

**NORTH LONDON WASTE AUTHORITY**

**REPORT TITLE:**

**JOINT WASTE STRATEGY UPDATE**

**REPORT OF:**

**HEAD OF WASTE STRATEGY AND CONTRACTS**

**FOR SUBMISSION TO:**

**AUTHORITY MEETING**

**DATE:**

**10<sup>th</sup> February 2010**

**SUMMARY OF REPORT:**

This report updates Members on progress made with implementing the North London Joint Waste Strategy (NLJWS) since the Authority meeting on 9<sup>th</sup> December 2009.

**RECOMMENDATION**

It is recommended that the Authority approves that a letter of support for the London Community Resource Network's bid for London Waste and Recycling Board funding, as described at paragraph 6.1, be sent by the Managing Director.

**Signed by Head of Waste Strategy  
and Contracts**

**Date: 1<sup>st</sup> February 2010**

## **1.0 BACKGROUND**

- 1.1 The North London Joint Waste Strategy (NLJWS), February 2009, provides the framework for progress towards reducing, reusing and recovering a greater proportion of the municipal waste which is generated in the North London Waste Authority area and reducing the amount which is sent for disposal to landfill. This report provides an update on progress made with implementing the NLJWS since the Authority meeting in December 2009.

## **2.0 STATUTORY REQUIREMENTS**

### **Waste Strategy for London**

- 2.1 The NLJWS is required to be in conformity with the Mayor of London's municipal waste management strategy for the capital, currently '*Rethinking Rubbish in London*', September 2003 approved by the former Mayor Livingstone. On 18<sup>th</sup> January 2010 Mayor Johnson published a new draft strategy for consultation, *The Mayor's Draft Municipal Waste Management Strategy, London's Wasted Resource*, which will later replace the current document.
- 2.2 The new draft municipal waste strategy for London is for consultation with the London Assembly and functional bodies, although anyone else can comment too. A further public consultation stage will take place later this year with the final new strategy anticipated to be published next winter. A separate report elsewhere on this Authority agenda takes an initial view on the substance of this matter.
- 2.3 It is expected that the Mayor of London will additionally publish a separate draft business waste strategy with a separate timetable for consultation and response.

### Stakeholder views

- 2.4 When the Authority agreed to cease funding to the Resource Forum<sup>1</sup> at the June 2009 Authority meeting, Members additionally agreed that officers should put forward alternative proposals for support of "other appropriate events or activities which meet partnership objectives". It was also agreed to delegate authority to the Head of Waste Strategy and Contracts, in consultation with the Chair and Group Leaders, to decide which events or activities to then provide or support.
- 2.5 It may be that an event that seeks the views of north London stakeholders from the community, public and private sectors on the Mayor's draft waste strategy will be considered appropriate.

### **London Plan**

- 2.6 Officers submitted the Authority's response to the draft replacement London Plan, as approved at the December 2009 Authority meeting and subsequently also sent a supplementary clarification letter in relation to solid recovered fuel (SRF) which is attached as Appendix 1.

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<sup>1</sup> Formerly the North London Recycling Forum

- 2.7 On 10<sup>th</sup> December the Mayor of London additionally issued a 'Minor Alteration' to the draft replacement London Plan for consultation. This minor alteration included:
- Revised borough level waste apportionment data, i.e. new projected borough-level waste arisings as well as apportionments of municipal solid waste and commercial/industrial waste that each borough is required to manage under the London Plan requirements.
  - Some corrections and clarifications to the text of the consultation draft Replacement London Plan were also included in the Minor Alteration.
- 2.8 Officers are responding to this consultation under authority delegated at the December 2009 Authority meeting. The response is expected to conclude that the waste growth projections being used in the Minor Alteration are broadly in line with the Authority's most recent projections, and that the risk of under-estimating waste growth brings the associated risk of London allocating insufficient land to meet its waste management needs.
- 2.9 These projections are also carried through into the revised draft municipal waste strategy for the capital.

### **North London Waste Plan Update**

- 2.10 The North London Waste Plan (NLWP) is the Joint Waste Development Plan Document for the Authority's area. It is being prepared by the seven constituent borough councils in their separate capacity as local planning authorities and sets out north London's collective approach to meeting the apportionment targets contained within the London Plan. Once completed, the NLWP will create the shared land-use planning framework for sites for all wastes (municipal, commercial and industrial, construction, demolition and excavation and hazardous) in North London up to 2021.
- 2.11 The Authority responded to the 'Preferred Options' public consultation on the NLWP on 24<sup>th</sup> November 2009. The next version of the Plan (submission version) is due to be published in late 2010.

## **3.0 WASTE HIERARCHY OPTIONS**

### **Waste Prevention**

- 3.1 The North London Waste Prevention Plan 2008-2010 sets out the short term plans for delivering on the waste prevention 'implementation actions' within the NLJWS. As the current work programme is coming to an end, a separate report elsewhere on this Authority agenda seeks approval for a new waste prevention plan 2010-12.

## Recycling - Progress to Date

3.2 Following publication of the Authority's first Annual Monitoring Report on progress towards achieving the targets and objectives of the NLJWS, Authority officers are maintaining the data on an ongoing basis to enable interim progress reports to be provided too where appropriate.

3.3 Table 1 below shows the subsequent progress, for quarters 1 and 2 of financial year 2009/10 (i.e. for the period 1<sup>st</sup> April to 30<sup>th</sup> September 2009) on recycling and composting as recorded for the National Indicators (NIs):

- NI 191 - Residual household waste per household
- NI 192 - Percentage of household waste sent for reuse, recycling and composting
- NI 193 - Percentage of municipal waste landfilled

**Table 1 – North London Waste Authority – Performance on Statutory Indicators Quarters 1 & 2 2008-09**

NI	NI Description	2006/07 BVPI	2007/08 BVPI	2008/09 NI	2009/10 Quarters 1 & 2
NI 191	Residual household waste/household	417kg (landfilled)	404kg (landfilled)	674.78kg (collected)	648.0 kg (collected)
NI 192	% of household waste sent for reuse, recycling and composting	22.82%	24.34%	27.69%	29.0%
NI 193	% of municipal waste landfilled	37.38%	36.26%	29.16% <sup>2</sup>	46.0%

### Notes:

BVPI – Best Value Performance Indicator. The previous national monitoring framework and indicator set for local authorities. The previous BVPI definitions are not directly comparable to the current NIs.

NI 191 – there was no previous BVPI figure for this but we reported on a local indicator (kg of household waste/household landfilled)

NI 192 – the previous BVPI figure did not include reuse.

NI 193 – the previous BVPI figure was based upon the percentage of *household* waste landfilled.

<sup>2</sup> The NI 193 figure quoted in the June 2009 Authority 'Joint Waste Strategy Update' was 32.79%. However, this was based on information contained in WasteDataFlow which was current at the time and which had not been fully audited and approved by the Environment Agency.. The figure in the strategy Annual Monitoring Report presented at the December 2009 Authority meeting is consistent with the above.

- 3.4 Whilst Table 1 clearly shows indications of continued improvements in recycling performance in north London, it also shows that the NLWA area is still six percentage points off the 35% recycling and composting target for this year (2010) which is set within the NLJWS. There is consequently a risk that the Partners will miss the first target within the adopted NLJWS for recycling and composting. This potential has however already been recognised and officers have been developing proposals for further improvements as reported previously and outlined below in paragraph 6.7.
- 3.5 The higher level of landfill than previously recorded arises from our main waste disposal contractor's previously reported technical difficulties.

#### **Recycling - Third Party Reuse and Recycling Credits**

- 3.6 A separate report on this Authority agenda provides details of the applications for registration to receive reuse and recycling credits for financial year 2010/11.

### **4.0 MANAGEMENT OF OTHER WASTE STREAMS**

#### **Waste Tyres**

- 4.1 An advertisement requesting expressions of interest from companies able to accept and process waste tyres will be issued shortly on behalf of those boroughs who require a service. Further updates will be provided at future Authority meetings as necessary.

#### **Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment (WEEE)**

- 4.2 The Authority's current zero value contract with the DHL compliance scheme for the free collection and recycling of waste electrical and electronic equipment from the north London household waste recycling centres and other 'designated collection facilities' on behalf of the constituent borough councils includes an extension clause. Written confirmation of borough approval to continue the current arrangement for the period from 10<sup>th</sup> May 2010, when the current contract expires, to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2010 is currently being sought. It is anticipated that a new procurement exercise will be undertaken later this year for commencement on 1<sup>st</sup> January 2011.

#### **Waste Batteries**

- 4.3 Waste batteries are not included in the Authority's current WEEE contract, so the constituent borough councils currently make their own arrangements in this regard. However, producer responsibility legislation means that portable waste batteries may also be collected by battery compliance schemes free of charge.

- 4.4 Since the last Authority meeting Defra has introduced a new black and yellow battery recycling brand entitled 'be-positive'. Previously several authorities had been using standard WRAP iconography for waste electrical and electronic equipment to promote battery recycling. Local authorities and retailers wishing to promote battery recycling now have a choice of branding that they can use. Hopefully this does not dilute or confuse promotional or educational messages given to the public.

## **5.0 IMPLEMENTING THE BEST OPTION FOR NORTH LONDON**

### **Waste Collection Implications – Reuse and Recycling Centres**

- 5.1 Authority and borough officers have been considering the best on-going approach to the Expression of Interest (Eoi) that had been submitted by the Authority to the London Waste and Recycling Board (LWaRB) for the upgrade and expansion of north London's reuse and recycling centre network. The difficulties that the levying arrangements impose in relation to ensuring equity in a situation where some boroughs have no reuse and recycling centres and others have two or three have previously been noted and it may yet be the case that a suite of coordinated borough-led bids is considered to be a better approach than a bid which was led by the Authority. LWaRB officers indicated that such a revised approach was likely to be acceptable.
- 5.2 Subsequently one borough has expressed an interest in progressing with this approach and a further meeting and subsequent correspondence with LWaRB officers has taken place. It has to be noted however, that a single borough bid is less likely to be successful as LWaRB criteria favour partnerships and new reprocessing facilities.
- 5.3 A new LWaRB business plan is due to be published for financial year 2010/11. It is proposed that the Authority and the constituent boroughs review the current Eoi following publication of the new plan.
- 5.4 Separately, work has commenced on producing an independent valuation of all the reuse and recycling centres with a view to developing a business case for assessing the possible rationale for a transfer of sites to the Authority, as previously discussed.

## **6.0 WORKING IN PARTNERSHIP TO DELIVER THE STRATEGY**

### **Furniture Reuse**

- 6.1 The London Community Resource Network (LCRN) is currently seeking LWaRB support for an Integrated London Reuse Network. The proposal includes an integrated network of reuse facilities working together in a coordinated system to hold commonly owned assets and deliver public and commercial reuse services; owned and managed through a dedicated Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV). The aim of the Integrated London Reuse Network is to provide a more consistent reuse service across the capital with an increased amount of material both collected and reused. The proposals fit well with the new draft municipal waste strategy for London and with work carried out to date in north London. The north London work, which has been funded by the Authority, indicates that there is a capacity gap in terms of the

ability for the existing organisations in north London to collect sufficient material to maximise reuse. The LCRN proposals would go some way towards resolving this capacity gap and would also enable centralised publicity campaigns to be undertaken to raise awareness of residents about the reuse services available to them. The current scope of the proposals includes furniture, white goods (such as fridge and freezers) and other electrical goods. In the longer term the service may be expanded to incorporate textiles.

- 6.2 It is recommended that the Authority approves that a letter of support for the London Community Resource Network's bid for London Waste and Recycling Board funding, as described at paragraph 6.1, be sent by the Managing Director.

### Community Projects Fund

- 6.3 The Authority has a £25,000 Community Projects Fund to support community organisations delivering reuse, recycling or composting projects which meet certain criteria<sup>3</sup>. Since the last Authority meeting, the following applications have been received and reviewed for support under delegated authority. Whilst the final decision on each application has not yet been finalised at the time of writing, the table below provides more detail on the applications received.

<b>BOROUGH</b>	<b>AMOUNT</b>	<b>DESCRIPTION</b>	<b>RECOMMENDATION</b>
Barnet	£3,132	Food waste reduction shows in schools	Support
Camden	£2,129	In-school composting	Support
Enfield		Bid received and being evaluated	
Hackney	£3,090	Community composting requested by a local tenants and residents' association	Support (subject to waste licence exemption)
Haringey*	£1,970 - £2,570	Community composting at an allotment site	Support
Islington	£3,887	Replacement batteries for not-for-profit re-usable nappy laundry service (serves Camden and Hackney too)	Support at year-end if monies are remaining
Waltham Forest	£4,164	In-school composting (meat waste included)	Support (subject to open day, home promotions and case study document)
<b>Total</b>	<b>£18,372 - £18,972</b>		
Balance	£6,028- £6,628		

\* There is a range within the Haringey bid, as they have not yet been able to finalise one element of their costs from an outside supplier.

- 6.4 All applications are put forward by the constituent boroughs on behalf of local community groups or schools.
- 6.5 The balance of funding remaining, should the above proposals be approved for support, is a maximum of £6,628. This balance will be retained until 31<sup>st</sup> March 2010. An additional bid from the London

<sup>3</sup> As in Appendix 1 of the North London Joint Waste Strategy Update report, September 2009.

Borough of Enfield (for £3,975) is currently progressing through the application process, which may reduce this balance.

- 6.6 The Community Projects Fund has recently been highlighted nationally as a case study by WRAP and included in their online Waste Prevention Toolkit.

### **Borough Partnership Working**

6.7 In order to lead and co-ordinate the activities of the seven constituent borough councils and the Authority, an officer group called the 50% Group has been established by directors of environment to whom it regularly reports. Islington's Director of Environment is the Group's Chair.

6.7 This Group has recently reviewed the potential for introducing mattress recycling in north London. Hackney is running a trial, the results of which will be presented to the other six boroughs.

6.8 Separately presentations have been given by two other borough councils both good performers in terms of recycling and composting, to look at lessons that could be learned. A presentation has also been provided by RecycleBank who run a recycling performance reward scheme, currently being used in the Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead. Further feedback on its applicability to multiple occupancy premises is awaited.

### **7.0 RECOMMENDATION**

7.1 It is recommended that the Authority approves that a letter of support for the London Community Resource Network's bid for London Waste and Recycling Board funding, as described at paragraph 6.1, be sent by the Managing Director.

### **8.0 COMMENTS OF THE FINANCIAL ADVISER**

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

### **9.0 COMMENTS OF THE LEGAL ADVISER**

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

## **Local Government Act 1972 – Access to information**

**Documents used:** North London Joint Waste Strategy, February 2009, available at [http://www.nlwa.gov.uk/aboutus/our\\_strategy](http://www.nlwa.gov.uk/aboutus/our_strategy)

North London Waste Prevention Plan, 2008-2010, available at <http://www.nlwa.gov.uk/yourwaste>

The London Plan, Spatial Development Strategy for Greater London, Consultation draft replacement plan, October 2009

Rethinking Rubbish in London, The Mayor's Municipal Waste Management Strategy, Mayor of London, September 2003

The Mayor's Draft Municipal Waste Management Strategy – London's Wasted Resource, Mayor of London, January 2010

*The Community Projects Fund North London Waste Authority, (case study) WRAP Waste Prevention Toolkit, available online at: [http://www.wrap.org.uk/applications/waste\\_prevention\\_toolkit/page.rm?id=26789](http://www.wrap.org.uk/applications/waste_prevention_toolkit/page.rm?id=26789) under 'Community Engagement'*

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**Supplementary Clarification Letter of Response to the London Plan  
Consultation**

Boris Johnson  
Mayor of London  
(Replacement London Plan)  
FREEPOST 15799  
GLA City Hall  
Post point 19B  
The Queen's Walk  
London SE1 2BR

8<sup>th</sup> January 2010

Dear Mayor Johnson,

**Public consultation on the Draft replacement London Plan – Additional  
comment regarding paragraph 5.73**

Thank you for providing us with the opportunity to respond to the consultation on the above. The North London Waste Authority has already submitted a response to the consultation in December 2009, but would additionally like to provide this further clarification and additional comment in relation to paragraph 5.73 of the consultation draft replacement plan.

In paragraph 2.5 of our already submitted response from Cllr. Clyde Loakes we note that:

“The change within the consultation draft London Plan for SRF production within London to be counted as waste being managed within London, is however a potentially very beneficial change for the Authority because it would assist the area in meeting self sufficiency targets and accordingly this change is supported.”

We wish to reiterate the above point and additionally comment as follows:

*“The change within the consultation draft London Plan for SRF production within London to be counted as waste being managed within London is, a potentially very beneficial change for the Authority because it would assist the area in meeting self sufficiency.”*

*However, the Authority is concerned about the proviso which suggests that only SRF that is a ‘biomass fuel’ as defined in the Renewables Obligation Order (ROO) will be considered.*

*Ofgem, the regulatory body of the ROO has deemed SRF as 50% biomass content, which on its own, does not meet the definition of biomass fuel. Biomass fuel as defined in the ROO is one which has 90% biomass content. Even if the biomass content of SRF is greater than 50% and through production, a biomass content of 90% is achieved, the SRF will still be deemed at 50% unless stringent tests are carried out to prove otherwise. These testing procedures are expensive and coupled with the additional cost of production that may be required to achieve an SRF biomass content of 90% means value for money is unlikely.*

*The Authority is seeking to produce an SRF with a minimum biomass content of 50%. This coupled with good quality CHP means that the Authority should achieve ROCs with conventional technology and double the amount with advanced technology*

*The Authority would therefore like the London Plan to recognise that the 50% biomass within SRF is deemed as renewable and will achieve ROCs on the renewable portion”.*

I would like to reiterate again that we welcome the revision to the London Plan and in particular the increased focus upon climate change that is included within the draft Plan. We would also be keen to give oral evidence at the forthcoming Examination in Public on the revised Plan.

If you require clarification on any of the points raised, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,

**Andrew Lappage**  
**Head of Waste Strategy and Contracts**

**Report Ends**