

Agenda Item No:

NORTH LONDON WASTE AUTHORITY

REPORT TITLE:

NORTH LONDON RECYCLING FORUM

REPORT OF:

HEAD OF WASTE STRATEGY AND CONTRACTS

FOR SUBMISSION TO:

AUTHORITY MEETING

DATE:

19th September 2007

SUMMARY OF REPORT:

This report updates Members on NLWA's sponsorship of the North London Recycling Forum (NLRF) and provides options for future support both through the NLRF and through alternative channels.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Authority is recommended to:

- i) note the post 2007 proposal from the North London Recycling Forum Steering Group, attached in Appendix A and B; and
- ii) decide whether to:
 - a) approve and budget £13,170 in line with the proposal from the North London Recycling Forum (NLRF) Steering Group for the period of 1 January 2008 to 31 December 2008, on the understanding that it will be used to deliver 2 North London focussed events in 2008; or
 - b) 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.

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

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Date:

1.0 BACKGROUND

- 1.1 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). 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.
- 1.2 While the NLRF is not a constituted body, it operates independently of the two lead sponsorship organisations. It has an elected Chair, a part-time Co-ordinator and a Steering Group that includes the Co-ordinator and representatives from:
 - Centre for Environment and Safety Management for Business (Middlesex university);
 - Lawrence M. Barry & Co. (textile recycling);
 - London Community Recycling Network;
 - LWL;
 - Market Ecology (a market consultancy, specialising in the environmental sector);
 - NLWA; and
 - TRAIID (textile recycling).
- 1.3 The membership of the Steering Group reflects the intent of the NLRF 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.
- 1.4 The existing Authority approval for funds for NLRF ceases at the end of December 2007. The 2007/08 budget allows for this commitment and also allows for the possible funding of a further £3000 until the end of the financial year. Authority approval is needed to release the further funds to the NLRF along with any funds for the remainder of the 2008 calendar year.
- 1.5 The NLRF Steering Group has prepared a proposal to extend NLWA sponsorship for the 2008 calendar year, along with a budget. These documents are attached in Appendix A and B.
- 1.6 The NLRF Steering Group has requested £13,170 for the 2008 calendar year, which has been calculated by applying inflation to the £12,000 committed in 2005. If the Authority is minded to approve this request, it will be necessary to make provision in the current budget to cover an increase in costs in the current year and make provisions in the budget arrangements for 2008/09.
- 1.7 The table below is based on figures supplied by the NLRF Steering Group and shows the % contribution of NLWA funds against the total NLRF income since 2005 including LWL sponsorship, third party sponsorship received and

in-kind donations such as free venue hire and time donated by Steering Group members.

	Total Income	NLWA contribution	LWL contribution	Other income	Steering Group time ¹	% NLWA contribution
2005	£37,741.04	£12,000	£12,000	£7,341.04	£6,400	31.8%
2006	£41,502.76	£12,000	£12,000	£8,602.76	£8,900	28.9%
2007 (to June)	£23,726.00	£6,000	£6,000	£7,676.00	£4050	25.3%
Estimated/ Anticipated for 2008	£40,730.00	£13,170	£13,170	£7,990.00	£6,400 ²	32.3%

1- Assumes £20 per hour, exc. VAT

2- Steering group time for 2008 is assumed to be the same as 2005.

- 1.8 As demonstrated in the table above, the proposed level of NLWA sponsorship represents approximately 32.3% of the total anticipated income for the NLRF for 2008, approximately in-line with level in 2005.
- 1.9 The 2008 projection includes an estimated value for Steering Group members' time. As this is a highly variable figure, a large increase in time spent attending meetings and arranging events would alter the relative contribution of the sponsorship from NLWA.
- 1.10 It should also be noted that NLWA is a member of the Steering Group, so it makes a contribution both through direct sponsorship and in-kind support. NLWA's time on the Steering Group is estimated at 1/8 of the total time, or an additional £800 to the direct sponsorship. This would raise the estimated contribution from NLWA in 2008 to approximately 34%.
- 1.11 The NLRF will continue to work towards reducing its reliance on core sponsorship from NLWA and LWL, and aims to raise the profile of the Forum in 2008 in order to attract new event sponsors and increase the ability to sell exhibition space.

2.0 PERFORMANCE AGAINST 2005-2007 BUSINESS PLAN

- 2.1 The 2005-2007 business plan aimed to hold five NLRF events between 2005 and 2007, of which four have already been delivered successfully. The fifth is scheduled for December 7th this year. Attendance throughout this time has been strong.
- 2.2 The NLRF 2005-2007 Business Plan committed to arranging site visits to appropriate facilities. These visits have included:
- Hornsey Street Re-Use and Recycling Centre.
 - TRAIID store in Archway where (in a showcase partnership project, formed at a NLRF event) old cloth from the seats of London Underground trains is recycled into fashion items; and
 - Walbrook Wharf waste transfer station, which uses river barges rather than road transport.

- 2.3 The 2005-2007 business plan anticipated that a database would be set up for delegates to access, including contact details for affiliated individuals and organisations together with information on service providers in the area. This was not actioned due to:
- possible data protection issues;
 - the lack of any specific funds to host and update it; and
 - the existence of various overlapping web-based resources.

3.0 SECURING ADDITIONAL FUNDING

- 3.1 The 2005-2007 business plan envisaged that the NLRF would apply to external bodies for funding and use the additional income to provide further, single-issue events hosted by delegate organisations. After one unsuccessful expression of interest it was decided not to pursue this expansion of Forum activities and costs. This was due to the complications involved in bidding for funding while only existing as an informal and un-constituted collective of stakeholder groups.
- 3.2 Despite ceasing attempts to apply for specific project funding, the NLRF has been successful in securing external sponsorship for specific elements of the NLRF events.
- 3.3 The additional cash and in-kind income generated from the sponsorship of specific elements of event costs (e.g. catering), the commercial sale of exhibition space at events and the use of conference facilities at City Hall without charge between January 2005 and June 2007 was:
- £13,741 in 2005 (£6741 of sponsorship, £600 from sale of exhibition space, £6,400 of Steering Group members time)
 - £17,503 in 2006 (£3,083 of sponsorship, £600 from sale of exhibition space, £4,920 of City Hall hire, £8,900 of Steering Group members time)
 - £11,726 to June 2007 (sponsorship £2000, £5,676 of City Hall hire, £4,050 of Steering Group members time)

4.0 FUTURE DIRECTION FOR NLRF

- 4.1 The NLRF Steering Group believe the Forum provides a unique opportunity for community, commercial, government and academic stakeholders to develop partnerships and share best practice and improve communication.
- 4.2 While the NLRF retains a focus on North London, it features speakers from across the country that can bring expertise and knowledge to the Forum. No other event or organisation provides such a regional focus for sustainable waste management issues.
- 4.3 Appendix A details the NLRF proposal which commits to:

- Delivering a large forum event every six to nine months;
 - Developing a NLRF website to help raise the profile of the forum, assist in better cross-sector communications and generate sponsorship income.
- 4.4 Appendix A also discusses the plans of the NLRF Steering Group to expand the forum into wider project delivery with partner agencies. It is hoped that this will help secure additional funding to support the NLRF.
- 4.5 One option to secure additional funding for the NLRF is to offer its expertise in organising events to other waste authority areas in London. The NLRF Steering Group understands that NLWA funding can only be used to support Forum events in North London.

5.0 BENEFITS OF SUPPORTING NLRF

- 5.1 Participation in the NLRF helps support a number of aims and implementation actions listed in the draft North London Joint Waste Strategy including:

Aims

- To engage residents, community groups, local businesses and any other interested parties in the development and implementation of the Strategy;

Implementation Actions

- The North London Partner Authorities will actively support Business Networks encouraging demonstrably effective waste prevention and minimisation amongst local businesses (4A2);
- The Partner Authorities will share good practice on waste reducing activities and will have regard to the effects on waste arising when introducing new waste services (4B2);
- The Partner Authorities will continue to actively support the development of best practice in waste re-use and will encourage the development of community sector and other partnerships to deliver effective re-use services (4C1);
- The Partner Authorities welcome the support of community sector organisations in implementing this Strategy and will actively encourage community sector involvement in delivery of waste services wherever this can be demonstrated to offer Best Value (8B1);
- The Partner Authorities will consider developing a Waste Community Compact in partnership with the Community Sector to build trust and encourage further involvement of this sector in implementing this Strategy (8B2);
- The Partner Authorities will actively engage with all appropriate regional stakeholders to implement this Strategy (8E); and

- 5.2 If the Authority chooses to cease sponsorship of the NLRF, it will need to consider how these aims and implementation actions will be delivered.

6.0 ALTERNATIVES TO SUPPORTING THE NLRF

- 6.1 If the Authority decides that NLWA sponsorship will cease, it is recommended that 6 months notice is given to the NLRF Steering Group. This could be funded from the existing budget provision referred to at 1.4 above. This allows sufficient time for the NLRF to seek alternative sponsors and also allows alternative options for community engagement to be developed by NLWA officers.
- 6.2 One alternative option that would deliver community engagement and outreach might be '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, such as a forthcoming debate to be held at the I-Recycle Centre in Islington on managing waste in London. Another alternative would be to support community based activities and promotional events that reach a range of North London residents, similar to the Camden Green Fair.
- 6.3 Alternative approaches could lead to a shift in focus towards direct engagement with the public, rather than engagement with government, business, academic and community sector organisations.
- 6.4 Direct engagement with and support of public events and activities is likely to result in lively discussions surrounding potentially controversial waste and recycling issues in North London. While such debate and discussion is vital for true community engagement, the role of an independent facilitator will also be vital to ensure these forums remains constructive.
- 6.5 Community fora may provide means to directly engage the public on the issues surrounding the Authority's procurement process. This process will result in the construction of a number of waste facilities between now and 2014 that will require planning permission. Some form of an independent facilitator may help make these more effective.
- 6.6 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. If the Authority supports this option, more detailed costs will be prepared for December's Authority meeting.

7.0 OPTIONS

7.1 The Authority has a two options going forward;

- Approving the allocation of £13,170 sponsorship for the NLRF between 1 January 2008 to December 2008; or
- Ceasing sponsoring the NLRF from April 2008 and instead develop an alternative option for community engagement and outreach.

7.2 Removing sponsorship for the NLRF may cause the NLRF to fold. For this reason, it is recommended that 6 months formal notice is given to maximise the opportunity for NLRF to find an alternative sponsor.

8.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

8.1 The Authority is recommended to:

- i) note the post 2007 proposal from the North London Recycling Forum Steering Group, attached in Appendix A and B; and
- ii) decide whether to:
 - a) approve the allocation of £13,170 in line with the proposal from the North London Recycling Forum (NLRF) Steering Group for the period of 1 January 2008 to 31 December 2008, on the understanding that it will be used to deliver 2 North London focussed events in 2008; or
 - b) 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;

9.0 COMMENTS OF THE FINANCIAL ADVISER

9.1 The Financial Adviser has been consulted and his comments incorporated into the report.

10.0 COMMENTS OF THE LEGAL ADVISER

10.1 The Legal Adviser has been consulted and her comments incorporated into the report.

Local Government Act 1972 – Access to information

Documents used:

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APPENDIX A

North London Recycling Forum post 2007

**A proposal to the
North London Waste Authority**

North London Recycling Forum post 2007

Outline draft business plan

Introduction

The North London Recycling Forum (NLRF) brings together organisations of all kinds involved in any form of sustainable waste and resource management (SWM), including recycling, re-use, energy recovery, waste reduction and resource efficiency.

The first North London Recycling Forum was hosted by London Waste Ltd in 2001, bringing together the statutory, commercial, and community based sectors together with other stakeholders such as academics and environmental pressure groups. Its aims were – and remain – to increase participation in the minimisation and sustainable management of waste; to identify the barriers and disincentives to wider involvement in SWM, to encourage partnership working and cross-sector cooperation, to provide an arena for open debate of key issues facing stakeholders, and to maintain a cross-sector network between Forum events.

Several working groups were originally established to focus on different aspects of SWM, which over time consolidated into the current Steering Group (SG). In 2003, funding was provided by the NLWA and LondonWaste Ltd (LWL) to employ a freelance coordinator to reduce the demands on NLWA and LWL staff, and other SG members, in the management of the Recycling Forum.

In 2004, a business plan was prepared to cover the period to December 2007. As it now approaches its end, this proposal will examine the extent to which it was delivered and suggest a way forward into 2008.

The Forum has convened nine times since 2001 and continues to provide an vibrant conduit for communication between stakeholders from all sectors active in SWM.

NLRF has been extremely successful in bringing together stakeholders with different approaches to SWM to form a cross-sector network. It is an invaluable arena for the dissemination of best practice, the facilitation of partnership working and the exchange of ideas and experience in delivering waste reduction across the North London area and beyond.

The NLRF is closely attuned to the implementation activities contained in the NLWA's Joint Waste strategy and very well placed to deliver them (see pages eight and nine). This business plan is a proposal to the North London Waste Authority (NLWA) to renew its support for the North London Recycling Forum. The plan aims to continue to deliver Forum events for stakeholders in (SWM) in North London. It also anticipates development of funding strategies which will allow the NLWA share of total funding to be further reduced over time.

N.b.: The phrase North London Recycling Forum can mean different things. For clarity, this document refers to the main Forum events as "NLRF events", the cross-sector network as the "Forum network", and the steering group as the "SG".

Delivering the current business plan.

The core activity proposed in the current business plan was to hold five NLRF events between 2003 and 2007, of which four have already been delivered successfully. The fifth is scheduled for December 7th this year.

These have proved very useful for stakeholders and have provided an invaluable resource for all sectors interested in SWM in North London. They have been very successful in delivering the aims of the current business plan, which are:

- To provide a meeting place for stakeholders
- To raise awareness of current issues
- To include workshop seminars on specific topics for interested parties
- To arrange site tours of waste management projects and facilities
- To highlight successful partnerships
- To facilitate access to decision makers

NLRF events have increased in size, and remain very popular with stakeholders. For comparison, the last event before the current business plan is included in the list:

25 th October 2004 (before the current business plan)	59 delegates
12 th May 2005	76 delegates
1 st December 2005	90 delegates
29 th September 2006	98 delegates
22 nd June 2007	78 delegates

The clear trend is of increasing attendance, with the slight dip in June 2007 being caused by a clash with an entirely unrelated event; the Glastonbury music festival was cited by several organisations who regularly attend (such as the London Borough of Barnet) as causing staff shortages on the day of the Forum.

NLRF event programmes feature speakers from across the country bringing best practise to North London and topics are selected to highlight new developments and emerging debates in order to raise awareness of current issues. All events include the popular Marketplace feature, where delegates can stand up to highlight their current projects and attract partners, and many incorporate tours of infrastructure and partnership working sites. Events are regularly attended by decision makers such as the officers and councillors of the NLWA, the seven constituent boroughs, the GLA, and neighbouring areas such as Hertfordshire and Essex. The bulk of our delegates are active in North London, and we have also attracted attendees from other regions of the UK and further afield who have an interest in SWM in the area.

Themes are chosen for their relevance to policy developments that will affect all stakeholders, or for their practical benefit to delegate organisations. Recent topics have included:

- The joint waste strategy of the NLWA and its implications for SWM in the area;
- A debate on the proposed single waste authority for London
- Case studies of public and community sectors programmes to measure and promote waste avoidance through behavioural change

Detailed examinations of green procurement policies in the public and commercial sectors, enabling producers of recycled goods to target their sales strategies accordingly

An examination of the environmental impacts of controversial waste management options such as exporting recyclates

Preparing for WEEE

Site tours have been arranged to:

The new Hornsey Street Re-Use and Recycling Centre

The TRAIID store in Archway where (in a showcase partnership project, formed at a NLRF event) old cloth from the seats of London Underground trains is recycled into fashion items

The Walbrook Wharf waste transfer station, which uses river barges rather than road transport

At each Forum, feedback is sought from delegates and is overwhelmingly positive. This data guides the SG in setting the programmes for following events; for example, green procurement, the debate on the single waste authority and examining the environmental impacts of waste management were all topics requested by delegates.

Coverage of events appears in trade media such as Materials Recycling Week and Lets Recycle and is disseminated through online networks such as the CSR Yahoo! Newsgroup.

The profile of the Forum has increased considerably, due in part to having held all events since 2006 at London's City Hall. While this is outside the boundaries of the seven boroughs, due to the radial layout of public transport in the capital, it is considerably more accessible from all of them than was the previous venue on the Holloway Road. It is instantly recognisable and much easier to get to for speakers bringing best practise from other parts of the country to our region.

Activities not actioned.

The current business plan anticipated that a database would be set up for delegates to access, including contact details for affiliated individuals and organisations together with information on service providers in the area. This was not actioned due to (a) possible data protection issues, (b) the lack of any specifically earmarked funds to host and update it, and (c) the existence of various overlapping web-based resources.

The plan further envisaged that the Forum would apply to external bodies for funding for specific projects proposals in 2007, and use the additional income to provide further, single-issue events hosted by delegate organisations. After one unsuccessful expression of interest, it was also decided not to pursue this expansion of Forum activities and costs. This was due to the complications involved in bidding for funding while only existing as an informal and unconstituted collective of stakeholder groups.

Instead, the Forum opted to continue to concentrate on the core activities of maintaining the Forum network and providing the NLRF events throughout 2007, as proposed by the plan for 2005-2006.

Despite this, the Forum generated a considerable level of additional income in cash and kind, equivalent to more than 50% of its income from the principal sponsors, the NLWA and LWL.

Income in cash and kind January 2004 to June 2007.

The principal funding generously provided by the NLWA is £12,000 per year, i.e. £36,000 over the three-year period. An equal amount is provided by LWL. These funds are managed in an NLRF project account held at LWL.

For purposes of comparison with additional funding generated, the figures below refer to the period January 1st 2004 to June 30th 2007. For this period, the income from each principal sponsor was £30,000

Significant additional funding has also been attracted both in cash and kind.

Additional cash income generated January 2005 to June 2007

Cash income has come partly from the sponsorship of specific elements of event costs (e.g. catering) and partly from the commercial sale of exhibition space at events.

2005 £7341.04 (of which, sponsorship £6741.04, commercial £600)
 2006 £3682.76 (of which, sponsorship £3082.76, commercial £600)
 2007 to June £2000.00 (of which, sponsorship £2000.00)

Income in kind January 2005 to June 2007

Income in kind includes logistic support from third parties, particularly the use of conference facilities at City Hall without charge. It also includes the value of the time that SG members spend attending and preparing for monthly SG meetings and NLRF events, assumed to be £20 per person, per hour. (Figures do not include VAT.)

2005 £6400 (of which, SG members' time £6400)
 2006 £13820 (of which, SG members' time £8900, City Hall £4920)
 2007 to June £9726 (of which, SG members' time £4050, City Hall £5676)

In summary, income from January 2004 to June 2007 was thus:

NLWA sponsorship: £30000
 LWL sponsorship: £30000
 Other cash income: £13023.80
 Income in kind: £29946

As a percentage of Forum turnover the contribution from the NLWA has dropped significantly over the three years:

	Total	NLWA	%	LWL	%	Other	%
2005	£37,741	£12,000	31.80%	£12,000	31.80%	£13,741	36.41%
2006	£41,503	£12,000	28.91%	£12,000	28.91%	£17,503	42.17%
2007 (to June)	£23,726	£6,000	25.29%	£6,000	25.29%	£11,726	49.42%

For July to December 2007, income in cash and kind is anticipated to be similar to that for the first six months of the year. This will balance the books at year end.

Sponsors, commercial partners and providers of support in kind have included:

LM Barry Group / Britannia Wiper Company
Centre for Environment and Safety Management in Business
The Advance Project
The European Regional Development Fund
The Building Partnerships Project
Market Ecology / Environmental Alliances
TRAID
Mayor's Office / London City Hall

Continued need for the Forum

Since the previous NLRf business plan, public and political concern over the critical role of SWM and its effects on the environment and society has increased enormously.

Politicians at all levels pay increasing attention to environmental, resource, and waste management and these vital issues are constantly in the media and ever higher on the public agenda.

Despite the increasing cost and scarcity of landfill space, capacity of reprocessing infrastructure is still insufficient to cope with the volume of waste produced, and the situation is clearly unsustainable.

At the same time, public participation in waste minimisation and recycling continues to lag behind what could be achieved. Large-scale behavioural change must be accomplished if targets are to be met.

While much has been done to widen involvement of different sectors in delivering shared aims of waste reduction, clearly much more headway needs to be made.

With its roots in business and the community, amongst collectors and reprocessors, in local government and local concerns, the Forum network is uniquely well placed to facilitate partnership working among all stakeholders, and to continue to provide a conduit for communication between the network, the media and the public.

In its next phase, the Forum must continue to raise its profile and that of its delegates in order to maximise the potential of the network to deliver real progress in waste reduction, wider stakeholder involvement in SWM, raised awareness and behavioural change.

It must continue to wean itself off NLWA funding and the share of the total costs borne by the NLWA should continue to be reduced. More sponsorship and commercial activity should be developed to offset event costs, by broadening the sponsorship base and increasing the commercial income from the sale of exhibition space and branding opportunities.

Aims

The Forum believes that stakeholders from different sectors can achieve far more through partnership working, formally or informally, than they can alone.

The Forum will provide a continuing conduit for communication between stakeholders from all sectors.

It supports the intention of the North London Waste Authority to further accessibility and engagement with all stakeholders, and to increase the involvement of the community and business sectors in delivering sustainable waste management.

NLRF will continue to disseminate best practice in SWM.

NLRF will work with partner organisations to raise awareness of SWM issues and to engender behavioural change.

The Forum will provide an independent arena in which all stakeholders can debate current issues in SWM and highlight their projects and concerns.

Activities of the Forum.

NLRF will continue to deliver on these aims through its core activities, and by establishing new projects with partner organisations with complementary aims.

Core activities will be as follows:

To continue to deliver Forum events every six to nine months.

These reinvigorate the cross-sector network and encourage partnership working through bringing in disparate stakeholder groups and, specifically, through the marketplace segment in which delegates highlight their current projects. Each Forum event focuses on a particular current issue in SWM, but includes elements covering different topics to ensure the widest possible input, and benefit to, delegate organisations. These events serve to disseminate best practice, and provide contact with different stakeholder groups. This enables access and engagement, and presents many opportunities to encourage behavioural change in organisations serving the SWM industry, other sectors and the public.

A website with an appropriate domain name will be established.

This will raise the profile of the NLRF, its activities and those of its member organisations. A website is a key element of any communication strategy and an essential component of the NLRF function as a conduit for communication. It will greatly facilitate the continued development and deepening of the cross sector network, and provide a part of a continuing presence between main events. This will be provided without recourse to NLWA funds.

Additional activities:

This proposal relates specifically to the core Forum activity of providing events with a North London focus every 6-9 months.

The Forum will assess its options in detail throughout 2008 in order to maximise the potential for additional sponsorship and commercial development; this will not detract from the core activity and will allow the Forum to continue to wean itself off public funding. It is anticipated the share of the total costs to be met by NLWA will continue to drop.

There has long been a feeling among delegates that the Forum should become involved in wider project delivery with partner agencies. The Forum will continue to explore ways of funding partnership working that do not require additional finance from the NLWA. Any such projects may involve close cooperation with other agencies, but will not involve use of NLWA funds earmarked for Forum events.

Income generation

The Forum generates almost half of its income in cash and kind.

NLRF will generate some funds to partially offset the costs of its operations. Paid for services will be tested before implementation and introduced gradually.

Opportunities arising over the course of period of this plan but not included here will also be tested, if appropriate and compatible with the nature and aims of NLRF.

NLRF already generates income where possible through the sale of exhibition space at some events and sponsorship of specific elements such as event catering; both of these will continue.

Additional revenue raising activities may include:

Paid for advertising in publicity material distributed by the Forum

Paid for story space in prime positions on the website (unpaid contributions will require one or more clicks-through)

Cancellation fees for unused reservations at events (event admission to remain free)

Enhanced membership, to include a display for the member's premises, reduced rates for exhibition and advertising space, and a listing as a supporter of the NLRF on promotional material taken to other events.

Structure of Forum

The structure of NLRF to date has been as an informal collective. A project account has been held at LondonWaste Ltd for payments in and out. The Development Officer / Coordinator has been paid on a freelance basis for 0.4 of a full-time position. This structure will be maintained for the foreseeable future.

Core funding

The core funding for NLRF to date has been generously provided by its founding sponsors, the North London Waste Authority and LondonWaste Ltd.

The rate of this was set at £12000 each in 2003, and so has depreciated in real terms. Since 2004, the cost of the specialist facilitator has risen by 23% and catering by 100% (although this has been offset to some extent by the use of the City Hall venue at no charge). An adjustment of the NLWA contribution in line with official inflation of 6.9% would bring the NLWA contribution to £13,170 in 2008 and would represent a further fall in the Authority's share of the overall costs.

Benefits to the NLWA in continued support for the NLRF

The following references are taken from the NLWA's Joint Waste Strategy, Appendix Three: Implementation Actions (JWS).

All are points with which the NLRF concurs and can help to deliver through its cross-sector network and events.

The JWS aims and objectives include "To engage residents, community groups, local businesses and any other interested parties in the development and implementation of the Strategy" and "To ensure that services and information are fully accessible to all members of the community."

The principal role of the NLRF is to form a conduit of communication between all stakeholders, particularly between the NLWA and its member boroughs and the business and community sectors.

As a cross sector network, NLRF is well placed to lobby in order to promote common issues such as the need for more SWM infrastructure; this was identified by the NLRF delegates as a key area in which they would like to see the NLRF more active and is listed at paragraph 4A1.

One of the core purposes of the Forum network is to spread best practice and raise awareness throughout stakeholder organisations in the business and social enterprise sectors and with the partner authorities. This is very much in line with JWS paragraph 4A2, which states that "The North London Partner Authorities will actively support Business networks encouraging demonstrably effective waste management prevention and minimisation amongst local businesses" and paragraph 4B2: "The Partner Authorities will share good practice on waste reducing activities and will have regard to the effects on waste arising when introducing new waste services." The NLRF also strongly supports encouraging the development of community sector and other partnerships to develop best practice in re-use. NLRF continues to disseminate best practice through its events and network (paragraph 4C1).

The Forum network facilitates communication between the authorities and their officers and the community sector by providing an arena where all sectors can interact. This is in line with the implementation actions 8B1 and 8B2: "The Partner Authorities welcome the support of community sector organisations in implementing this strategy and will actively encourage community sector involvement in delivery of waste services wherever this can be demonstrated to offer Best Value... The Partner Authorities will consider developing a Waste Community Compact in Partnership with the community sector to build trust and encourage further involvement of this sector in implementing this strategy."

The NLRF events bring together regional stakeholders of all kinds and provides the ideal environment for engagement with the partner authorities. (Paragraph 8E: "The Partner Authorities will actively engage with all appropriate regional stakeholders to implement this Strategy.") They provide an excellent arena for regular reviews and updates of the Strategy (paragraph 8G2). NLWA representatives have presented elements of the strategy to the Forum and delegates are very keen to have feedback from and input to it as it affects them directly.

Section 8F mentions two points which are of particular interest to Forum delegates. Firstly, stakeholders are very keen to work with the NLWA and the partner authorities to encourage the development of new reprocessing infrastructure in North London (8F1). Secondly, green procurement is also of great interest to delegates, particularly manufacturers of recycled goods (8F2: "The Partner Authorities are committed to green procurement and will promote sustainable purchasing policies and the "Buy Recycled" campaign throughout the period of this strategy.")

8G1:

The NLRF network would be very interested in having a representative on the Strategy Implementation Board (paragraph 8G1). Such a representative would be chosen by the full Forum and would maintain a direct link between the board and the stakeholder network.

Appendix B:

NLRF outline draft income and expenditure 2008

INCOME	2008	Comments
LondonWaste Ltd	£13,170	
North London Waste Auth.	£13,170	
Exhibition space	£2,400	Assumes eight spaces @ £300 or twelve @ £200.
Sponsored elements	£3,240	Patrons may sponsor facilitator, venue, catering, or general costs in whole or part.
Website income	£2,350	Direct sponsorship of running costs from non-NLWA sources.
TOTAL	£34,330	
EXPENDITURE		
Salary	£21,855	Figure based on original £30k base set in 2003 + 3% inflation p.a., as per current business plan.
Main events (see below)	£10,125	
Website costs	£2,350	
TOTAL	£34,330	
Running balance	£0	

Main event costs	2008	Comments
Facilitator	£4,357	Assuming present facilitator
Venue hire & catering	£4,223	Assuming present venue
Events promotion	£1,030	
Miscellaneous expenses	£515	
Sub-totals	£10,125	