

**NORTH LONDON WASTE AUTHORITY**

**REPORT TITLE:**  
**JOINT WASTE STRATEGY UPDATE**

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

<b>FOR SUBMISSION TO:</b> <b>AUTHORITY MEETING</b>	<b>DATE:</b> <b>12<sup>th</sup> December 2007</b>
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**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 19<sup>th</sup> September 2007. The report includes progress made with carrying out a retrospective strategic environmental assessment of the North London Joint Waste Strategy and comments received from consultees on the scoping report for the same, along with other implementation matters including capital expenditure provision.

**RECOMMENDATIONS**

The Authority is recommended to:

- i) delegate authority to the Head of Waste Strategy & Contracts, in consultation with the Chairman and group leaders, to revise the SEA scoping report following the recent consultation and to approve the SEA environmental report for public consultation once it is produced;
- ii) provide revenue support for a capital programme of £10m, representing some £0.86m in the 2008/09 financial year; and
- iii) delegate authority to the Head of Waste Strategy & Contracts, in consultation with the Chairman and group leaders to approve direct financial support to borough community initiatives meeting the criteria outlined in Appendix 1, within a budget of £25,000 for 2008-09, and within agreed budgets for future years.

**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, 'the 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 September.

## **2.0 STRATEGY ADOPTION AND STRATEGIC ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT**

- 2.1 Due to the NLJWS not having been formally adopted by 22<sup>nd</sup> July 2006, it became necessary to prepare a retrospective Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) of the NLJWS. A range of baseline data was assembled for this, along with potential environmental impact assessment criteria.
- 2.2 A SEA scoping report was produced and issued to statutory consultees under previously agreed delegated authority and all comments have now been received from those consultees. The SEA scoping report aimed to provide details of the scope of the environmental impact assessment which would be undertaken retrospectively, to assess the environmental impact of implementing the NLJWS. The Authority and each of the constituent boroughs, as equal partners in the NLJWS, approved the publication of the scoping report for consultation. The scoping report was sent to the statutory consultees and to the Mayor of London in September 2007; it was also placed in local libraries and published on the Authority's website. A statutory 5 week consultation period was provided for all consultees.
- 2.3 Once the SEA Scoping Report has been redrafted to incorporate the comments, it will then form the basis for the next stage of the SEA process, which is to produce an Environmental Report.

### **SEA Scoping Report – Statutory Consultees' Comments**

- 2.4 The statutory consultees were the Environment Agency, English Heritage and Natural England. Officers have been through their comments and will make appropriate changes to the scoping report that defines the next stage of the SEA process, i.e. the Environmental Report, which will also be consulted upon.

- 2.5 The Environment Agency recommended that the Authority consults on the revised NLJWS at the same time as the Environmental Report; that the Authority should incorporate certain baseline data from the North London Waste Plan work (being carried out by the seven constituent boroughs in their separate capacity as local planning authorities) to provide a more comprehensive picture of the current state of the environment in North London against which future impacts can be measured; that they support the Authority's use of their new environmental impact assessment model called WRATE and our application of this to the combination of services set out in the Procurement Strategy agreed last December; that greater consideration of biodiversity and water-resource and water-quality impacts may be helpful; and that wider issues raised in their recent report on the Mayor of London's draft business waste strategy could usefully be incorporated. Authority officers acknowledge and agree with the direction of the Environment Agency comments, and will liaise with them over the final Scoping Report.
- 2.6 English Heritage recommended that local borough conservation officers are invited to participate in the finalisation of the Scoping Report to ensure that not only listed buildings are identified and recorded, but also conservation areas, registered parks and scheduled ancient monuments, etc are included, as they believe that the historic environment is comprised of finite, non-renewable resources (buildings, features, landscapes) that should be protected as much as possible. Authority officers are seeking to make appropriate changes to the scoping report to reflect English Heritage's concerns.
- 2.7 Natural England suggested that a Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) is required as part of the SEA process. Further discussion is taking place with Natural England regarding the most appropriate time at which HRA should be undertaken (i.e. possibly within later site-specific proposals and/or Environmental Impact Assessments); this will be included within the Environmental Report as appropriate.
- 2.8 Where consultees made general comments on the NLJWS itself, rather than the SEA scoping report, these will be carried forward to the final review of changes to the NLJWS before adoption.

## **SEA Scoping Report – Non-Statutory Consultees' Comments**

### Mayor of London

- 2.9 The Mayor of London's comments on the NLJWS, following his review of the strategy last year, were incorporated, where appropriate, within the scoping report for a retrospective Strategic Environmental Assessment or 'SEA' of the strategy which was published on 10<sup>th</sup> September.

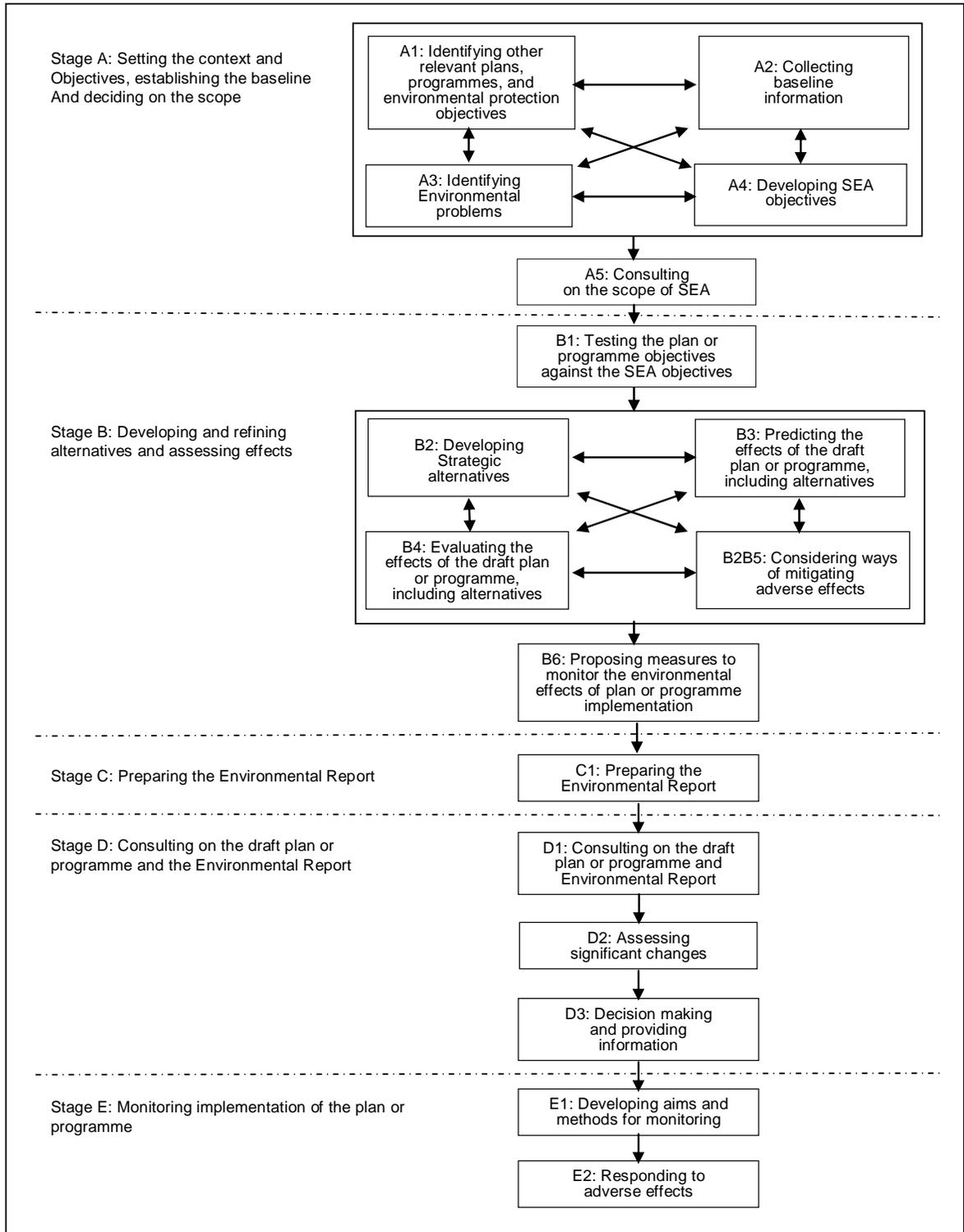
- 2.10 The Mayor of London's office provided officer comments by e-mail and more formal comments in a letter to the Authority's Chairman from the GLA Policy Director – Environment on behalf of the Mayor of London. The latter contained comments on the SEA scoping report but also referred Members back to the original comments on the NLJWS made by the Mayor of London in December 2006. The comments on the SEA scoping report and the strategy in general will be taken in turn.
- 2.11 In commenting on the SEA scoping report, the over-arching concern of the GLA was that the Authority was not proposing to carry out environmental modelling of any additional options or scenarios, other than those already contained within the NLJWS plus one additional option to represent the procurement strategy approved in December 2006. The GLA felt that the SEA scoping report did not suggest that the Authority would be addressing the London Mayor's original concern about the NLJWS that the original BPEO assessments within the NLJWS were no longer adequate as they did not take account of what the GLA perceived as substantial developments in the field of new and emerging technologies, which have occurred in the period since. The GLA also contended that the BPEO should additionally assess treatment options on their individual merits rather than repeating the previous assessment's methodology which assessed particular collection methods along with particular treatment methods.
- 2.12 Authority officers believe that the Mayor's request goes beyond that which would be consistent with a retrospective SEA, but believe he is right to request revised analyses of the options. Updated environmental impact modelling is being carried out as part of the SEA process and this was outlined in the scoping report. The scoping report also explained that the SEA process is retrospective. So, whilst the draft scoping report proposed an environmental impact assessment using a new methodology incorporating better environmental analyses and contemporary costs, this assessment will be carried out upon the **original** four alternatives for handling North London's waste which were put forward in the strategy, plus an additional fifth scenario based upon the Authority's more recent procurement strategy. One of the original four options does include the use of gasification which is termed a 'new technology'. The Authority's forthcoming procurement activity will also bring forward a range of alternative types and combinations of waste treatments that cannot be known in advance, but these will all be properly assessed as part of the procurement process, including using the Environment Agency's new environmental impact assessment tool, WRATE, at appropriate stages.

- 2.13 Authority officers have also since explained to the GLA that although the SEA is retrospective, all five scenarios will be based upon the current mix of dry recyclables collection systems in place in the constituent borough councils, i.e. three boroughs collecting dry recyclables via a kerbside sort system and four using a commingled collection system (meaning that particular treatment methods will be assessed using the same collection systems, thereby addressing the Mayor of London's point about assessing particular collection methods along with particular treatment methods); and all scenarios will be modelled to achieve the new recycling and composting targets contained in the new national Waste Strategy 2007, i.e. 50% of household waste to be reused, recycled or composted by 2020 (45% by 2015). This matter should be concluded through further correspondence.
- 2.14 The second major comment on the SEA scoping report from the GLA was that there was insufficient evidence in the scoping report of a commitment to change the NLJWS in the light of the results of the SEA process. This concern was particularly acute in relation to the climate change impacts and the potential for new 'Advanced Conversion Technologies' to deliver better outcomes than existing residual waste treatments such as energy-from-waste incineration.
- 2.15 Clearly, when the NLJWS was prepared in 2003 and 2004, climate change was not so widely recognised as an issue that would have to be dealt with in such a specific way, but the recent SEA process and the draft scoping report issued for consultation both recognise it as a very significant issue. The use of the Environment Agency's new environmental impact assessment tool WRATE is particularly designed to incorporate this. The Mayor of London should therefore be assured that climate change impacts will be an integral part of the way in which the Authority specifies and evaluates future contracts, taking into account both collection and disposal authority services. Technology choices will be dealt with more fully during future procurement activity, and liaison with the GLA will take place as a part of this.
- 2.16 Thirdly the GLA was concerned that the scoping report did not sufficiently clarify where and when additional environmental impact assessments (EIAs) and habitats impact assessments or habitats regulations assessments (HRAs) would be undertaken. This is already addressed above in relation to the comments of Natural England, with whom principal liaison on this matter will take place.
- 2.17 Finally the letter to the Authority's Chairman from the GLA Policy Director – Environment on behalf of the Mayor of London also stated that the Mayor still has concerns with the NLJWS and requested that clarification be provided regarding how the Mayor's concerns will be addressed in the joint strategy and then implemented through the procurement strategy. Further discussion will take place with the Mayor's Policy Director - Environment on this issue.
- 2.18 No additional comments on the SEA scoping report were received as a result of placing copies in borough libraries and on the Authority's website.

## **SEA Environmental Report – Scope and Possible Implications for the NLJWS**

- 2.19 The environmental report which will be produced as the next stage of the SEA process, (see Figure 1 below - Stage C), should be available in January 2008. It needs to be approved by each of the partner authorities to the NLJWS (i.e. the Authority and the seven constituent borough councils) prior to release for public consultation; the 'Mayor's Draft' NLJWS will be sent with it in order to provide a complete picture, and to give a further opportunity for stakeholders to make any additional comments on the complete strategy 'package'.
- 2.20 At this stage it is too early to say what the environmental report will say or what recommendations for changing the NLJWS may be made as a result, however these may include:
- A suggestion that some additional text and possibly a new implementation action on climate change is included within the NLJWS.
  - Reference to the SEA environmental report within the NLJWS.
  - A revision of Chapter 6 - 'Identifying the Best Practicable Environmental Option for North London', taking account of any findings from the SEA process.
  - Mention of the procurement process.
  - Any other changes arising directly or indirectly from the consultation processes.
- 2.21 The SEA Directive was implemented into English law by the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004. These contain the relevant requirements for consultation, which reflect the requirements of the SEA Directive. They are in Part 3, and do include a requirement for consultation with the public consultees as defined in paragraph 13(2)(b). These are the persons who, in the Authority's opinion, are affected or likely to be affected by, or have an interest in the decisions involved in the assessment and adoption of the plan or programme concerned.
- 2.22 Therefore, the environmental report must be issued for public consultation with a copy of the draft North London Joint Waste Strategy. Although public consultation was carried out on the joint waste strategy in 2004, it is necessary for it to go out again with the SEA environmental report because of the new requirements of the SEA Directive.
- 2.23 It is therefore recommended that authority is delegated to the Head of Waste Strategy and Contracts, in consultation with the Chairman and group leaders, to revise the SEA scoping report following the recent consultation and to approve the SEA environmental report for public consultation once it is produced;

**Figure 1: - Relationship between the SEA Tasks**



- 2.24 As noted at the last Authority meeting, if the timetable for the consultation on and adoption of the North London Joint Waste Strategy is delayed for any reason, the resultant impact may be a delay in the Authority's application for PFI credits and the procurement process. The Authority cannot apply for PFI credits unless it does so within the framework of an adopted joint strategy between the Authority and the seven borough partners. The NLJWS cannot be adopted until the SEA is completed. Given the revised timetable for the SEA process, which is due largely to the longer than anticipated time it has taken to obtain all the necessary data for the SEA modelling work it may now be necessary to have an extraordinary Authority meeting in March 2008 in order to approve any changes to the NLJWS resulting from the SEA and to adopt the Strategy so that an application for PFI credits can be made in accordance with the current timetable.

### **3.0 STATUTORY REQUIREMENTS**

#### **Local Authority Performance Indicators**

- 3.1 Progress on the implementation of new local authority performance indicators which will come into force from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2008 is reported elsewhere on this Authority agenda.

#### **North London Waste Plan (North London Joint Waste Development Plan Document)**

- 3.2 Progress on the North London Waste Plan (NLWP) is reported six monthly to members. As a report on this issue was presented at the last Authority meeting in September the next report will therefore be prepared for the Authority meeting in February 2008.

### **4.0 WASTE HIERARCHY OPTIONS**

#### **Waste Minimisation – Waste Prevention Implementation Plan**

- 4.1 A separate report is included elsewhere on this agenda detailing progress on implementing the North London Waste Prevention Plan and proposals for the future regarding waste avoidance, reduction and reuse. Similarly, discussion of recycling and re-use credits is included elsewhere on this agenda.

#### **Waste Minimisation - Home and Community Composting**

##### **Community composting fund**

- 4.2 The community composting fund is now completed with the moneys distributed to boroughs as outlined at the last Authority meeting. A balance of £2,324 has been returned from already funded projects, which will either be used to train 'Master Composters', (community volunteers who promote home composting and provide advice and support to residents with compost bins, across the seven constituent borough councils) or will be returned to Authority balances.

## **Waste Management - Recycling and Centralised Composting**

- 4.3 Plans to respond to the increased demand being placed on the Authority for recycling sorting and biodegradable waste treatment services are reported later in this report.
- 4.4 The Authority was recently approached by the Waste and Resources Action Programme (WRAP) to take part in a trial of plasterboard recycling at borough re-use and recycling centres. Although the trial is not funded by WRAP, i.e. participating boroughs would need to pay the full costs of the collection and recycling of plasterboard during the trial period (which runs from now until the end of March 2008), support is provided from WRAP in the form of training, artwork for promotional materials and signage. The two local boroughs interested in participating in the trial are progressing this directly with WRAP.
- 4.5 The target for recycling and composting diversion rates at all North London re-use and recycling centres is 60% by 2015 (North London Joint Waste Strategy Implementation Action 4.G2). Current diversion rates range from 34% to 89%, based upon recent evaluation work carried out for the procurement process. Discussions at officer level have started to consider how the 60% target might best be achieved.

## **Waste Management - Recovery and Landfill**

- 4.6 The Authority was recently contacted by the University College of London's (UCL's) Environment Unit to be the focus of a potential 2 year research study investigating greenhouse gas emissions and the environmental impact of waste management using a life cycle analysis approach. The proposal includes an investigation of different waste management scenarios for managing North London's municipal waste with a focus on the comparison between the impact of using pyrolysis and gasification as residual waste treatment methods. The Authority is not required to provide any funding for the project, should it go ahead, but to provide officer time to participate in a project steering group and to provide waste management data to enable the life-cycle assessment modelling to be carried out.
- 4.7 The work mirrors the recent work carried out by the Authority's technical consultants for the SEA and will potentially provide a useful check of the same.
- 4.8 Should the research obtain funding, there would be requirement for certain aspects of the project to remain confidential, because of the sensitivity of the work during the Authority's procurement process, however, this has been discussed with UCL and both parties are confident that these issues can be managed. UCL will hear if they have received funding for the project in July 2008.

## **5.0 MANAGEMENT OF OTHER WASTE STREAMS**

### **Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment**

- 5.1 An update on 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, following the introduction of the WEEE regulations in the UK on 1<sup>st</sup> July, is provided in the Contracts Activity report elsewhere on this Authority agenda.

## **6.0 IDENTIFYING THE BEST PRACTICABLE ENVIRONMENTAL OPTION FOR NORTH LONDON**

- 6.1 The SEA work and modelling for the same is aimed at retrospectively reviewing the best practicable environmental option for North London and is already reported earlier in this report.
- 6.2 Updated data projections have been carried out by the Authority's technical consultants for this work as well as updated environmental impact assessments using the Environment Agency's new impact assessment tool, WRATE. Commentary on, and the outputs of, this work will be reported in the environmental report produced for the SEA, which is also referred to earlier in this report.

## **7.0 IMPLEMENTING THE BEST PRACTICABLE ENVIRONMENTAL OPTION FOR NORTH LONDON**

### **Waste Disposal Implications - Dry Recyclable Wastes**

- 7.1 From April 2008, the Authority will have some 62,000 tonnes per annum of commingled dry recyclables under its control. This opens up the real possibility of the Authority procuring a local MRF service which would have the principal advantage of avoiding the financial costs and environmental impacts of transporting our commingled wastes across London for sorting, and which would also contribute to the local regeneration objectives within the North London Joint Waste Strategy. If such a facility were built in a suitable location within North London to which most constituent borough council collection vehicles could deliver directly, there would be a saving of between £0.7m and £1m per year depending on what degree of local bulking was still necessary.

- 7.2 It is believed that the best way to optimise competition between MRF service providers is for the Authority to secure and offer up a suitable site, on which all contractors can tender to provide the best service they can. If finding sites is left to the private sector it is quite likely that: the Authority will have to make compromises between tenderers who have the best locations and tenderers who have the best processes; and that a privately provided site will have to contain in the gate fee not only the same initial site acquisition costs, but also relatively high commercial rates of interest and profit margins added on top. Looking then to the further future, once the contract comes to an end, if the MRF is redundant or life-expired, the Authority would then have a site with established waste use in North London upon which to request tenders for whatever new waste treatments or services may be required in the future, or an asset with which to fund alternatives.
- 7.3 Consultants advise that such a facility may be built on a site of some 1-1.5 hectares (2.5-4 acres), which at local industrial land values of around £3.7m per hectare would suggest an indicative capital cost of £3.7m-£5.6m.
- 7.4 Careful design may permit the separate bulking of kerbside-sorted materials at the same facility so that the higher value of the papers in particular can be preserved.

#### **Waste Disposal Implications - Biodegradable Wastes**

- 7.5 From April 2008, the Authority will also have 58,000 tonnes per annum of separately collected biodegradable wastes under its control, but with local contracted capacity of just 30,000 tonnes per annum. The situation here is very similar to that above in relation to MRF services for dry recyclable wastes and the same strategic issues apply. The saving of transport in this case is not quite the same as with the MRF as it is firstly more a matter of 'avoided future costs' in budgetary terms, as bulking and transport costs have not hitherto been borne by the Authority for these wastes; and secondly there are different licensing and permitting issues around food wastes that may inhibit a bulking and transport operation.
- 7.6 Consultants advise that a further in-vessel composting facility could occupy a site of a similar size to the above MRF, suggesting a further indicative capital cost of £3.7m-£5.6m. Anaerobic digestion however is a further alternative that could offer energy production from biodegradable wastes as the gas formed in the process can either be refined and used to power commercial vehicles or fed into a gas turbine to generate electricity.
- 7.7 It is therefore recommended that revenue support for a capital programme of £10m be provided, representing some £0.86m in the 2008/09 financial year. This would provide for site needs for dry recyclable and biodegradable wastes. In agreeing to such a budget provision, Members would not be committing the Authority to any particular expenditure. Rather, Members would be enabling a line of action which officers recommend will provide best value to the Authority, but any actual expenditure decision will remain subject to future Authority decisions. This budget provision is already within the draft 2008/09 budget elsewhere on this agenda.

## **8.0 WORKING IN PARTNERSHIP TO DELIVER THE STRATEGY**

### **A Public Awareness and Participation Campaign**

- 8.1 Work is concluding on the communication and awareness programme being funded with £300,000 from the Waste and Resources Action Programme (WRAP), involving Camden, Hackney, Enfield and Waltham Forest and led by the Authority. All practical promotional work will be completed by the end of this quarter (31<sup>st</sup> December 2007), with all post-campaign monitoring conducted in the final quarter, with project completion at the end of March 2008.
- 8.2 Since the last Authority meeting the second phase of targeted 'doorstepping' campaigns in Enfield and Waltham Forest has concluded and promotional support materials have been delivered to the households targeted. Training on how to use the database of translated text and phrases, which has been produced as part of the project, has now been completed. Officers from all seven boroughs attended the training. The database is now available for all the constituent borough councils to use. The database will allow borough officers to simply and easily extract words and phrases in different community languages to produce posters and leaflets etc, saving individual boroughs additional translation costs and allowing the work to be carried out quickly and in-house. The use of the database will be monitored over forthcoming months.

### **Alternatives to the North London Recycling Forum (NLRF)**

- 8.3 At the last Authority meeting it was decided to give the NLRF Steering Group formal notice that the NLWA sponsorship for the Forum will cease at the end of March 2008, and to develop detailed alternative proposals for community engagement and outreach for consideration at the December 2007 Authority meeting. These alternative proposals are outlined below.
- 8.4 In summary two alternative proposals are provided:
- The first involves funding a series of 'community fora' or community meetings where members of the public can discuss and debate waste and recycling issues directly with NLWA, industry representatives, the community sector and other government authorities. The estimated cost of this option is £17,500 per annum.
  - The second proposal involves providing direct funding support to programmes, initiatives and events which provide practical support and facilitate better communication and understanding between the government, community and business sectors on waste reduction, recycling and composting, e.g. providing funding for a borough green fair. The Authority's previous Community Composting Fund had a budget of £25,000, but now that this has ended a similar budgetary provision could be made to contribute to borough activities of this nature. Appendix 1 contains suggested criteria for such funding.

- 8.5 Members are recommended to approve providing direct financial support to borough events and schemes as an alternative to funding the NLRP and in line with the past level of funding for community composting it is recommended that members approve a budget of £25,000 for 2008-09 for such support, with funding provided in line with the proposed criteria outlined in Appendix 1.
- 8.6 It is therefore recommended to delegate authority to the Head of Waste Strategy & Contracts, in consultation with the Chairman and group leaders to approve direct financial support to borough community initiatives meeting the criteria outlined in Appendix 1, within a budget of £25,000 for 2008-09, and within agreed budgets for future years.

## **9.0 RECOMMENDATIONS**

9.1 The Authority is recommended to:

- i) delegate authority to the Head of Waste Strategy & Contracts, in consultation with the Chairman and group leaders, to revise the SEA scoping report following the recent consultation and to approve the SEA environmental report for public consultation once it is produced;
- ii) provide revenue support for a capital programme of £10m, representing some £0.86m in the 2008/09 financial year; and
- iii) delegate authority to the Head of Waste Strategy & Contracts, in consultation with the Chairman and group leaders to approve direct financial support to borough community initiatives meeting the criteria outlined in Appendix 1, within a budget of £25,000 for 2008-09, and within agreed budgets for future years.

## **10.0 COMMENTS OF THE FINANCIAL ADVISER**

10.1 The Financial Adviser has been consulted in the preparation of this report and advises that the costs of the SEA can be funded from the 2007/08 budget and that provisions of £0.025m to provide direct financial support to borough events and schemes and £0.86m to support a capital programme for sites for recycling and composting services have been allowed for in the 2008/09 budget forecast reported elsewhere on this agenda.

## **11.0 COMMENTS OF THE LEGAL ADVISER**

11.1 The Legal Adviser has been consulted in the preparation of this report and his comments are noted as follows and incorporated within the body of the report and additionally:

11.2 On the question of how far you incorporate the comments of the statutory consultees, (to the SEA scoping report) the obligation will be to take proper account of those comments. If the comments show that some change needs to be made to comply with the law, then they must be incorporated. .

**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>

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

Waste Strategy for England 2007, DEFRA

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## APPENDIX 1

### **Proposals for Supporting Alternative Community Engagement Projects Alternative Options for North London Recycling Forum**

#### **Background**

The North London Recycling Forum (NLRF) was established in 2001 at an event jointly hosted by the North London Waste Authority (NLWA) and LondonWaste Limited (LWL). The intent of the NLRF was to provide a forum where government, business, academic and the community sector can come together to work on addressing waste avoidance, recycling and management in North London.

Since that initial meeting, eight NLRF events have been held with the most recent being in June 2007. Throughout this time, the Authority has co-sponsored the forum with LWL on an equal basis.

At its September meeting, the Authority decided to give the NLRF Steering Group formal notice that the NLWA sponsorship will cease at the end of March 2008 and request that NLWA officers develop detailed alternative proposals for community engagement and outreach for consideration at the December 2007 Authority meeting.

#### **Possible Alternatives**

NLWA officers have considered two possible alternatives for the NLRF, that are in keeping with the intent to foster better understanding between the government, business and the community sectors. These alternatives are presented below.

##### *Community Fora*

Deliver a series of 'community fora', where members of the public can discuss and debate waste and recycling issues directly with NLWA, industry representatives, the community sector and other government authorities.

These fora could be run in small venues across North London, providing the opportunity to react to "hot topics" that arise.

These fora could also be used to discuss future waste management options in North London that result from the procurement process. This will help gauge community support for different technology choices and site locations.

In circumstances where a forum is likely to be discussing particularly contentious or controversial issues, it is recommended that an independent facilitator is used. This will help ensure all parties have a chance to have their air their views and that discussion is kept constructive.

The exact cost of each fora will depend on the location, cost of venue hire, catering and the need for an independent facilitator.

## *Support Fund*

The second alternative for the NLRF is to provide direct funding support to programmes, initiatives and events which facilitate better communication and understanding between the government, community and business sectors. This is in line with original rationale for supporting the NLRF.

One example of a suitable event may be a local green fair where the community can visit stalls run by their local council as well as community sector and business organisations involved in recycling and waste management.

It is proposed that this fund not be subject to an open application process, but instead relies on constituent borough officers nominating a small number of events/programmes/initiatives to receive support. This will help minimise staff time and advertising costs for administration of the fund.

It is recommended that funding is provided based on the following criteria:

### 1. Who can apply, or on what can boroughs spend the funds?

Proposals for funding should be submitted by the constituent borough councils. Applications will not be accepted directly from community or other groups running eligible projects within the relevant borough only with the constituent borough council's written support.

Funding may be used for capital or revenue costs, but applications should be for support for projects which involve the local community and which encourage waste reduction, recycling and/or composting.

In assessing applications, account will be taken of the number of people likely to be affected by the project, the longevity of the impact of the project and, if at all possible, the tonnes of waste recycled or composted.

The project itself may be delivered with the support of the relevant constituent borough council, but should also involve wider partnerships with schools, community groups, religious organisations, or other community representatives, if relevant or possible.

### 2. Grant size

There is no minimum or maximum funding award, but applicants should note the overall size of the fund available in each borough. However, applicants should be aware that in making awards, the Authority's Head of Waste Strategy and Contracts, in consultation with the Chairman and group leaders will have regard to the distribution of funding between the constituent borough councils.

### 3. What types of waste are eligible?

The funds can only be used for projects that are able to demonstrate that they will increase municipal waste reduction, recycling or composting. Household garden waste composting and household kitchen waste composting are eligible materials.

All waste must be diverted from the municipal waste stream.

#### *Municipal waste:*

“This includes household waste and any other wastes collected by a Waste Collection Authority, or its agents, such as municipal parks and gardens waste, beach cleansing waste [recognised as not locally relevant], commercial or industrial waste and waste resulting from the clearance of fly-tipped materials.”

(<http://www.defra.gov.uk/environment/statistics/wastats/mwb0304/wbanexe.htm>)

The above definition will be amended, if necessary, when the Government publishes its response to the consultation in 2007 of the legal definition of ‘municipal waste’.

### 4. Monitoring and evaluation requirements

Evidence of project spend will need to be provided in addition to estimates of material reduced, recycled or composted and a brief summary of how the money has been spent to the satisfaction of the Authority’s Finance Officer and auditor.

### 5. Waste licences

Projects must have the written approval or agreement of the Environment Agency for any project which falls within their jurisdiction, and relevant planning permission.

All submissions should be sent by the constituent borough councils to the Authority c/o Barbara Herridge, Policy and Development Manager. Awards will be made on an ongoing basis throughout the year. All applicants will be notified as soon as possible about the outcome of their application.

## **Cost**

The Authority’s contribution to the NLRG in previous years has been £12,000 per annum. In its bid, which was rejected by the Authority in September, the NLRG Steering Group requested £13,170 for the 2008 calendar year.

It was highlighted to the Authority at its September meeting that “*the exact costs of alternative approaches have not been calculated, but are likely to be significantly more than the current contribution to the NLRF as NLWA is likely to be the sole sponsor*”.

### *Community Fora*

The total cost of the community fora programme is variable, as the cost of each venue is likely to vary along with the need for a facilitator. However, the following guideline prices have been used to calculate the total budget:

- Facilitator: Approximately £500 for ½ day facilitation and travel costs (based on the cost of facilitator previously used by NLWA)
- Venue hire and advertising: Approximately £2,000 (based on advertising and venue hire for council “give and take” days)
- Catering: Approximately £210 per meeting (assumes 35 attendees at £6 per head).

Assuming one event in each borough, four of them requiring a Facilitator, the total budget required for community fora in 2008/09 is anticipated to be £17,470.

### *Support Fund*

It is proposed that £25,000 be allocated for the support fund for 2008-09, approximately £3,500 per borough.

It is recommended that authority is delegated to the Head of Waste Strategy and Contracts in consultation with the Chairman and group leaders to make awards from the fund, with reports provided to the Authority meetings.

None of the costs above include NLWA officer time, although it is noted that community fora are likely to require significantly more staff time to organise and run compared with the support fund option.

**Report Ends**