

This is a review of waste policies in England. Some of these policies originate from, or are influenced by relevant EU or international legislation, for example the Landfill Directive or the revised Waste Framework Directive. This review will work within the context of the current state of EU and international law. However, the review may influence the Government's approach to implementation of our legal obligations and future negotiations.

Waste is a devolved matter, and in other parts of the United Kingdom is the responsibility of the devolved administrations. Defra keeps in close touch with the devolved administrations on matters of mutual interest, including EU negotiation and transposition. The review will consider whether lessons can be learned from experience in other parts of the UK.

Waste and related fiscal interventions are a separate matter for the Chancellor of the Exchequer, but Treasury will be closely associated with the Review to ensure coherence.

### **How?**

Defra as the Department responsible for waste policy will lead the review, working closely with other Departments, including DECC which leads on energy and climate change policy, CLG which leads on local government, communities and planning and BIS which leads on low carbon business opportunities, as well as the devolved administrations who lead on waste policy in their countries.

Defra will also be seeking the widest possible input into this review from interested parties starting with businesses, householders and local communities and also including:

- public bodies, including the Environment Agency, LGA, Local Authorities, Regional Improvement and Efficiency Partnerships (RIEPS), WRAP;
- private suppliers and funders of waste services and waste infrastructure;
- representatives from business and commerce;
- representatives of consumers, environmental NGOS and the voluntary and community sector, and academic and professional bodies; and

### **When?**

The Government intends to start the review immediately, and is issuing a call for evidence in July 2010. The intention is to produce preliminary findings by Spring 2011.



## APPENDIX E

### GLA ASSEMBLY INQUIRY INTO 'WHY DO RECYCLING RATES VARY SO WIDELY ACROSS LONDON?'

#### 1. Introduction

Report 11 of The Assembly Environment Committee, 15<sup>th</sup> July 2010 outlines the detail of the proposed Inquiry. The purpose of Inquiry is to seek to better understand the role a 'small number of specific factors (local views, waste management arrangements and financial drivers) might play in influencing recycling performance at a borough level and to identify practical interventions to help improve recycling rates.'

#### 2. Current Performance

The report notes that whilst recycling and composting of municipal waste in the capital has improved significantly over the last decade, increasing from eight percent in 2000/01 to 29 percent in 2008/09 this increase is short of the national average and leaves London as the worst performing region in England and a poor comparator internationally.

However, the report also notes that the overall London figure masks a marked variance in household recycling and composting rates across the 33 boroughs. Current figures show a difference of 35 percent between the lowest and highest recycling rates achieved – 15 and 50 percent respectively.

#### 3. Challenges for London

The report notes that the available research indicates that there is no single variable or characteristic that can explain in full the variation in recycling rates across London boroughs. The report notes that the Mayor is keen to capture the economic benefits of waste management and the draft municipal waste management strategy for the capital lists some of these including:

- A potential saving of £70 million by avoiding gate fees if a market for materials and energy from municipal waste and giving them a value to business in the sector is realised.
- The potential to generate 350 green jobs and £13 million of direct Gross Value Added each year to 2025 if municipal waste is managed in the most carbon efficient and economically beneficial way.
- After maximising recycling it is estimated that London's municipal waste could contribute savings for £80 million to London's £4 billion electricity bill, and £24 million to London's £2.6 billion gas bill.

