

Agenda Item No:

**NORTH LONDON WASTE AUTHORITY**

**REPORT TITLE: AN ECONOMIC VISION FOR THE UPPER LEE VALLEY**

**REPORT OF:**

**HEAD OF WASTE STRATEGY & CONTRACTS**

**FOR SUBMISSION TO:**

**AUTHORITY MEETING**

**DATE:**

**9<sup>th</sup> December 2009**

**SUMMARY OF REPORT:**

The Upper Lee Valley Partnership has produced an Economic Vision for regenerating the area. This report advises Members of the details, the opportunities for the Authority and the Boroughs and the involvement of Authority Officers to date.

**RECOMMENDATION**

It is recommended that the Authority notes this report.

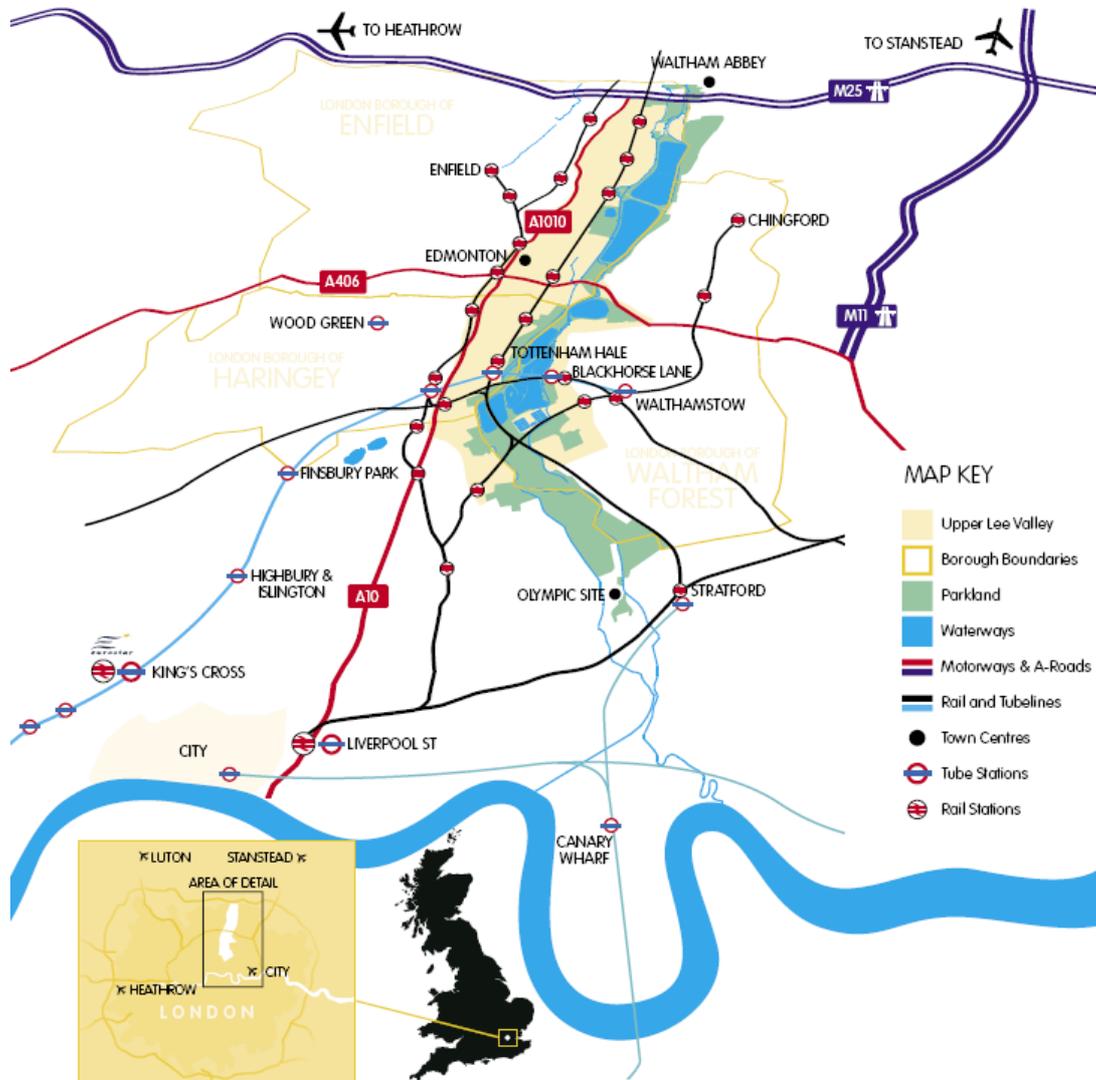
**Signed by:**  
**Head of Waste Strategy & Contracts**

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**Date: 30<sup>th</sup> November 2009**

## 1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 The Upper Lee Valley Partnership was formed by the London Boroughs of Enfield, Haringey and Waltham Forest together with the Lee Valley Regional Park and North London Business. The intention of the partnership is to transform the prospects for the Upper Lee Valley, London's largest Opportunity Area. The vision for transforming the area was agreed by the partnership with the Mayor of London and the London Development Agency in 2007.
- 1.2 The Upper Lee Valley runs through Haringey, Enfield and Waltham Forest with Hackney linking it to the Lower Lea. The area is by far the largest Opportunity Area in the London Plan covering some 3,000 hectares.



## 2.0 Economic Vision

2.1 The Upper Lee Valley Partnership has published a document entitled “An Economic Future for the Upper Lee Valley”. This publication states that the area is recognised for the quality of its environment symbolised by the Lee Valley Regional Park and as a centre of excellence for green and environmental industries. There are also plans to attract higher education presence to support a skilled workforce and develop a “green” agenda around energy and waste with the planned business and housing growth.

2.1 The perceived benefits of the Vision are

15,000 jobs by 2026 in new or existing economic sectors; halving unemployment by getting people into work education or training.

A significant upskilling of the labour force, reducing by a third the percentage of residents with no qualifications and increasing by 50% the percentage of residents with qualifications above Level 4.

Sustained population growth through the creation of new communities and a more balanced population mix.

2.2 The Economic Vision contains four strategies that are intended to unlock the potential of the Upper Lee Valley Opportunity Area.

A Green and Blue Strategy  
The Knowledge Economy  
The Lifestyle Economy  
Making and Moving

2.3 A Green and Blue Strategy is about improving access to and the use of the parklands and waterways in the area. Specific projects under consideration include proposals to develop a **Walthamstow Wetlands Centre** and improve access to the Lee Valley Regional Park.

2.4 The Knowledge Economy is a vision to secure higher/further education investment in the area to secure skills higher up the educational scale, to provide a focus for knowledge related industries to be attracted to the area and improve the links between research and industry. It is intended that the vision will build upon links between **Middlesex University’s Centre for Sustainable and Energy Management for Business** and **the LondonWaste EcoPark** to develop the resource management sector and green technologies.

- 2.5 The Lifestyle Economy focuses on the potential to strengthen the local and London *visitor* economy, the 2012 legacy and the economic benefits of new housing. The aim is to build upon the Olympics 2012 legacy and improve **existing assets, facilities and attractions** and raise the profile of the area. The stated intention is to work with the Lee Valley Regional Park Authority to encourage and develop new visitor attractions, building on the natural assets, industrial heritage and speciality sectors that have **green technology and energy production**.
- 2.6 The Making and Moving strategy aims to work with the existing industrial sector in the Upper Lee Valley to maintain the strong position of existing companies. In particular the strategy focuses on advanced manufacturing, logistics and production, energy generation, green technologies and resource management.
- 2.7 The Upper Lee Valley Partnership has produced a brochure and a website to publicise their work and encourage participation in the vision. This can be viewed at

[www.upperleevalley.org.uk](http://www.upperleevalley.org.uk)

### **3.0 Significance to the Authority and the Boroughs.**

- 3.1 The Authority has an interest in the work of the Upper Lee Valley Partnership for several reasons:

Three of the constituent Boroughs (Enfield, Haringey and Waltham Forest) are directly involved in the partnership.

The North London Joint Waste Strategy has the following objective and implementation actions that could be realised by the work of the Upper Lee Valley Partnership.

Objective:

To maximise all opportunities for local regeneration.

Implementation Action 7B2

The Partner Authorities undertake to develop sufficient waste treatment facilities as are necessary to ensure that the purchase of additional Landfill Allowances is avoided wherever possible having regard to the proposed North London Joint Development Plan and the best option identified within this strategy.

## Implementation Action 8C2

The Partner Authorities will seek to ensure that sufficient household, commercial and industrial waste management sites are provided in North London through development of the North London Joint Development Plan.

## Implementation Action 8F1

The Partner Authorities will work closely with London Remade, the private sector and other agencies to encourage the development of new processing infrastructure in North London and will seek to maximise the regeneration potential of these projects.

- 3.2 Authority officers have been engaging with the recent work of the Upper Lee Valley Partnership, as has LondonWaste Ltd, in order to identify synergies and obtain maximum mutual benefit from the new framework. The Authority's need to divert increased amounts of waste from landfill is likely to require investment in new waste treatment technologies that will require more skilled staff. These requirements match the ambitions of the Upper Lee Valley Partnership to attract investment in green technology, sustaining employment and improving the skills of the workforce.
- 3.3 Liaison will therefore continue in order to maximise the benefits of Authority-sponsored developments in the Partnership's area.

## **4.0 Recommendation**

- 4.1 It is recommended that the Authority notes this report.

## **5.0 Legal Adviser's comments**

- 5.1 The Legal Adviser has no comments to add.

## **6.0 Financial Adviser's comments**

- 6.1 The Financial Adviser has no comments to add.

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

**Documents used:** North London Joint Waste Strategy, February 2009  
An Economic Future for the Upper Lee Valley – published  
by the Upper Lee Valley Partnership 2009

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**REPORT ENDS**