

NORTH LONDON WASTE AUTHORITY

REPORT TITLE:
JOINT WASTE STRATEGY UPDATE

REPORT OF:
HEAD OF WASTE STRATEGY AND CONTRACTS

FOR SUBMISSION TO: AUTHORITY MEETING	DATE: 11 th February 2009
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SUMMARY OF REPORT:

This report updates members on progress made with implementing the North London Joint Waste Strategy (NLJWS) since the Authority meeting on 10th December 2008. The report includes an update on approvals of the final amendments to the NLJWS; notes progress with the North London Waste Plan; provides details of the Authority’s short-term procurement of ‘commingled’ materials sorting and recycling services; provides details of the Authority’s short-term procurement of organics processing services and provides an update on future proposals from the Resource Forum for further funding.

RECOMMENDATION

The Authority is recommended to note this report.

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

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Date:

1.0 BACKGROUND

- 1.1 The North London Joint Waste Strategy (NLJWS), June 2008, 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 2008. The structure of the report follows the structure of the strategy itself.

2.0 STRATEGIC ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT OF THE NORTH LONDON JOINT WASTE STRATEGY AND PROGRESS TOWARDS STRATEGY ADOPTION

- 2.1 As reported at the last Authority meeting, some minor amendments to the NLJWS were proposed as a result of the constituent borough councils' consideration of the NLJWS and SEA environmental report. Primarily these related to a correction regarding London Recycling Fund support provided to the London Borough of Waltham Forest in Chapter 1 and changes resulting from an Equalities Impact Assessment (EqIA) which was subsequently carried out on the strategy.
- 2.2 These proposed amendments are now being reviewed under delegated authority within each of the constituent borough councils. Six out of the seven borough councils and the Authority have approved these last minor amendments, but at the time of writing this report, final approval from one of the constituent borough councils is still awaited. The NLJWS cannot be formally approved and adopted as a joint strategy until these minor amendments have been agreed by all partners.

3.0 STATUTORY REQUIREMENTS

North London Waste Plan

- 3.1 Progress on the North London Waste Plan (NLWP) – the land-use planning framework for waste in North London – which is being prepared by the seven constituent borough councils in their capacities as planning authorities is reported six monthly to Members.
- 3.2 Since the last full Authority report on this matter, the timetable for producing the North London Waste Plan has altered. The revised timetable is outlined below, with the next step being publication of the Preferred Options report. This will identify the shortlist of preferred locations suitable for waste facilities, which is then subject to public consultation and review.

North London Waste Plan Timetable

1. Preparatory work on Issues and Options – 2007 (completed)
2. Consultation on Issues and Options – Jan/Feb 2008 (completed)
3. Consultation on Preferred Options – May/June 2009
4. Pre-submission consultation – February/March 2010

5. Submit to Government –14th July 2010
6. Examination in public – October 2010
7. Report from planning inspector – February 2011
8. Adoption of plan – June 2011

3.3 The NLWP will clearly have implications for the development of new municipal waste facilities in North London, and as such is being monitored by officers.

4.0 WASTE HIERARCHY OPTIONS

Waste Minimisation – Waste Prevention Plan

4.1 A separate report is included elsewhere on this agenda regarding current activities and future proposals for waste prevention activity.

5.0 IMPLEMENTING THE BEST PRACTICABLE ENVIRONMENTAL OPTION FOR NORTH LONDON

Waste Disposal Implications - Dry Recyclable Wastes – Procurement of Services

- 5.1 At the present time, the Authority has a three month rolling contract with LondonWaste Ltd, which in turn has three separate contracts with third party materials recovery facilities for commingled materials sorting and recycling services. The service is only used by those constituent borough councils which collect commingled dry recyclable waste and deliver it to the Authority for processing and is currently anticipated to amount to up to 60,000 tonnes in financial year 2008/09.
- 5.2 As reported at the September 2008 Authority meeting, officers have been preparing contract documents for the re-procurement of these services.
- 5.3 The Authority placed a Contract Notice in the Official Journal of the European Union (OJEU) on 27th November 2008 to formally advertise the tender for capacity to process commingled material collected by the NLWA boroughs at merchant materials recovery facilities (MRFs). The deadline for submission of pre-qualification questionnaire responses was on 16th January 2009.
- 5.4 It is the Authority's intention for a shortlist of tenderers to be compiled following pre-qualification questionnaire evaluation. The successful prospective tenderers will then be invited to submit tender proposals for final evaluation. Officers intend to visit proposed facilities put forward by tenderers as part of the evaluation process.
- 5.5 Following this final evaluation of tender proposals it is the intention to select a preferred processing contractor or contractors for processing the Authority's commingled material. It is anticipated that processing contracts will commence close to 1st October 2009 and will continue until 15th December 2014, with the option of extending beyond this date for a period of up to five years.

- 5.6 A final decision regarding contract award will be brought to Members for consideration and approval at the June 2009 Authority meeting.
- 5.7 Whilst the current market conditions for recyclables trading, and particularly the prices being paid for recyclable material, are relatively poor at present, the initial response received by prospective tenderers has been positive. Officers are therefore hopeful of a competitive price(s) and services being obtained in order to secure best value for the Authority and its constituent boroughs in the period running up to December 2014, when the Authority's main waste disposal contract comes to an end.
- 5.8 It should also be noted that LB Enfield is testing the market separately from the Authority for the same waste stream. This is to satisfy itself that it pursues the best option for Enfield residents.
- 5.9 In the period post 2014 it is proposed to secure recyclables processing services through the long-term procurement work being delivered by the Procurement Team. The above contract extension provisions will provide for any delay, should this arise.

Waste Disposal Implications – Organic Wastes – Procurement of Services

- 5.10 Since September 2005 the Authority has arranged with LondonWaste Ltd for the treatment by in-vessel composting at Edmonton of up to 30,000 tonnes per annum of separately collected kitchen and garden wastes that is delivered by the constituent borough councils. This arrangement is contracted until the end of the Main Waste Disposal Contract with LondonWaste Ltd in December 2014.
- 5.11 Since June 2007 excessive quantities of waste delivered to the facility have been transferred from Edmonton to several third parties for treatment. The amounts transferred under this arrangement were initially small but are now in excess of 8,000 tonnes per annum. This amount is predicted to grow significantly in the next few years as the constituent borough councils continue to expand their organics recycling collection services.
- 5.12 The necessary statutory notice has been served on the London Mayor, and it is hoped that a recommendation to award a contract(s) will be brought to Members for consideration and approval at the September 2009 Authority meeting with deliveries commencing under the new contract(s) on 01 January 2010 and ending in December 2014.
- 5.13 In the period post December 2014 it is proposed to secure biodegradable waste processing services through the long-term procurement work being delivered by the Procurement Team, but provision for contract extensions will be included to deal with any delay, should this arise.

- 5.14 Whilst the current market conditions for dry recyclables trading, and particularly the prices being paid for dry recyclable material, are relatively poor at present, there is no evidence that this will affect the Authority's ability to procure the service for organics processing. Officers are hopeful of a competitive price(s) and services being obtained in order to secure best value for the Authority and its constituent boroughs in the period running up to December 2014, when the Authority's main waste disposal contract comes to an end.

6.0 WORKING IN PARTNERSHIP TO DELIVER THE STRATEGY

Third Party Recycling Credits

- 6.1 There is a separate report elsewhere on this agenda regarding new applications from third party organisations working in North London and wishing to register to claim third party recycling credits from the Authority for financial year 2009/10. This report also details progress with recycling being made by organisations registered to receive credits in financial year 2008/09.

Community Fund

- 6.2 The Authority has a £25,000 Community Fund available to support community organisations delivering reuse, recycling or composting projects which meet certain criteria as outlined in the Joint Waste Strategy Update Report of 12th December 2007. At the Authority meeting in December 2007, Members also agreed to delegate authority to the Head of Waste Strategy and Contracts in consultation with the Chair and Group Leaders to approve direct financial support to borough community incentives meeting the Authority's published criteria within the above budget for 2008-09.
- 6.3 Although no awards had been made up until December 2008, since the last Authority meeting, three applications for funding community composting projects have been received from two constituent boroughs in partnership with local community organisations. Two applications are from Camden and one from Enfield. The total value of applications is £6,919.99 and preliminary analysis shows they appear to fulfil the agreed eligibility criteria:
- 6.4 They will be decided upon as above and, if possible a verbal update on progress will be provided at the Authority meeting.

The Resource Forum

- 6.5 The Resource Forum (formerly the North London Recycling Forum), was established in 2001 at an event jointly hosted by the NLWA and LondonWaste Limited (LWL). The aim of the Resource Forum is to provide a forum where government, business, academia and the community sector can come together to work on addressing waste avoidance, recycling and management in London.
- 6.6 Since that initial meeting, eleven Resource Forum events have been held with the most recent being in December 2008. Throughout this time, the Authority has co-sponsored the Forum with LWL on an equal basis.

6.7 While the Resource Forum is not a constituted body, it operates independently of the two lead sponsorship organisations. It has an elected Chair, a part-time Co-ordinator and a Steering Group that includes the Co-ordinator and representatives from:

- Centre for Environment and Safety Management for Business (Middlesex university);
- Lawrence M. Barry & Co. (textile recycling);
- London Community Recycling Network;
- LWL;
- Market Ecology (a market consultancy, specialising in the environmental sector);
- NLWA; and
- TRAIID (textile recycling).

6.8 The Forum has delivered on its commitments to the Authority for calendar year 2008, which consisted of delivering two networking events in North London and producing a website. In addition the Forum also delivered an event on business waste in February 2008 and a launch event announcing the change of name and expansion of the Forum's remit from North London to the whole of the capital. However, existing Authority approval for funds for the Resource Forum ceased at the end of December 2008. The 2008/09 budget allows for this commitment.

6.9 The Forum was given the opportunity to seek some subsequent short term funding of an additional £3,000 for January-March 2009, but following dialogue it has been agreed that the Forum will instead put forward longer term proposals, (a business plan and sponsorship request), for 2009/10. These proposals are expected shortly and will be presented to the April Authority meeting. The 2009/10 budget included elsewhere on this Authority agenda provides for this.

6.10 The Board of LondonWaste Ltd has already agreed to sponsor the Forum for the calendar year 2009.

7.0 RECOMMENDATION

7.1 The Authority is recommended to note this report.

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, June 2008

Joint Waste Strategy Update, report to the North London Waste Authority meeting of 12th December 2007, available at www.nlwa.gov.uk

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