which 15 were defined as 'large' outdoor events) to promote food waste reduction, and speaking with 3,217 residents. A summary of the food waste reduction events can be found at Appendix 1.
 - Other food waste prevention activity including intensive work with community groups, universities and colleges.
 - Participation in Green Office Week focusing on giving advice on food waste prevention in offices and businesses.
 - Setting up of food waste prevention displays in libraries and other venues across north London
 - A new summer-themed food waste project called 'New Leaf', which involved:
 - a surplus salad feast which took place in Wood Green, attracting 1,129 attendees, served 977 portions of food and diverted 0.89 tonnes of food waste;
 - eight cookery sessions across the seven boroughs; and
 - nine composting workshops across the seven boroughs.
 - For the third year running a series of seven 'Waste Less, Lunch Free' events which will be completed by 29 September. The average family could save £700 per year if they reduced the amount of food they waste. At the Waste

Less, Lunch Free events, this typical budget of £700 is used to prepare 1,000 portions of food in each north London borough. The aim is to speak with as many people as possible, providing advice and exchanging top tips about how residents can waste less food, or recycle unavoidable food waste, and thereby also save money.

- 16 outreach events engaging face-to-face with 367 residents about recycling.

7.3 Other waste prevention activity since 1 April has included a 'Say no to unwanted mail' digital communications campaign, commencement of an intensive education programme working with 14 north London schools covering all aspects of the waste hierarchy and promotion of reusable nappies during real nappy week.

7.4 Looking forward preparations have commenced for a Pumpkin Rescue Festival in October focussing on the reduction of pumpkin waste during Halloween; the Authority's participation in the European Week for Waste Reduction in November 2016 and delivery of 14 community exchange events in January 2017. The programme of activity is also accompanied by wider promotion of waste prevention and recycling messages via social media and online advertising.

8. COMMENTS OF THE FINANCIAL ADVISER

8.1 The Financial Adviser has been consulted in the drafting of this report and has no comments to add.

9. COMMENTS OF THE LEGAL ADVISER

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

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Appendix 1

Food waste prevention events

Borough	Events delivered	Number of conversations held
Barnet	12	547
Camden	10	703
Enfield	11	433
Hackney	4	224
Haringey	6	385
Islington	8	613
Waltham Forest	5	312
Total	56	3,217

Recycling events

Borough	Events delivered	Number of conversations held
Barnet	2	49
Camden	6	142
Enfield	3	77
Hackney	0	0
Haringey	2	60
Islington	3	39
Waltham Forest	0	0
Total	16	367

Note:

The team aims to provide as equal an amount of engagement in each borough as possible; however it should be noted that this is dependent on a variety of external factors, such as sufficient number of events being available in each borough, and internal capacity and an equal spread is not always possible. For example, Hackney and Waltham Forest Councils have the capacity to deliver recycling outreach internally and so will often share a recycling stall with NLWA officers who at the same time are promoting the food waste prevention message.

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