

**NORTH LONDON WASTE AUTHORITY**

**REPORT TITLE:**  
**NORTH LONDON WASTE PLAN UPDATE**

**REPORT OF:**  
**HEAD OF WASTE STRATEGY AND CONTRACTS**

<b>FOR SUBMISSION TO:</b> <b>AUTHORITY MEETING</b>	<b>DATE:</b> <b>26<sup>th</sup> September 2008</b>
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**SUMMARY OF REPORT:**

This report updates Members on progress made since the meeting on 6<sup>th</sup> February 2008 regarding the North London Waste Plan (NLWP), the joint waste development plan for North London. The report covers the progress on developing the Preferred Options report for the NLWP and provides an update on the community engagement and communication activity.

**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 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 London Plan, the Mayor of London's spatial strategy for the capital. (These targets outline how much waste each borough is required to manage in land-use terms, taking account of a range of factors, including both the amount of waste that is generated in the borough, 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 the land-use management of all waste streams and types. The North London Waste Plan will also become part of each of the constituent borough council's own Local Development Framework.
- 1.2 It is important that the constituent borough councils 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 less than 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 February 2008.
- 1.4 Councillor Bob Belam is the Authority observer to the North London Waste Plan Planning Members' Group until the Authority's Annual General Meeting in June 2009; Councillor Harper is the substitute Member observer.

## **2.0 PROGRESS ON THE WORK PROGRAMME**

### **Overview and Timetable**

- 2.1 Since the last full Authority report on this matter, progress has continued towards the next stage of the programme, the 'Preferred Options' stage at which the choices and potential locations of sites to be included in the plan are narrowed down.

2.2 It is anticipated that the Preferred Options report for the plan will be ready towards the end of 2008 with public consultation on the same in the Spring of 2009. The proposed timetable for the North London Waste Plan is outlined below.

1. Preparatory work on issues and options – 2007 (completed)
2. Consult on issues and options – Jan/Feb 2008 (completed)
3. Consult on preferred options – Jan/Feb 2009
4. Submit to Government – September 2009
5. Examination in public – March 2010
6. Report from planning inspector – August 2010
7. Adoption of plan – December 2010

However, because of slippage on reaching the Preferred Options stage the possibility of revising the timetable is currently being discussed.

### **3.0 THE NORTH LONDON WASTE PLAN AND THE NORTH LONDON JOINT WASTE STRATEGY**

3.1 Government guidance<sup>1</sup> encourages liaison between those responsible for producing the joint waste development plan or core [planning] strategy for an area and those developing the municipal waste management strategy (MWMS). In particular the guidance notes that: "the core strategy must inform and be informed by the development needs of the MWMS." The guidance goes on to say: "Waste managers and planners will need to take a project planning approach to establish where they can work together in terms of community engagement on options, explaining technologies and consulting on the Strategic Environmental Assessment/Sustainability Appraisal (SEA/SA)".

3.2 The timetable for the NLWP is somewhat behind the timetable for finalising the NLJWS which has meant that it has not been possible for Authority officers and planners to work closely together on all aspects of public consultation. However, where this has been possible planning and waste officers have liaised as follows:

- Authority officers attended seven borough public consultation meetings on the NLWP at the Issues and Options stage
- The Authority produced a leaflet on waste technologies which was provided to attendees at the Issues and Options consultation meetings on the NLWP.
- Municipal waste growth projections have been shared as suggested by the government guidance.
- It is also proposed that Authority officers would attend future public consultation meetings on the Preferred Options stage of the NLWP.

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<sup>1</sup> Waste Infrastructure Delivery Programme Planning Systems Guidance, Defra, August 2007

- 3.3 Whilst the government guidance notes the benefits of waste planning authorities (WPAs), i.e. the boroughs as planning authorities, and the waste management teams developing the municipal waste management strategy (MWMS) working together on these issues, as outlined below, it is also important to ensure that there is appropriate distinction between the two processes since the Authority or its contractors could be potential planning applicants for new waste facilities.

#### **4.0 COMMUNICATION, CONSULTATION AND COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT**

- 4.1 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.
- 4.2 The Issues and Options Consultation, Summary of Responses report, was published in June as reported at the last Authority meeting.
- 4.3 Since that time there has been no further public consultation on the plan, although there has been some press coverage in the Enfield press (the Enfield Gazette and Advertiser) regarding the plan, which required meetings and a briefing note to correct misunderstandings (attached as Appendix 1).
- 4.4 A separate meeting was also held with the Rt. Hon. Joan Ryan MP (Enfield North) as a result of the views about the Plan expressed in the above papers. Following that meeting the MP has made a number of requests for information under the Freedom of Information Act. The MP has requested the full list of potential sites being considered by planners prior to the Preferred Options stage when the short list of sites is published for public consultation. Publication of the list has been refused at this stage. The Chair of the Authority has also written to Joan Ryan MP offering a meeting to discuss any concerns she may have about waste disposal and recycling arrangements.

#### **5.0 ISSUES FOR THE AUTHORITY IN THE NORTH LONDON WASTE PLAN PROCESS**

- 5.1 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.
- 5.2 At these early stages of the NLWP the Authority will need to consider a site strategy that minimises the risks associated with applications being made in advance of the adoption of the NLWP.
- 5.3 Any future site strategy work relevant to the Authority's future facility and service needs will be reported to Members.

## **6.0 RECOMMENDATION**

6.1 The Authority is recommended to note this report.

## **7.0 COMMENTS OF THE FINANCIAL ADVISER**

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

## **8.0 COMMENTS OF THE LEGAL ADVISER**

8.1 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:** The London Plan, Spatial Development Strategy for Greater London, Consolidated with Alterations since 2004, Greater London Authority, February 2008

North London Joint Waste Strategy, June 2008

Waste Infrastructure Delivery Programme Planning Systems Guidance, Defra, August 2007

Issues and Options Consultation, Summary of Responses, North London Waste Plan, June 2008,  
<http://www.nlwp.net/documents/documents.html>

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## Appendix 1 – Briefing Note on Waste in North London

### The North London Joint Waste Strategy and the North London Waste Plan

Briefing Document September 2008

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#### Definitions and responsibilities:

**North London Waste Plan** – the statutory waste plan for North London which will form part of each of the seven North London borough's Local Development Frameworks.

**North London Joint Waste Strategy** – the waste management strategy for North London.

**North London Waste Authority (NLWA)** – the waste disposal authority responsible for disposing of the rubbish collected by the 7 North London boroughs, which includes responsibility for producing the North London Joint Waste Strategy.

**London Waste Ltd. (LWL)** – a North London based private waste management company which manages some of North London's rubbish on behalf of the North London Waste Authority.

**The Programme Manager** - for the North London Waste Plan. A planner, employed by Camden Council on behalf of the 7 North London boroughs to coordinate the development of the North London Waste Plan. He is not employed by the NLWA.

	<b>North London Waste Plan</b>	<b>North London Joint Waste Strategy</b>
Being developed by:	Planning officers from the 7 boroughs, coordinated by a programme manager, and utilising external consultants	North London Waste Authority and waste officers from the seven boroughs
Focus	Identifying sufficient land and suitable sites for new waste facilities to 2020	Developing a strategy for the methods of disposing municipal waste to 2020
Scope	All waste	Municipal waste only
Determines	Sites that are suitable for new waste facilities	What types of facilities are needed to treat the municipal waste that is collected
Published by:	December 2010	October 2008

## Questions and answers

### **1) Who will be responsible for choosing sites for future waste facilities?**

Planners from the 7 North London boroughs will identify suitable sites for new waste facilities and will list these in the North London Waste Plan. A shortlist of sites and other aspects of the draft plan will be subject to public consultation in early 2009 and an Examination in Public, the new name for a public enquiry, will take place in 2010. The NLWA or its contractors will need to buy or lease sites on which to build new waste facilities. In selecting sites, the NLWA and its contractors must take into account the sites and policies in the North London Waste Plan. Only sites included in the plan, once it is produced, are likely to gain planning permission for new waste facilities.

### **2) Could a waste facility be built on a site which is not in the North London Waste Plan?**

Potentially, yes.

It is a commercial decision for the NLWA and/or its contractors or any other private company to decide on which sites it will put forward planning applications for new facilities. However, the NLWA or its contractors would have to have a justifiable reason for putting forward an application for development on a site which is not included in the North London Waste Plan. It therefore far less likely that the NLWA or a developer would get planning permission for building a waste facility on a site that is not included in the North London Waste Plan than on one which is included.

### **3) How do you ensure that the impartiality of the North London Waste Plan development process is maintained to ensure that the NLWA doesn't unduly influence the list of sites that are finally included in the Plan?**

Identifying sites for new waste facilities needs to be an impartial process based on site suitability rather than commercial concerns. It is therefore important for a measure of separation to be maintained between the process of developing the North London Waste Plan by the borough's planning authorities and the process of preparing the waste management strategy by the NLWA and the seven boroughs acting as waste disposal authorities. Although both processes are ultimately the responsibility of the same local authorities, care is being taken to ensure that the planning process remains impartial. This is similar to the impartiality that is required to be exercised when local authorities carry out their planning functions for other activities that are the responsibility of different parts of the same local authorities, such as for schools and social care facilities.

The process of developing the North London Waste Plan consists of a number of stages. The NLWA is a stakeholder in the process and can therefore legitimately input as appropriate. However, the NLWA cannot be involved in key decisions, such as finalising the list of possible sites to be included in the plan.

#### **Links:**

North London Waste Authority: [www.nlwa.gov.uk](http://www.nlwa.gov.uk)

North London Waste Plan: [www.nlwp.gov.uk](http://www.nlwp.gov.uk)

**Report Ends**