

NORTH LONDON WASTE AUTHORITY

REPORT TITLE:

OPERATIONAL UPDATES AND ANNUAL MONITORING REPORT

REPORT OF: HEAD OF OPERATIONS

FOR SUBMISSION TO:

AUTHORITY MEETING

DATE:

10 December 2015

SUMMARY OF REPORT:

This report informs Members about operational activities and associated issues dealt with by the Operations team of the Authority from April to September 2015, and it also notes the publication of the 2014/15 Annual Monitoring Report for the North London Joint Waste Strategy and the new 'Recycle for London' campaign.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

The Authority is recommended to:

- i. note the contents of this report;
- ii. note the publication of the 2014/15 Annual Monitoring Report of the North London Joint Waste Strategy.

SIGNED: _____ **Head of Operations**

DATE: 1 December 2015

1. BACKGROUND

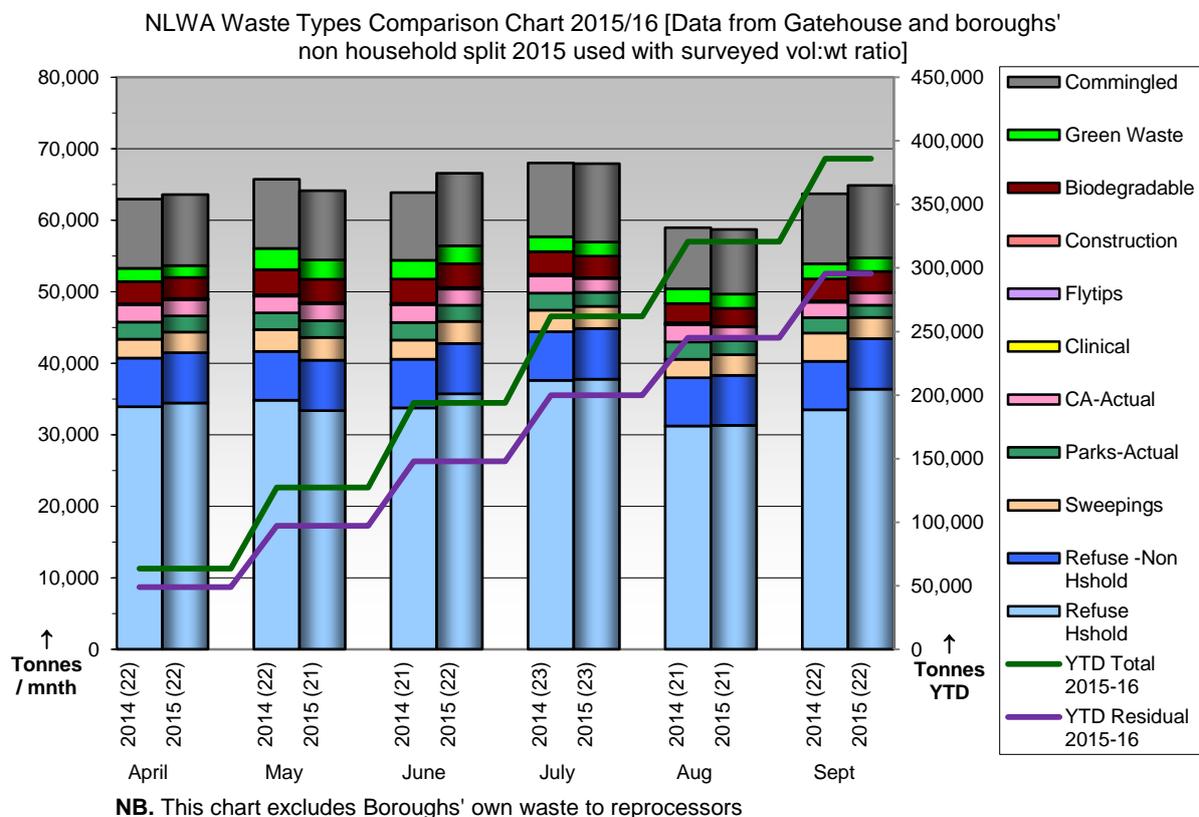
- 1.1. The Authority receives an operational update at each Authority meeting. In addition a fuller picture of the Authority's operational services is given twice each year. The first six months are reported on at the December meeting and the full year's activity is reported within the Annual Report at the Annual General Meeting each June.
- 1.2. The Operations team is responsible for managing contracts covering:
 - disposal of household, commercial and clinical waste collected by constituent borough councils;
 - the transport and disposal of residual waste from all Re-use and Recycling Centres (RRCs) in its area;
 - the operation of all but one of the RRCs, including all re-use and recycling activity;
 - the sorting of mixed dry recyclables collected by six constituent borough councils;
 - the composting or anaerobic digestion of mixed or separated green garden and food waste collected by six of the constituent borough councils;
 - the re-use and recycling of waste electrical and electronic equipment (WEEE); and
 - the recycling of dumped vehicle tyres.
- 1.3. The Operations team deals with enquiries from the public about the above services and also serves as the principal point of liaison between contractors and boroughs to resolve problems and find ways to improve existing services. It also assesses the practical implications of new legislation and investigates and secures new disposal methods/outlets as required.
- 1.4. It provides a full data reporting service on the Authority's operational activities to the boroughs and to central agencies.
- 1.5. A full description of the key sites and services is available in the Authority's Annual Report, as considered at the Authority's AGM in June and on the Authority's website (<http://www.nlwa.gov.uk/governance-and-accountability/annual-reports>).

2. OVERVIEW OF THE REPORT

- 2.1. This report is structured as follows:
 - A graph showing the first six months' tonnage information in 2015/16, compared to the same period in 2014/15 – Section 3.
 - An update on the performance of the Main Waste Contract – Section 4.
 - Updates on the "Second Time Around" re-use shop at the Kings Road Re-use and Recycling Centre (RRC) – Section 5.

- Update on the transfer of the Summers Lane Re-use and Recycling Centre (RRC) to the Authority – Section 6.
- Update on the increase in reported contamination levels of mixed dry recycling following the introduction of the MRF code of practice, market trends in relation to mixed dry recycling, that was more fully reported at the September meeting – Section 7.
- A note of other background activities – Section 8.
- A note of key elements of the 2014/15 Annual Monitoring Report (attached in full as Appendix 1) – Section 9.
- An update about the new Recycle for London campaign – Section 10

3. TONNAGE INFORMATION – April to September 2015



- 3.1. The columns in the above chart provide month-to-month comparisons with the same time last year for the various types of waste (reading from the left axis); the lines rising across the chart show the cumulative residual waste and total waste tonnes (reading from the right axis).
- 3.2. The chart shows that this year's tonnages are quite similar to the same period last year, both in terms of total quantity and the breakdown by the various types of waste.

4. MAIN WASTE CONTRACT

- 4.1. The main waste contract is monitored by the Operations team using random routine inspections of each LondonWaste Ltd (LWL) site. Bi-monthly contract liaison meetings are held with LWL to monitor and resolve issues under this contract. Between April and September 2015 a total of 211 visits were made across all LWL disposal sites and RRCs as well as the Material Recovery Facilities where boroughs deliver their mixed dry recycling.
- 4.2. Twenty-five defaults have been issued to LondonWaste Ltd in relation to the bulking and transport and RRC services they provide within the wider Main Waste Contract during this period. These have covered such matters as delays to borough collection vehicles and services not being provided in accordance with the contract terms.
- 4.3. General contract monitoring activity is on target and tonnages are within budget.

5. KINGS ROAD (CHINGFORD) RE-USE CENTRE

- 5.1. The shop, although operational (three days per week) since the 10th September 2015 was formally opened on the 14th November 2015 by the Chair and television personality Linda Barker. Takings have averaged £450 each week and the total weight of items reused each week has averaged 753kg. Preliminary awareness-raising took place before the launch, and more promotional activity is planned which should further increase takings and the amounts reused.

6. SUMMERS LANE (BARNET) RRC

- 6.1 The Authority commenced management of the site on the 4th October 2015 with operations being undertaken by LondonWaste Ltd under the Main Waste Contract.
- 6.2 The site is operating well with no complaints received.

7. MIXED DRY RECYCLING

- 7.1 As reported in more detail at the September 2015 meeting, the two materials recovery facility (MRF) contractors, having implemented the national MRF code of practice, are now supplying more detailed data about the quality of materials delivered. This is enabling the Authority to report to boroughs their individual contamination rates for their delivered mixed dry recyclables, which will then feed through into the boroughs' published recycling rates.

- 7.2 As a result of the increased level of inspection and analysis at the MRFs more incoming loads have been rejected, and reported contamination rates have increased. The overall quality of materials being delivered has not yet measurably improved, nor has the number of loads rejected since September decreased. However officers are continuing to work with MRF contractors, borough officers and LondonWaste Ltd to improve the quality of materials being delivered; this is principally through information on the specific collection vehicles that have delivered low quality loads, so that boroughs can look at where the materials were collected from.
- 7.3 Prices for secondary raw materials remain generally low, which has a direct impact on the amount of income the Authority receives from the MRF contractors. The Authority has regard to this income when setting the level of its contributions to relevant boroughs' additional costs of collection through the CIPS (Commingled Income Payment Scheme).

8. OTHER ACTIVITIES

- 8.1 The operations team also manages a range of other activities as below:
- the third party re-use and recycling credit scheme, under which the Authority pays to local charities its avoided cost of disposal when those charities divert household waste for re-use or recycling;
 - office IT systems and general office management;
 - data reporting on the Authority's operational activities to the Authority's finance team as well as to boroughs and to the national WasteDataFlow system;
 - liaison with borough Technical Officers and their staff on a day to day basis, on a range of operational and service development issues;
 - the research and implementation of new recycling opportunities (for example, the team is currently investigating recycling options for both detritus and street litter wastes); and
 - the preparation of the Annual Monitoring Report for the North London Joint Waste Strategy, described below.

9. ANNUAL MONITORING REPORT OF THE NORTH LONDON JOINT WASTE STRATEGY

- 9.1 In accordance with the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) directive an Annual Monitoring Report (AMR) is produced in relation to the North London Joint Waste Strategy. The AMR for 2014/15 produced for the Authority and the seven constituent Boroughs draws principally on data submitted by the Authority and the constituent borough councils to the national database 'WasteDataFlow', and has now been published and is available to Members on the Authority's website or in printed form on request. The AMR describes in facts and figures progress against the aims and objectives of the North London Joint Waste Strategy and the associated Strategic Environmental Assessment indicators.

- 9.2 The primary objective of the North London Joint Waste Strategy is to provide a recycling led solution to waste management in the area with the aim of achieving recycling and composting rates of 50% by 2020 and reducing the proportion of waste sent to landfill to 15%.
- 9.3 During 2014/15, a much greater focus continued to be given to waste prevention, both for the environmental benefits and the financial savings to local people (directly by spending and wasting less in their daily lives, and indirectly by the partner authorities spending less tax-payers money on waste services than they otherwise would have done). The Authority also delivered some communications activity to encourage increased recycling and reduced contamination; and started on the development of a more strategic three-year programme to raise recycling performance.
- 9.4 During 2014/15 the total amount of municipal waste collected by the partner authorities increased again from the previous year, with an increase of 8,991 tonnes to 845,043 tonnes. This increase may possibly be attributed to an increasing population, an increasing number of households and an improving economy.
- 9.5 490,485 tonnes of municipal residual waste (58%) was sent for energy recovery by incineration during 2014/15. This is a rise from the previous year when 399,184 tonnes of residual waste was sent for energy recovery. The amount of waste sent to landfill was 108,979 tonnes which was 13% of the total municipal waste arisings, a decrease of 91,895 tonnes from the previous year resulting in the 2020 target of 15% of wastes sent to landfill being achieved five years early. This change was partly due to slightly increased recycling, and partly to operational changes being introduced to reduce the amount of wastes landfilled.
- 9.6 701,980 tonnes of waste was collected from households during 2014/15. Of this, 233,973 tonnes was sent for re-use, recycling and composting. This represents 33% of the household waste stream and is an increase in the rate of 0.1% from the previous year. This was due to continuing efforts of the partner authorities to provide high quality recycling services and to encourage people to use them fully, and of course due to local residents' active participation in this too.
- 9.7 The environmental performance of the partner authorities continues to be positive too, as the AMR once again shows an increased net avoided burden (saving) of greenhouse gases from our municipal waste management services.

10. RECYCLE FOR LONDON CAMPAIGN

- 10.1 On 9 November, Resource London (a partnership between the Waste and Resources Action Programme and the London Waste and Recycling Board) re-launched the pan-London Recycle for London communications

programme, with their new 'Just One Thing' campaign to encourage Londoners to recycle more. The launch included a television interview at the Regis Road Re-use and Recycling Centre in Camden where London Waste & Recycling Board's chief operating officer, Wayne Hubbard, talked about the new campaign. The Authority's new joint recycling communications campaign will not be as instructional as the 'do just one thing extra to boost your personal recycling rate' message of the Resource London campaign, but NLWA has provided details of north London recycling and waste prevention activities for the new website and has re-tweeted the messages of the campaign. At this stage it is unclear what the amount of communication, such as transport advertising for example, that will be delivered by the campaign but progressively more detail about the campaign will be available at: <http://www.recycleforlondon.com/>.

11. RECOMMENDATIONS

11.1 The Authority is recommended to:

- i. note the contents of this report; and
- ii. note the publication of the 2014/15 Annual Monitoring Report of the North London Joint Waste Strategy.

12. COMMENTS OF THE FINANCIAL ADVISER

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

13. COMMENTS OF THE LEGAL ADVISER

13.1 The Legal 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: WasteDataFlow – national web-based waste data system available at <http://www.wastedataflow.org/>

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