

NORTH LONDON WASTE AUTHORITY

REPORT TITLE:

JOINT WASTE STRATEGY UPDATE

REPORT OF:

HEAD OF WASTE STRATEGY AND CONTRACTS

FOR SUBMISSION TO:

AUTHORITY MEETING

DATE:

10th December 2008

SUMMARY OF REPORT:

This report updates members on progress made with implementing the North London Joint Waste Strategy (NLJWS) since the Authority meeting on 26th September 2008. The report notes the formal adoption of the North London Joint Waste Strategy (NLJWS) by all partners subject to the further approval of minor amendments outlined at the last Authority meeting. The report also includes a copy of the Post Adoption Statement which outlines how consultee responses have been taken into account in the preparation of the North London Joint Waste Strategy which Members are recommended to approve. The publication of such a statement is a requirement of the Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive and associated UK Regulations.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Authority is recommended to approve the Strategic Environmental Assessment of the North London Joint Waste Strategy SEA Post Adoption Statement, enclosed in Appendix 1 of this report, subject to no further changes arising from constituent borough approvals of the Equalities Impact Assessment changes to the Strategy.

**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 finalising the NLJWS since the Authority meeting in September 2008.
- 1.2 The context for the NLJWS at a national level is Waste Strategy for England 2007 to which there have been no changes since the last Authority meeting, although the Commons Environmental Food and Rural Affairs Committee is currently reviewing the Waste Strategy for England 2007. Any particularly relevant conclusions from this review will be reported at a future Authority meeting.
- 1.3 At a regional level it is anticipated that the Mayor of London will in due course issue a new waste strategy for the capital, but as yet a possible timetable for publication of a new strategy has not been announced. However, London Councils has recently issued a position statement in anticipation of London Mayor, Boris Johnson's revisions to the existing strategy, 'Rethinking Rubbish in London'. Some of the key aspects of the London Councils' position statement are:
 - That London Councils considers the existing strategy to be unduly prescriptive in its approach.
 - That any regional targets for waste management in London should be consistent with national targets, but reflect London's particular circumstances. Specifically London Councils considers that compelling London, a wholly urban region, to collect green garden waste in order to meet recycling and composting performance targets provides a perverse incentive to increase the volume of waste collected.
 - That the 'presumption against incineration' should be revised, (Rethinking Rubbish in London includes a waste hierarchy (figure 25) which places new and emerging recovery technologies above, i.e. in preference to 'conventional' incineration). London Councils would like to see the revised strategy change its stance towards incineration with energy recovery, setting out policies to ensure that facilities are built to the highest possible efficiency.
 - London Councils also recommends a change to the interpretation of regional self sufficiency so that there is an increased focus on facility proximity, rather than facilities necessarily being within London itself. London Councils considers that the London Plan places undue emphasis on regional self sufficiency, which they argue may restrict waste planning considering the development and use of waste management capacity in neighbouring regions.
 - Finally, London Councils considers that tackling municipal waste effectively in London requires a stronger focus on waste minimisation, including making producers take more responsibility for packaging waste in particular.

Authority officers will report on any further developments regarding the regional waste strategy at future Authority meetings.

- 1.4 In addition to the above, since the last Authority meeting the Environment Agency's *Waste 2007* report has been produced.
- 1.5 The report shows that London, the South-East and the East of England together have just five years of landfill capacity remaining at 2007 input rates. On its own, London now has just three years left of landfill capacity for non-hazardous wastes, at 2007 input rates, compared to as much as 12.5 years for Yorkshire and Humber and 10.8 years for the West Midlands. The finding that the South East, London and the East of England, which together are considered to operate as a single area for the purposes of waste movements, have just five year's landfill capacity remaining is concerning.
- 1.6 In addition to the limited remaining landfill capacity in London the report also shows that the capital decreased the amount of waste it sent to landfill by less than one per cent between 2006 and 2007.
- 1.7 The capital's small decrease in the waste it sent to landfill, contrasts with the success of the North West and Yorkshire & Humber regions in managing to reduce the amount they sent to landfill by 12% between 2006 and 2007.
- 1.8 The conclusions from the report regarding the worryingly limited landfill capacity remaining for the capital simply emphasise the urgency for the Authority of moving away from landfill disposal, for not just environmental, but also capacity and therefore cost reasons.
- 1.9 The Authority's contractor, LondonWaste Ltd., has guaranteed void capacity (i.e. landfill space) available to it but is considering the terms. The Authority however, from a customer perspective, will not be affected by this.

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

- 2.1 The North London Joint Waste Strategy (NLJWS), June 2008, has now been formally approved and adopted by all partners, subject to the additional minor amendments outlined in paragraphs 2.3 to 2.5 of this report. The London Borough of Enfield's approval was conditional on some changes being made to the Outline Business Case for PFI credits and accompanying inter-authority agreement, that were accepted at the extra Authority meeting in October.
- 2.2 The principal approval and adoption dates of the NLJWS and accompanying SEA environmental report were as follows:

Partner	Method of Decision	2008 Date	Principal Approval and Adoption	
			NLJWS	SEA Environmental Report
NLWA	Authority meeting	25th June	Yes	Yes
Islington	Executive Committee	3rd July	Yes	Yes
Haringey	Cabinet	15th July	Yes	Yes
Hackney	Mayor's Cabinet	21st July	Yes	Yes
Waltham Forest	Cabinet	22nd July	Yes	Yes
Barnet	Env. & Transport delegated powers	29th Aug.	Yes	Yes
Camden	Executive Committee	15 th Oct.	Yes	Yes
Enfield	Cabinet	8 th Oct.*	Yes	Yes

* Agreed subject to conditions as noted above. These were subsequently agreed at the Authority meeting on 29th October.

Final minor changes to the NLJWS

- 2.3 As a result of the other seven partners', the constituent borough councils', consideration of the NLJWS and SEA environmental report some minor amendments to the NLJWS have been proposed, as noted at the last Authority meeting. Primarily these final minor amendments relate to changes resulting from the Equalities Impact Assessment (EqIA) which has been carried out on the strategy.
- 2.4 No changes to the aims, objectives or implementation actions contained within the NLJWS are proposed as a result of the EqIA, but some minor amendments have been proposed to the supporting text in chapters four, five, seven and eight. These proposed amendments have been approved by the Head of Waste Strategy and Contracts in consultation with the Chair under the delegated authority given at the June 2008 Authority meeting for approving minor amendments to the Strategy.
- 2.5 These proposed minor amendments have now been circulated to technical officers from the seven constituent borough councils with the aim of securing similar approvals for the changes from each borough. The NLJWS cannot be formally approved and adopted until these minor amendments have been reviewed and agreed by all partners.

Post Adoption Statement

- 2.6 The purpose of the post adoption statement report is to set out how the changes to the NLJWS resulting from the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) process have been made and how comments of consultees in particular have been taken into account. The SEA post adoption statement is written in accordance with the requirements of the SEA Directive

and the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004 and is a requirement of the SEA process.

- 2.7 The statement has been prepared in accordance with government guidance¹ and includes the following information:
- How environmental considerations have been integrated into the Plan (i.e. the NLJWS)
 - How the environmental report has influenced the North London Joint Waste Strategy
 - How recommendations from the SEA report have been taken into account in the finalised NLJWS
 - The reasons for choosing the strategy in light of other alternatives
 - How consultation responses to the SEA have been addressed
 - How the environmental, social and economic effects of the NLJWS will be monitored
- 2.8 A copy of the post adoption report is enclosed as Appendix 1 to this report, which Members are recommended to approve.

3.0 RECOMMENDATION

- 3.1 The Authority is recommended to approve the Strategic Environmental Assessment of the North London Joint Waste Strategy's SEA Post Adoption Statement enclosed in Appendix 1 of this report subject to no further changes arising from constituent borough approvals of the minor Equalities Impact Assessment changes to the Strategy.

4.0 COMMENTS OF THE FINANCIAL ADVISER

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

5.0 COMMENTS OF THE LEGAL ADVISER

- 5.1 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

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

¹ ODPM (2005) A practical guide to the Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive

The London Plan, Spatial Development Strategy for Greater London, Consolidated with Alterations since 2004, Mayor of London, February 2008

London Councils Transport and Environment Committee, Borough Priorities for the Review of the Mayor's Municipal Waste Management Strategy (MMWMS), Position Statement, London Councils, 29th October 2008. Available at:
<http://www.londoncouncils.gov.uk/Transport/briefings/wastemanagement.htm>

Waste Information Report for 2007, Environment Agency, November 2008. Data available at: [Waste Data 2007 <http://www.environment-agency.gov.uk/subjects/waste/1031954/315439/2134190/?version=1&lang=e>](http://www.environment-agency.gov.uk/subjects/waste/1031954/315439/2134190/?version=1&lang=e)

Directive 2001/42/EC – the Strategic Environmental Assessment (or 'SEA') Directive

A Practical Guide to the Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive, ODPM, September 2005, available at <http://www.communities.gov.uk>

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**Appendix 1. – Strategic Environmental Assessment of the North London Joint
Waste Strategy SEA Post Adoption Statement**