

NORTH LONDON WASTE AUTHORITY

REPORT TITLE:

JOINT WASTE STRATEGY UPDATE

REPORT OF:

HEAD OF WASTE STRATEGY AND CONTRACTS

FOR SUBMISSION TO:

AUTHORITY MEETING

DATE:

25th June 2008

SUMMARY OF REPORT:

This report updates members on progress made with implementing the North London Joint Waste Strategy (NLJWS) since the last Authority meeting on 16th April 2008. The report includes an update on waste prevention activities; provides details of additional funding and support available from central government; provides an update on Compost Awareness Week; and recommends a process for responding to constituent borough councils' consultations on local area agreement targets involving waste.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Authority is recommended to:

- i) delegate authority to the Head of Waste Strategy and Contracts to submit a bid to the Waste and Resources Action Programme (WRAP) for communications support in 2008/09, if a suitable project is identified;
- ii) delegate authority to the Head of Waste Strategy and Contracts, in consultation with the Chair, to submit a response to any Local Area Agreement proposals made by the constituent borough councils which involve a waste indicator.

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

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Date:

1.0 BACKGROUND

- 1.1 The 'Mayor's Draft' North London Joint Waste Strategy (NLJWS), September 2004, 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 last Authority meeting in April 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 The draft joint waste strategy was prepared by the eight partners (the seven North London constituent borough councils and the North London Waste Authority) in 2003 and 2004 setting out the partners' plans for managing waste between 2004 and 2020. It concluded in 2004 that the partners should implement serious waste prevention measures, that a target should be set to recycle or compost 45% of household waste and that we should divert from landfill (initially through the Edmonton energy-from-waste facility and later through other new facilities) as much waste as necessary to avoid fines arising from the Landfill Directive; and importantly it concluded that this should be carried out in partnership in order to secure optimum economies of scale and to minimise impacts on local residents.
- 2.2 The draft NLJWS includes actions to minimise waste at source and to encourage reuse as priorities in preference to recycling, composting and energy recovery. This approach is in line with national and Europe wide approaches to municipal waste management strategies, which are based upon the 'waste hierarchy', putting waste avoidance at the 'top' of the hierarchy as the 'best' thing to do and landfill disposal at the 'bottom' of the hierarchy as the worst solution for managing waste.

Details of the NLJWS Consultation Process

- 2.3 The NLJWS has recently needed updating and finalisation, and because the strategy had not been formally adopted it was also necessary to undertake a Strategic Environmental Assessment or 'SEA' of the strategy before doing so.
- 2.4 Although the NLJWS was produced in 2004, it was not approved for submission to the London Mayor by all partners until 2006 and only once all eight partners had done this did the London Mayor prepare his formal comments which were received in December of that year, after the deadline date for final implementation of the requirements of the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Directive in the UK.

- 2.5 This new legislation meant that it was necessary to carry out a SEA of the NLJWS in addition to the original 'Best Practicable Environmental Option', BPEO assessment which had been undertaken in 2003/04 when the strategy was first prepared. A SEA assesses the environmental impact of implementing a strategy and provides recommendations for amending the strategy involved so that the environmental impact can be reduced.
- 2.6 Following an initial **screening** exercise to assess if a SEA is required, a SEA follows a number of stages:
- The first stage is to prepare a **scoping report**, which must be sent to a number of statutory consultees.
 - Following this stage a **SEA Environmental Report** must be produced and issued for public consultation, along with the draft strategy on which the SEA is being undertaken.
 - Following consideration of the comments received via the public consultation process, a **revised strategy** must be produced.
 - Then, both the strategy and accompanying Environmental Report must be adopted and a **statement of consultation** produced showing how comments from the consultation process have been incorporated into the final report.
- 2.7 A SEA budget was approved by the Authority for 2007/08 and the first stage scoping report was issued for consultation with the statutory consultees, (English Heritage, Natural England and the Environment Agency) between 10th September and 15th October 2007. The comments received from the statutory consultees and from the London Mayor who was also consulted at the same time, were incorporated into a revised scoping report and are outlined on the Authority's website at www.nlwa.gov.uk.
- 2.8 Following amendments to the scoping report a SEA Environmental Report, which outlines the key environmental impacts of the NLJWS and suggested measures for mitigating these impacts, has been produced and the resultant changes to the NLJWS drafted in a 'SEA Draft' NLJWS.
- 2.9 Additional updates to the strategy have also been incorporated into the SEA Draft to take account of developments and other changes since 2004.

Update since the last Authority meeting

- 2.10 Since the last Authority meeting, the 'SEA Draft' NLJWS and the SEA Environmental Report have been circulated to all partner authorities for comment and approval. Both documents were approved by all partners and as a result released for public consultation on Tuesday 6th May 2008 for a six week consultation period, ending on Tuesday 17th June. A separate Authority report included elsewhere on this agenda (late despatch) provides full details of the consultation process and outcomes of the same. Further consultation with the Mayor of London is also being undertaken as part of the public consultation process.

- 2.11 Recommended changes to the NLJWS resulting from the SEA process and the further 2008 updates are also included in the additional report along with a recommendation for formal adoption of the NLJWS.
- 2.12 It is important that the NLJWS is adopted because without a strategy in place, DEFRA will not accept a bid from the NLWA for some £200 million in central government funding in the form of Private Finance Initiative (PFI) credits to help finance the costs of the new facilities that will be required in North London to manage locally arising waste during the strategy period and beyond. An adopted strategy will also set a firm framework for the partner authorities to work together to reach the targets which are outlined.

3.0 STATUTORY REQUIREMENTS

North London Waste Plan - Issues and Options Report

- 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, however, a brief summary is provided here on the NLWP Issues and Options consultation process because at the February Authority meeting a summary of the main issues arising from the consultation was requested once it was complete.
- 3.2 The consultation was conducted in January-April 2008. The consultation programme sought to explore views on key issues and options for the planning of North London's waste facilities up to 2020. Further public consultation on the Preferred Options will take place in early 2009. The final plan will also be examined by a planning inspector in 2010. A report outlining the results of the consultation process more completely is now available on the North London Waste Plan website at www.nlwp.net and can be made available to Members by contacting the Policy and Development Manager.
- 3.3 The following section highlights some of the results of the consultation process:
- 3.3.1 **Self Sufficiency** - Most support was received for the principle of North London being as self-sufficient as possible in terms of managing its own waste and therefore allocating sufficient land for sites to do this. The Authority similarly supported this view. Other responses received also supported the principle of self-sufficiency but expressed concern that the Plan was based on the assumption that waste in North London would grow during the Plan period and that greater efforts should be focused on reducing levels of waste. Some respondents expressed support for other options, i.e. that North London should aim to be as self-sufficient as possible as well as making provision for the waste streams currently excluded by the London Mayor in his 'apportionment' of amounts of waste to be managed by each borough.

3.3.2 Broad locations for waste facilities - Some respondents felt that the Mayor of London's broad locations, which were identified in the Issues and Options report, provided a good starting point for identifying sites for new waste facilities in North London. However, a large number of the respondents also felt that they did not provide a good starting point, either because they felt these locations are not spread evenly across North London (i.e. they are too geographically concentrated in the north and east of the area covered by the Plan) or because they were opposed to one or more of the specific broad locations identified. With regard to the former, a significant number of respondents, expressed a desire for as even a geographic distribution of sites across the seven boroughs as possible, possibly through having a larger number of small facilities. Having more even coverage was seen to be fairer and it was suggested that this would also result in fewer transport movements. The problem of the poor west-east transport links was highlighted. The Authority considered the broad locations set out in the Early Alterations to the London Plan, (Greater London Authority, December 2006) to be broadly suitable for waste facilities, with the exception of the Barnet Northern Telecom Industrial Business Park (North London Business Park). The Authority also argued that if this broad location was excluded from the North London Waste Plan, then it would be necessary to carry out another search to identify potential sites in the north and west of the North London Waste Plan area. From a transport impact, economies of scale and equitability perspective, the Authority said that it considered that it would not be justifiable only to rely on sites within the Lee Valley to the east of the Plan area.

With regard to site-specific objections, most opposition was expressed to new facilities in the Blackhorse Lane area of Waltham Forest, the Edmonton area in Enfield and the North London Business Park in Barnet.

In addition, the landowner of a number of sites in the Central Leaside and Brimsdown areas expressed opposition to the use of these sites for waste facilities due to perceived incompatibility with existing and proposed uses on the sites and surrounding areas.

3.3.3 Should site allocation be technology specific? - Most support was received for the option of a combination approach in which some sites would be allocated for specific waste technologies and other sites would be allocated for a mixture of technologies. In supporting this option, a number of respondents highlighted the importance of maintaining flexibility in the Plan whilst others suggested that some sites would be particularly suited to specific technologies and therefore ought to be allocated for those specific technologies. An example given was of energy from waste, which would be best suited to sites where the energy and particularly the heat generated can be used locally.

The Authority argued for the maximum flexibility on site use so as not to constrain development, with the possibility of 'banding' sites as suitable for a range of technology types, e.g. sites suitable for reuse and recycling. The Authority also argued for prioritisation of sites handling municipal waste, i.e. that it would like to see some sites allocated for municipal waste management and others for non-municipal waste so that there would more definitely be sufficient sites to deal with local people's waste.

No respondents expressed support for the allocation of sites for general waste use and some suggested that such an approach would be inappropriate, due to the differing site requirements of different waste technologies.

A significant number of respondents suggested that incineration should be ruled out on any site included in the Plan. Others suggested the need for tight controls on sites dealing with hazardous waste.

3.3.4 **Additional issues** - A wide range of suggestions was made for additional issues that the Plan should address. By far the most common and strongly expressed view in this regard was that the Plan should address the issue of waste minimisation. This was also a strong message emerging from the consultation undertaken during the launch of the NLWP between June and August 2007. The need for increased efforts to minimise waste was a common response to many of the questions addressed in the consultation, despite it not being raised as a specific issue for comment, demonstrating the depth of feeling about minimisation. Many respondents suggested that food and other retailers should be a particular focus for efforts to reduce waste.

3.4 An Authority officer continues to sit as an observer on the Planning Officers' Group which is developing the North London Waste Plan and the Authority also nominates a Member at the Annual General Meeting of the Authority to sit as an observer on the Planning Members' Group which is overseeing the North London Waste Plan process. The NLWA procurement team has also recently appointed an officer to deal with site procurement issues. He will be available to provide updates to both planning Members and officers about the NLWA procurement process where appropriate.

3.5 The Plan has now moved into the 'Preferred Options' stage and an assessment of sites that might be suitable locations for waste facilities is currently being undertaken. A more detailed report on the progress of the NLWP will be provided at the September 2008 meeting of the Authority.

4.0 WASTE HIERARCHY OPTIONS

Waste Minimisation – Waste Prevention Plan

- 4.1 Work has commenced on the tasks included in the new 2008-2010 Waste Prevention Plan approved at the February Authority meeting and the results have now been obtained from two of the specific projects supported by the Authority in financial year 2007/08.

Expanding and encouraging reuse – pan-London reuse project

- 4.2 The Authority provided a small amount of funding (£500) in financial year 2007/08 for a pan-London reuse project supported by DEFRA.¹ The project was commissioned and managed by a partnership of representatives from the Greater London Authority, Government Office for London, London Councils, the London Recycling Officers' Group, the Association of London Cleansing Officers and the NLWA. The project aimed to expand and encourage further reuse activity across London by:
- researching the number of reuse organisations in the capital
 - identifying the barriers to further expansion
 - providing a database of services available which could be uploaded onto the Recycle for London website and be promoted to users.
- 4.3 The report of the project has been produced and a launch event is scheduled for 9th July at City Hall. The reuse information resulting from the research will be available on the 'Recycle for London' website. This will enable residents to find details of their nearest charity shop, furniture reuse project etc by typing in their postcode and it is aimed at raising awareness of reuse, both encouraging more people to donate items for reuse and also to consider reusing themselves.

Expanding and encouraging reuse – furniture reuse in North London

- 4.4 Work has also been completed on a reuse capacity study to identify opportunities for expanding furniture reuse in North London. This work has been fully funded by the Authority (at a cost of £10,000) and focussed on the largest furniture reuse organisation in North London, ReStore, a registered charity, which recycles and reuses domestic furniture and appliances for the benefit of people in need. The work was delivered by London Community Recycling Network (LCRN) with the full support of ReStore. The final report of this work will be presented shortly to both ReStore trustees and to borough and Authority technical officers, but in summary three stages of assessment were agreed:
- an operational review (to identify opportunities to increase furniture reuse primarily by altering internal systems such as enquiry handling, collections and deliveries and sales room stock control)
 - a support plan with actions

¹ Initially it has been planned that the Authority would fully fund a North London only project, but the work was expanded and successfully put forward for pan London funding.

- setting up closer working relationships for ReStore with 3 additional North London boroughs (i.e. providing furniture collection and reuse/recycling services for these authorities). ReStore already collects material under a service level agreement (SLA) with Haringey and Enfield.
- 4.5 The aim of the review process was to pay particular regard to practical advice on improvements to operational systems and throughput capacity to address the first two aspects and to set up exploratory meetings between the constituent borough councils and ReStore in relation to the third objective. The overall aim was to identify changes which would result in an increase in both the number of items collected for reuse and the percentage of material reused.
- 4.6 An initial assessment of current volumes of furniture collected, reused and recycled is outlined in the table below:

ReStore Furniture and Fridge Reuse and Recycling 2007/08

Collection type	Pick ups 2007/8	Number of Items 2007/8	Tonnage 2007/8	% tonnage
Household donations	1,002	5,085	157	29%
Collections made via a Service Level Agreement (SLA) with the borough	816	2,614	79	15%
Collections from Reuse and Recycling Centres	168	1,518	46	8%
Fridges from boroughs	n/a	5,793	261	48%
TOTAL	1986	15,010	543	100 %
reused	n/a		137	25%
scrapped	n/a		105	19%
recycled	n/a		301	55%

- 4.7 The assessment concluded that the volume of furniture collected directly from households across the NLWA area is diminishing as service level agreements are increasing. Collections from households directly yield the highest quality of furniture and appliances for reuse. The service level agreement work which replaces household donations must therefore be arranged in such a way to maintain the quality of items for reuse in order to maximise tonnage diverted from the waste stream.

- 4.8 Service level agreement collections will be the priority for development at ReStore and although it is not possible to forecast a target figure for the tonnage that collections via SLAs will represent in 12 months time, the assessment confirms the consensus that service level agreements are the priority in comparison with the other methods of collection based on the high reuse yield. SLAs are typically based upon scheduled collection days which enable collections to be tightly timetabled to specific days and also enable the borough to add support in terms of advertising the service thus improving uptake. For boroughs² where SLAs have been agreed between ReStore and the borough the number of collections of furniture has nearly doubled over three years.
- 4.9 Collections from reuse and recycling centres (RRCs) happen on a regular basis from six sites across the NLWA area. In 2007/08 a total of 46 tonnes was collected for reuse; the smallest collection category for ReStore, also representing an insignificant amount of tonnage. Experience shows that the furniture reuse sector does not treat collections from RRCs as a priority because of the deterioration of quality of items stored at RRCs, possibly in the open air. Much also depends on the relationship with and the cooperation of the RRC site managers. Detailed analysis of site by site success factors has not been carried out under the auspices of the study, but it is an area that merits further consideration, especially as RRCs are likely to be a priority for the Authority and the constituent borough councils in the pursuit of reuse and recycling targets going forward. ReStore would expect to receive a positive dialogue on reuse from these sites in the future. The assessment also advocates further consideration of potential opportunities of using space at ReStore to help alleviate the lack of space at RRCs.
- 4.10 With regard to the management of unwanted fridges, ReStore is a 'designated collection facility' under the WEEE (Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment) Regulations and operates with a waste management licence from the Environment Agency. ReStore's role in the processing of fridges before recycling is useful way to enable the reuse requirements of the European WEEE Directive and UK Regulations to be achieved, (this is a requirement which is placed upon the producer compliance schemes such as DHL, which collects WEEE from North London). ReStore expects to extract over 500 fridges for reuse per year. The comparative high volumes from this category skew the overall reuse figures for the charity.
- 4.11 Although the assessment did not consider the social benefits of ReStore's work, both in terms of training and placement opportunities for local people employed in the refurbishment, collection and delivery system or in terms of the provision of furniture and household appliances at low cost to people in need, the final report is likely to comment upon this aspect also. Further progress reports on the implementation of actions recommended in the report and their impact in terms of tonnages of material collected and reused will be provided to Members in the future. The Authority currently pays ReStore reuse and recycling credits for the tonnage of material diverted from landfill.

² Enfield and Haringey

Waste Prevention Week – 4th – 12th October 2008

- 4.12 As reported at the last Authority meeting proposals are being finalised for the first North London Waste Prevention Week (4th – 12th October); one of the key actions included in the new waste prevention plan. The aim of the week is to raise awareness of waste prevention and promote measures which will achieve a reduction in waste, encouraging people to take part.
- 4.13 Activities for the week include the following:
- Launch event – fashion show and art fair
 - Zero waste challenge – encouraging a range of residents across all seven North London boroughs to see by how much they can reduce their waste in the space of a week
 - A ‘shop smart’ promotion involving local shops
 - Compost give-aways – giving away compost made from organic waste
 - ‘Give and take’ days in each borough
- 4.14 The NLWA budget for the above was approved at the February Authority meeting. Some activities will be financed by borough funds. A further update on the week will be provided at the next Authority meeting and invitations to relevant events mailed directly to Members.

House of Lords Select Committee on Waste Reduction

- 4.15 The responses to the consultation on Waste Reduction undertaken by Sub-Committee I of the Lords Science and Technology Select Committee have now been published, although the committee’s final report has not.
- 4.16 The Authority submitted a response to the consultation in October 2007 which is published on the committee website at:
http://www.parliament.uk/parliamentary_committees/lords_s_t_select/evidence1.cfm
- 4.17 The NLWA was one of two local authorities responding to the consultation, the other being Essex County Council, although the Local Government Association gave oral evidence to the committee. Any conclusions from the committee will be reported to Members at a future meeting.

Waste Management - Recycling and Centralised Composting

Compost Awareness Week

- 4.18 National Compost Awareness Week took place between 6th and 14th May. The Authority’s main waste disposal contractor, LondonWaste Ltd, organised visits to the in-vessel composting facility at Edmonton as part of the week.
- 4.19 The Authority had a display stand at LondonWaste for the week and officers attended on the three days when the majority of residents were visiting. Resident feedback was very positive. Approximately 80 people visited during the week.

- 4.20 LondonWaste is considering running a similar series of resident visits during National Allotment Week, 11th – 17th August 2008.

WRAP Organics Programme, Round 4

- 4.21 Since the last Authority meeting an evaluation has been undertaken of the Waste and Resources Action Programme's (WRAP) organics capital grant programme round 4, with a view to assessing the potential for submitting a bid, given that the Authority currently has a need for additional treatment capacity within North London.
- 4.22 The organics programme is aimed at increasing processing capacity for source-separated food waste. Funding is available for up to 30% of the eligible capital costs of plant, equipment and infrastructure for capacity compliant with the Animal By-Products Regulations. However, any new plant funded by the programme would have to be operational by November 2009.
- 4.23 The assessment has concluded, given the timescales for submitting a bid, obtaining planning permission and providing an operational facility, that a bid is not feasible as a new local facility would need to be provided outside of the main waste disposal contract with LondonWaste Ltd, thereby requiring a new site, which is not readily available.
- 4.24 If subsequent rounds of funding become available when the Authority is in a position to have a site to put forward, then a future bid may be a possibility.

Recycling Bulking

- 4.25 Activity in 2007/08 (i.e. to the end of March 2008) is reported in the Annual Report elsewhere on this agenda and a six monthly Contracts Activity Report will be produced for the December Authority meeting outlining progress on recyclables bulking being undertaken by LondonWaste Ltd under contract to the Authority. This service is provided for those boroughs which collect commingled recyclable material at the kerbside. The material is bulked up at LondonWaste Ltd and then transported onwards in bulk to a third party materials recovery facility for sorting prior to onwards transport for recycling.

Centralised Composting Operation

- 4.26 The operation of the in-vessel composting facility at LondonWaste Ltd is similarly covered in the Annual Report and will be updated in the next Contracts Activity Report.

Waste Management - Recovery and Landfill

- 4.27 A project being undertaken by the University College of London's (UCL's) Environment Unit using the Authority as a focus for a research study investigating greenhouse gas emissions and the environmental impact of waste management using a life cycle analysis approach, has progressed with:
- The signature of a confidentiality agreement allowing the release of waste flow data to UCL.
 - A first project steering group meeting.

- Production of a research paper about the project, submitted to the Health Protection Agency Journal for publication in September 2008.
- 4.28 The work will take a 'real life' example in terms of waste composition, tonnage and collection systems (from the NLWA) and then model the environmental impact of gasification and pyrolysis using the Environment Agency's WRATE life cycle assessment tool. The work is complementary to the procurement modelling and scenario evaluation process being undertaken by the Authority.
- 4.29 A bid to the Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council to fund the work was unsuccessful but a further bid is being prepared taking account of the comments received from the project evaluators. As a result of the evaluation process, the work may be extended to include at least one other disposal authority which can act as a comparison to the NLWA. In the meantime the work progresses using UCL's own resources. There is no cost to the Authority other than staff time which is estimated to be attendance at eight half day project steering group meetings plus the time associated with providing Authority data and reviewing draft reports.
- 4.30 The benefit of the project to the Authority is involvement in a local project using WRATE and therefore the development of further officer knowledge about the package; new linkages with waste specialists in UCL and, because UCL intends to include data about additional gasification facilities in their modelling, other than those already included in WRATE, it will provide an opportunity to gain further understanding about this new technology.

5.0 MANAGEMENT OF OTHER WASTE STREAMS

Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment (WEEE)

- 5.1 Since the last Authority meeting the 2 year zero-value contract awarded to the DHL compliance scheme for the collection of waste electrical and electronic equipment (WEEE) for recycling from all the re-use and recycling centres (and from a number of additional 'designated collection facilities') within the North London area has been signed. Details of the contract tendering process were provided at the last Authority meeting.
- 5.2 Since DHL's appointment it has also been agreed with the constituent borough councils and DHL that some joint promotional work to encourage residents to recycle more WEEE will be undertaken over the forthcoming months. Work is underway to:
- include some information about WEEE recycling on the NLWA website
 - produce a leaflet about WEEE recycling for residents
 - provide some standard information which boroughs can also use at a local level.
 - produce some additional press releases about WEEE recycling.

6.0 IDENTIFYING THE BEST PRACTICABLE ENVIRONMENTAL OPTION FOR NORTH LONDON

- 6.1 Information on the impact of the retrospective Strategic Environmental Assessment of the North London Joint Waste Strategy is already reported in Section 2 of this report.

7.0 IMPLEMENTING THE BEST PRACTICABLE ENVIRONMENTAL OPTION FOR NORTH LONDON

Waste Disposal Implications - Dry Recyclable and Biodegradable Wastes

- 7.1 At the February 2008 Authority meeting of the Authority, Members agreed the strategic business case for the Authority purchasing land on which to commission a materials recovery facility (MRF) and a biodegradable waste treatment facility, and that appropriate revenue provision should be made in the 2008/09 budget to support associated prudential borrowing. This matter had also been considered and accepted by the all-party budget working party in January 2008. It was therefore agreed to provide revenue support for a capital programme of £12m from 2008/09 for the acquisition of sites for new waste facilities. The core rationale was that with the Authority owning a site, the maximum number of contractors would tender, and we would not be limited to those who either already have a site or have the means to secure one. Furthermore, when the facility has reached the end of its economic life the Authority will have a scarce waste site in North London on which to procure what it next needs, or an asset to sell for other services.
- 7.2 In recognition of the fact that sites sometimes become available for purchase and are sold more quickly than can be managed within ordinary Authority meetings, Members delegated authority at the April 2008 meeting to the Financial Adviser to purchase land for recycling, composting or residual waste treatment if an opportunity arose, following consultation with two of the Authority Chairman or Vice Chairmen, along with a list of other criteria.
- 7.3 Further legal advice has since been sought on the optimum method of procurement of this service in terms of speed, cost and 'fit' with the larger programme of work on the procurement of services post-2014. This broadly identified a short, low cost way of procuring merchant capacity (i.e. re-testing the market to seek better value) and two longer and more costly ways of proceeding as above on a newly acquired site or of proceeding with a hybrid of the two options that would allow either outcome at the beginning of the process. Given that there would be complications with integrating the new site approach into the longer term procurement, and given now that it might only be six-to-twelve months ahead of that procurement, officers are now proceeding with the Authority's short-term procurement on the basis of securing merchant capacity on the best terms available.
- 7.4 Officers will therefore proceed with notifying the London Mayor of our intentions in accordance with the Greater London Authority Act, and at the same time start developing contract documents ready for a formal tendering process to start in the Autumn.

8.0 WORKING IN PARTNERSHIP TO DELIVER THE STRATEGY

Third Party Recycling Credits

8.1 At the February 2008 meeting of the Authority it was agreed to register two profit-making companies for the receipt of third party recycling credits, subject to appropriate conditions being made. At the April Authority meeting it was agreed that appropriate terms and conditions could be agreed by the Head of Waste Strategy and Contracts in consultation with the Chairman and Group Leaders also reserving the right not to pay any credits at all in accordance with the Authority's published policy. At present there is no further progress to report, but it is expected such consultation will take place in the near future.

WRAP Funding

8.2 The Waste and Resources Action Programme (WRAP), continues to provide free technical and communications advice to all local authorities in England. The budget for 2008/09 for this work is approximately £6.5 million of which £3 million is for local authority communications activities and £3.5 million for technical advice.

8.3 Three priorities have been announced for communications support, namely:

- **Waste prevention** – specifically for areas with a significant population, (large unitaries or established partnerships) which are committed to prioritising waste prevention with resources allocated and which intend to target food waste
- **Recycling** – specifically those with a less than 30% recycling and composting rate or less than 20% dry recycling in 2007/08
- **Food waste** – support for any authority planning to collect food waste

8.4 At the end of March 2008, the Authority completed a WRAP funded partnership project totalling nearly £300,000 with four of the constituent borough councils. This was reported in full at the last Authority meeting. Two of the constituent borough councils have already submitted bids for 2008/09, but for the Authority there is not a good fit this year as our Waste Prevention Plan does not have WRAP desired focus, and the other activities WRAP wishes to support are those of our constituent borough councils.

8.5 There is no deadline for submission of requests for support although early applications have been encouraged for communications support in particular as initial decisions on this aspect are being made from June. It therefore seems unlikely that it will be possible to submit a communications bid at a later date, although a request for technical support is being progressed by the Authority's procurement group. It is nevertheless recommended that authority be delegated to the Head of Waste Strategy and Contracts to submit a bid to WRAP for further support, if a suitable project is identified within our constituent borough councils to which the Authority can add value.

London Waste and Recycling Board (LWaRB)

- 8.6 The Mayor of London's office and London Councils, working jointly have now confirmed that they have come to a mutual resolution for the constitution of the London Waste and Recycling Board. The Board was announced by the Government last year with a proposed budget of £60 million to deliver funding to boost recycling and ensure London's waste is managed sustainably.
- 8.7 The Board will be established via a LWaRB Order which is anticipated shortly.
- 8.8 In terms of priorities for funding by the Board, the Authority has already contributed to the consultation process on this issue recommending a focus on the following four strategic priorities, from a list of possible priorities provided:
- The production of less waste
 - Increased capacity to divert waste from landfill
 - Mitigating climate change through improved wastes management
 - Increased reuse and recycling, as measured against National Indicators and LAA targets.
- 8.9 The Authority also commented that the overarching criterion for the distribution of funding should be targeted to bids which offer the best value for money (assessed using measures such as £/tonne of CO₂ avoided, other environmental impacts, or £/tonne of waste diverted), the greatest additionality, the maximum contribution to reducing waste and to developing waste infrastructure for London and improving the London environment.
- 8.10 The Authority has already approved (December 2007) the delegation of authority to the Head of Waste Strategy and Contracts, in consultation with the Chairman, with the support of relevant constituent borough councils, to submit bids to the London Waste and Recycling Fund should timescales preclude any bid coming to a future Authority meeting.

Local Area Agreements and the new National Indicator Set

- 8.11 As part of the new performance measurement regime introduced for local authorities in 2008-09, it is possible for authorities with Local Area Agreements (LAAs) to select 35 of the new National Indicators (NIs) on which to report their performance.
- 8.12 If any of the constituent boroughs is in such a position and decides to select one or more of the waste indicators within that set, then it is a requirement that they consult on their proposals with the Authority as a statutory consultee.

- 8.13 It is recommended that authority be delegated to the Head of Waste Strategy and Contracts, in consultation with the Chair, to submit a response to any such consultation.

9.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

The Authority is recommended to:

- i) delegate authority to the Head of Waste Strategy and Contracts to submit a bid to the Waste and Resources Action Programme (WRAP) for communications support in 2008/09, if a suitable project is identified;
- ii) delegate authority to the Head of Waste Strategy and Contracts, in consultation with the Chair, to submit a response to any Local Area Agreement proposals made by the constituent borough councils which involve a waste indicator.

10.0 COMMENTS OF THE FINANCIAL ADVISER

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

11.0 COMMENTS OF THE LEGAL ADVISER

- 11.1 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, Mayor's Draft, September 2004
	Directive 2001/42/EC – the Strategic Environmental Assessment (or 'SEA') Directive
	A Practical Guide to the Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive, September 2005, available at http://www.communities.gov.uk
	North London Waste Plan, Issues and Options Report Mouchel, December 2007, see www.nlwp.net
	Early Alterations to the London Plan, GLA, December 2006

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Consultation, Summary of Responses, April 2008

Waste Strategy for England 2007, DEFRA

ReStore Community Projects, Annual Report 2007

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Report Ends