

NORTH LONDON WASTE AUTHORITY

REPORT TITLE:
NORTH LONDON WASTE PLAN DOCUMENT UPDATE

REPORT OF:
HEAD OF WASTE STRATEGY AND CONTRACTS

FOR SUBMISSION TO: AUTHORITY MEETING	DATE: 6th February 2008
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SUMMARY OF REPORT:

This report updates Members on progress made since the meeting on 6th September 2007 regarding the Joint Waste Development Plan Document for North London, the 'North London Waste Plan', (NLWP). The report covers the progress on developing the Issues and Options report for the NLWP, seeks delegated authority to submit a response to the same and provides an update on the community engagement and communication programme. The report also provides an update on the associated documents which form part of the NLWP development process, the sustainability appraisal, equalities impact assessment, technical report, strategic flood risk assessment, and screening for the Habitat Directive Assessment.

RECOMMENDATION

The Authority is recommended to delegate authority to the Head of Waste Strategy and Contracts in consultation with the Chairman and Group Leaders to submit a response to the North London Waste Plan Issues and Options report consultation.

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

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Date:

1.0 BACKGROUND TO THE NORTH LONDON WASTE PLAN

- 1.1 In North London, the constituent borough councils are working together as planning authorities to prepare a Joint Waste Development Plan Document (JWDPD) for the area. Entitled the 'North London Waste Plan', (NLWP), the plan will create the shared land-use planning framework for sites for all wastes (household, commercial, industrial, construction and demolition) in North London up to 2020. The NLWP will consider how this waste can be managed using a mix of technologies and will safeguard sufficient sites across the seven boroughs to enable this to happen. The plan will also enable the seven boroughs to collectively meet the waste apportionment targets contained within the Draft Further Alterations to the London Plan, the Mayor of London's spatial strategy for the capital and the subsequent Revised Draft Minor Alteration to the London Plan. (These targets outline how much waste each borough is required to manage, taking account of a range of factors, including both the amount of waste that the borough generates, as well as the borough's capacity to manage waste, in terms of available industrial land, density of roads for transporting it etc.) The North London Waste Plan will, once adopted, provide a framework of identified sites suitable for waste facilities and for meeting North London's future needs for managing all waste streams and types. The North London Waste Plan will also become part of each of the constituent borough's own Local Development Framework.
- 1.2 It is important that the constituent boroughs deal with the NLWP separately and independently in their capacity as planning authorities, as opposed to their role as municipal waste collection authorities or as constituent borough councils of the North London Waste Authority. The involvement of the Authority in the NLWP is as a key stakeholder. The North London Joint Waste Strategy will be an important input into the NLWP process but the planning authorities must take other considerations into account in coming to their conclusions, particularly as the municipal waste stream covered by the North London Joint Waste Strategy may be only a quarter of the total waste stream to be provided for by the NLWP.
- 1.3 Members of the Authority are provided with a six monthly update on the NLWP. The last update was provided in September 2007. At the September 2007 Authority meeting it was also resolved that Councillor Eleftherios Savva be appointed as a Member observer to the North London Waste Plan Planning Members' Group from September 2007 until the Authority's Annual General Meeting in June 2008 and that Councillor Eric Sizer be appointed as a substitute Member observer for the same period.

2.0 PROGRESS ON THE WORK PROGRAMME

Overview and Timetable

- 2.1 Since the last full Authority report on this matter, a number of technical reports have been produced for the NLWP, by the appointed consultants Mouchel (formerly Mouchel Parkman). In addition to this, considerable progress has been made with the public consultation and community engagement aspects of the plan being implemented by CAG Consultants. The remainder of this report provides a brief update on relevant aspects.

Issues and Options Report

- 2.1 The first formal stage of the NLWP development process is the production of an Issues and Options report. This is a report which sets out the key issues that are raised by writing the NLWP and the options available for planning for waste in North London up to 2020. It raises a series of questions about each of the issues and the options available. All seven boroughs approved the draft Issues and Options report for release for public consultation in line with the programme timetable, between October and December 2007. The Issues and Options report is now available on the NLWP website at www.nlwp.net.
- 2.2 Between 23rd January and 4th March, the Issues and Options report will be formally made available for public consultation and it is at this stage that the Authority will also submit formal comments. Further detail about the consultation process is included in section 3.
- 2.3 However, as the Issues and Options was not yet released for public consultation at the time of writing this Authority report, delegated approval is requested for the Head of Waste Strategy and Contracts in consultation with the Chairman and Group Leaders to submit a response on behalf of the Authority. The deadline of 4th March 2008 is before the next Authority meeting.
- 2.4 The Issues and Options Report is accompanied by the following supporting documents:
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| Sustainability Commentary | A document which sets out how sustainability has been assessed in the Issues and Options report of the North London Waste Plan. |
| Equalities Impact Assessment | A preliminary assessment of the impact on key social groups of the planning for waste facilities in North London up to 2020. |
| Issues and Options Technical Report | This sets out the key facts and figures in planning for North London's waste up to 2020. |
| Strategic Flood Risk Assessment | A report which assesses the relative flood risks across the North London area and the associated implications |
| Habitats Screening Assessment | A preliminary assessment of the risks to important habitats in planning for North London's waste up to 2020. |
| Launch Consultation Report | A summary of the feedback from the initial consultation on the North London Waste Plan. |
- 2.5 The remaining sections of this Authority report summarise each of the above reports. At the time of writing, all the above reports, with the exception of the Strategic Flood Risk Assessment, are available for download on the NLWP website at www.nlwp.net. Hard copies can be obtained from the NLWP Programme Manager.

2.6 The Strategic Flood Risk Assessment will also be available shortly.

Sustainability Commentary Report

2.7 This report sets out how sustainability has been assessed in the Issues and Options report of the North London Waste Plan. The report is the second stage in an ongoing sustainability appraisal process for the NLWP. The sustainability appraisal incorporates the requirements of strategic environmental assessment and is a very similar process to the strategic environmental assessment being carried out for the North London Joint Waste Strategy, (although it is broader in scope than the North London Joint Waste Strategy strategic environmental assessment). In addition, because the NLWP sustainability appraisal is being carried out at the same time as the plan is being prepared, rather than retrospectively, (as in the case of the North London Joint Waste Strategy), the process will be an ongoing one carried out throughout the development of the plan.

2.8 As reported at the last Authority meeting, a sustainability appraisal scoping report was produced as the first step in the sustainability appraisal process and issued for consultation to the statutory consultees (English Heritage, Natural England and English Nature), as well as to the North London Waste Plan sustainability appraisal panel – see below. Following finalisation of the scoping report, the ‘Sustainability Commentary report’ on the NLWP Issues and Options report has now been produced as the second stage of the sustainability appraisal process.

2.9 The Sustainability Appraisal Panel, which was mentioned in the previous Authority report, has reviewed the key sustainability issues, sustainability objectives, targets and indicators to be used in the plan.

Equalities Impact Assessment

2.10 In addition to the sustainability commentary report, an equalities impact assessment has also been carried out and a stage 1 report produced on the results of the screening assessment. This report is a preliminary assessment of the impact on key social groups of the planning for waste facilities in North London up to 2020.

Technical Report

2.11 A technical report has also been drafted and released to accompany the Issues and Options report. The technical report provides the support information and data gathered in building an evidence base for the North London Waste Plan Issues and Options document. It includes information on the numbers of households and waste arisings and the likely growth in the same. The report also provides information on current waste facilities in the area and capacity. The report additionally reviews existing relevant legislation, policies and strategies.

Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (SFRA)

- 2.12 A strategic flood risk assessment has also been carried out. This joint flood risk assessment will also be useful as part of the flood risk assessment for other development planning documents that each borough will be producing. Additional relevant flooding studies have recently become available and have to be assessed before the final report can be issued. The report of the SFRA will be made available on the NLWP website as soon as possible.

Habitats Directive Screening Report

- 2.13 Finally a Habitats Directive screening assessment has been carried out and a subsequent report produced. The report provides a preliminary assessment of the risks to important habitats in planning for North London's waste up to 2020. The screening exercise identifies any policies and proposals with the potential for significant impact on any European designated (Natura 2000) site within or adjacent to the NLWP area. Natura 2000 sites are sites which are important to protect because of the habitats, wildlife or plant species that they support. The results of this screening exercise are outlined in the Habitats Directive Screening Report which also accompanies the Issues and Options report. The Habitats Directive Screening Report has been produced in line with the requirements of the EU Habitats Directive.
- 2.14 Details of the **Launch Consultation Report** are included in section 3 of this Authority report.

Implications for the Authority

- 2.15 The above reports provide technical information to support the development of the NLWP, but they are also relevant to the Authority. In particular, the technical report provides information relating to waste growth which needs to be compared to the Authority's own projections for procurement purposes. Secondly, the habitats directive screening report and the SFRA will be relevant to the Authority when it starts to identify potential sites for new facilities going forward. The equalities impact assessment results are also relevant moving forward. Finally the sustainability appraisal screening assessment report which was produced at the outset, contains a series of environmental objectives and indicators which it has been useful to compare with, and consider in the development of the environmental objectives and indicators for the North London Joint Waste Strategy retrospective strategic environmental assessment. It is necessary to ensure that there is some consistency between the way in which the constituent borough councils as planning authorities are assessing the potential environmental impact of waste planning and the way in which the Authority and the constituent borough councils as partners are assessing the environmental impact of implementing the municipal waste management strategy for the area through the North London Joint Waste Strategy.

2.16 Finally, the NLWP Issues and Options report sets out some broad locations which are potentially suitable for recycling and waste treatment facilities which were identified in the Early Alterations to the London Plan, adopted by the Mayor of London in 2006. At this stage the locations which are listed are those included in the Early Alterations to the London Plan and are 'strategic employment locations' (preferred industrial locations and industrial business parks), local employment areas and existing waste management sites within which recycling and waste treatment facilities could be located. It is important to note that the London Plan states that existing waste management sites also have the potential to make a contribution going forwards either through the protection of those sites and existing facilities, capacity intensification at existing facilities or the reuse of existing sites for new types of facility.

3.0 COMMUNICATION, CONSULTATION AND COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

3.1 Community engagement and consultation is an integral part of the plan making process and CAG Consultants has been appointed, working alongside Mouchel, to carry out this task.

3.2 A Launch Consultation Report summarising the responses to the initial NLWP launch consultation process has been prepared and is published as an accompanying document to the Issues and Options report. The launch consultation survey was not carried out using a statistically robust methodology so the results should be considered in that light, but the initial results suggest that:

- there is greatest support for a larger number of small waste management sites, rather than a smaller number of larger sites.
- there is strong support for the principle of deriving energy from waste (although not for any particular technology), providing it involves low emissions; although a significant number were opposed to the principle of burning waste on pollution grounds.
- people consider that the areas least suitable for waste facilities are those adjacent to residential areas, parks/green spaces and schools.

3.3 The initial public consultation was conducted in June-August 2007 as part of the public launch of the process of preparing the North London Waste Plan as outlined in the previous Authority report on the North London Waste Plan, September 2007.

3.4 The consultation during the launch phase consisted of three main elements:

- o a website introducing the NLWP (www.nlwp.net) and incorporating an online feedback form;
- o an information leaflet introducing the NLWP, highlighting the website and inviting feedback on key issues. The leaflet was distributed to key stakeholders by the seven local authorities involved in the NLWP (Barnet, Camden, Enfield, Hackney, Haringey, Islington and Waltham Forest) and by the North London Waste Authority; and

- a staffed exhibition which toured the seven boroughs covered by the NLWP. The exhibitions, which sought to raise awareness and understanding of the NLWP, were held in shopping centres in each of the boroughs. As well as distributing the information leaflet, the staff completed a short questionnaire with passers-by.
- 3.5 The consultation undertaken during the launch phase was intended to raise awareness of the NLWP and provide local people with the chance to give their views on general issues.
- 3.6 The next stage of the public consultation process is the consultation on the Issues and Options report. At the time of writing this Authority report, none of the public stakeholder events/meetings being held in each borough had taken place. However, the timetable and location of each event is as follows, all running from 6.30pm to 8.30pm. All the workshops have been advertised in the local press and via press releases as well as through direct mailing of stakeholders:

Table 1. North London Waste Plan Public Workshops

Date	Borough	Venue
24 January	Hackney	Ocean, 270 Mare Street, Hackney, E8
28 January	Waltham Forest	EduAction Conference Centre, Queens Road, Walthamstow E17
29 January	Enfield	Artzone, 54- 56 Market Square, Edmonton Green, N7
7 February	Haringey	Civic Centre, High Road, Wood Green, N22
11 February	Camden	Camden Centre, Bidborough Street, Kings Cross, WC1
12 February	Barnet	North London Business Park, Oakleigh Road South, Southgate, N11
13 February	Islington	Resource Centre, Holloway Road, N7

- 3.7 A leaflet has been produced by the Authority explaining the different ways of managing waste, which is being made available at all the stakeholder meetings and which will be distributed to Members. The leaflet can be used in support of the Government Office for London and the Government Office for the East Midlands jointly produced waste planning DVD targeted at Members which is due to be released shortly, and which was mentioned in the last Authority report.
- 3.8 Additional money is also available to the NLWP to carry out direct visits to groups who might have been under-represented at the stakeholder meetings. This additional outreach funding is made available as a result of a successful DEFRA funding bid as previously reported.

3.9 A report on the stakeholder meetings will be produced at the end of the process. Further public consultation on the preferred options will take place in early 2009. The final North London Waste Plan will also be examined by a planning inspector in 2010.

4.0 ISSUES FOR THE AUTHORITY IN THE NORTH LONDON WASTE PLAN PROCESS

4.1 As previously reported, with the Authority embarking on its procurement strategy, the commencement of the NLWP poses both potential benefits and risks for the Authority. The NLWP will provide an essential planning framework for sites for waste facilities; however, because of the timetable for its finalisation and because of the long lead times required to commission facilities, this means that procurement of and planning applications for some facilities will have to be completed before the NLWP is adopted.

4.2 At these early stages of the NLWP the Authority will need to consider a site strategy that minimises the risks of applications being premature in advance of the adoption of the NLWP.

4.3 Any future site strategy work relevant to the Authority's future facility and service needs will be reported to Members.

5.0 RECOMMENDATION

5.1 The Authority is recommended to delegate authority to the Head of Waste Strategy and Contracts in consultation with the Chairman and Group Leaders to submit a response to the North London Waste Plan Issues and Options report consultation.

6.0 COMMENTS OF THE FINANCIAL ADVISER

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

7.0 COMMENTS OF THE LEGAL ADVISER

7.1 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: 'Early Alterations to the London Plan', (The London Plan, Spatial Development Strategy for Greater London), Mayor of London, December 2006 at www.london.gov.uk/mayor/strategies/sds/lon_plan_changes/docs-final/early-alt.s.pdf

Draft Further Alterations to the London Plan (Spatial Development Strategy for Greater London), Mayor of London, September 2006

Borough level waste apportionment, Revised Draft Minor Alteration to the London Plan (Spatial Development Strategy for Greater London), Mayor of London, December 2006

North London Joint Waste Strategy, Mayor's Draft, September 2004

Issues and Options Report, North London Joint Waste Development Plan Document, Mouchel, January 2008

Sustainability Appraisal of the North London Waste Plan, Issues and Options Sustainability Commentary, Mouchel, December 2007

Equalities Impact Assessment Stage 1: Screening, (for the North London Waste Plan), Mouchel, December 2007

Issues and Options Technical Report, North London Joint Waste Development Plan Document, Mouchel, December 2007

Habitat Directive Assessment Screening, (for the North London Waste Plan), Mouchel, December 2007

Launch Consultation, Summary of responses, (for the North London Waste Plan), CAG Consultants, December 2007

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Report Ends