

NORTH LONDON WASTE AUTHORITY

REPORT TITLE:

JOINT WASTE STRATEGY UPDATE

REPORT OF:

HEAD OF WASTE STRATEGY AND CONTRACTS

FOR SUBMISSION TO:

AUTHORITY MEETING

DATE:

7th February 2007

SUMMARY OF REPORT:

This report updates members on progress made since the last meeting, regarding the implementation of the North London Joint Waste Strategy (NLJWS).

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Authority is recommended to:

- i) note that the NLJWS cannot be fully adopted until a retrospective Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) is completed and any changes agreed by all Partners;
- ii) defer finalisation of any potential revisions to the draft NLJWS resulting from the Mayor of London's formal comments, and instead incorporate this into a single Strategy Review to be carried out alongside the results of the retrospective Strategic Environmental Assessment; and
- iii) approve that the Head of Waste Strategy and Contracts, in consultation with the Chairman, may issue a 'Scoping Report' for the Strategic Environmental Assessment of the North London Joint Waste Strategy for public consultation.

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

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Date:

1.0 BACKGROUND AND STRATEGY REVIEW

- 1.1 The 'Mayor's Draft' North London Joint Waste Strategy (NLJWS), September 2004, provides the framework for progress towards reducing, re-using 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.
- 1.2 The Authority and its Partners (the seven constituent borough councils) have undertaken a Best Practicable Environmental Option analysis for North London. The preferred option involves working in partnership as local authorities and with local communities to provide the services and facilities required to make the improvements needed at the most efficient scale of operation and finance. The preferred option involves action and investment in waste minimisation, recycling and composting and recovering energy from waste.

Mayoral Review of the NLJWS

- 1.3 The Mayor of London has completed his review of the 'Mayor's Draft' NLJWS. His formal comments were received in a letter dated 18th December 2006 as verbally reported and tabled at the last Authority meeting on 20th December 2006. A copy of the Mayor of London's letter and a draft response has been sent to all Authority Members and borough technical officers for review. The response to the London Mayor will be formulated as soon as possible with the agreement of all partners.
- 1.4 As noted at the last Authority meeting, the Head of Waste Strategy and Contracts has delegated authority, in consultation with the Chairman, to make minor alterations (to the NLJWS) in response to any comments received from the Mayor of London. However, the Strategy cannot be adopted until a retrospective Strategic Environmental Assessment has been undertaken.
- 1.5 Draft amendments to the NLJWS are being developed by Authority and Borough officers in response to the Mayor of London's comments. It is currently anticipated that these will indeed be of a minor nature that could be approved under the delegated authority. However, because the Strategy cannot be formally adopted until the SEA process is complete, it is recommended that all the changes are considered at the same time.
- 1.6 All Partners should be aiming to formally adopt the NLJWS by June 2007 because the Authority's procurement process will benefit significantly from commencing within the framework of an adopted joint strategy.

Strategic Environmental Assessment of the NLJWS

- 1.7 As noted above, work has commenced on carrying out a retrospective Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) of the NLJWS to meet the requirements of the European Strategic Environmental Assessment or 'SEA' Directive¹. Any further amendments to the NLJWS which might be required as a result of the retrospective SEA of the Strategy will be considered at a future Authority meeting as outlined above.
- 1.8 The SEA process starts with a 'screening stage' where it is determined whether a SEA is required at all. This has already been concluded and an SEA is required for the NLJWS. The next stage is to prepare a 'Scoping Report', which sets out the proposed scope of the assessment. Scoping determines the likely extent (geographic, temporal and thematic) and level of detail for the assessment and the information to be included in the SEA and environmental report.
- 1.9 The scoping report is currently being prepared by Authority officers. Subject to Authority approval being provided to delegate authority to the Head of Waste Strategy and Contracts in consultation with the Chairman this will be issued for public consultation shortly with a six week statutory consultation period.
- 1.10 Independent consultants will be appointed to carry out the next two stages of the work – the 'Assessment' itself and then a subsequent 'Environmental Report'. A tender specification for the same is being prepared and an advertisement seeking applications from suitably qualified consultants will be issued in line with the Authority's Standing Orders. As approved at the last Authority meeting, authority is delegated to the Head of Waste Strategy and Contracts in consultation with the Chairman to award this contract.
- 1.11 Appropriate officer meetings and a Strategy Implementation Board meeting will be timetabled to review the recommendations of the SEA and make recommendations regarding potential changes to the NLJWS which might result as already outlined above, with a recommendation for final approval and adoption of the NLJWS to be submitted to a subsequent Authority meeting.
- 1.12 Officers will consult the Chairman about the timing and format of the Strategy Implementation Board meeting.

2.0 STATUTORY REQUIREMENTS

Joint Waste Development Plan Document

- 2.1 A separate report covering the progress on the North London Joint Waste Development Plan Document is included elsewhere on this agenda.

¹ Directive 2001/42/EC – the Strategic Environmental Assessment (or 'SEA') Directive

3.0 WASTE HIERARCHY OPTIONS

Waste Prevention and Reduction – Waste Prevention Implementation Plan

- 3.1 Following discussion and approval of the North London Joint Waste Strategy, Waste Prevention Implementation Plan at the last Authority meeting, work has commenced on the following elements within the plan:
- Borough sign ups: the Technical Officers from each borough have been asked to initiate the approval process for the Waste Prevention Implementation Plan within their organisations.
 - Monthly summary: building upon a regular waste prevention email distributed amongst the North London boroughs and the NLWA since mid 2006, the monthly summary is now incorporating a more detailed activity matrix which allows each borough to quickly determine progress on waste prevention.
 - Joint purchasing: opportunities for economies of scale from joint purchasing of any capital equipment such as wormeries and rockets is scheduled to be discussed amongst Waste Prevention Officers in early March (see 3.2).
- 3.2 In line with the Waste Prevention Implementation Plan commitment to arrange quarterly meetings of North London Waste Prevention Officers, a meeting is scheduled for the second week of March 2007.
- 3.3 As noted by the Financial Adviser at the last Authority meeting, (Waste Prevention Implementation Plan Report, paragraph 5), allowance was originally made in the 2007/08 budget forecast for the priority items identified in the Waste Prevention Implementation Plan. However, expenditure on the priority items has been reviewed since the last Authority meeting and compared with a potential budget cost of £80,000 reported in December 2006, the figure has been reduced to £22,150 in the proposed budget for 2007/08.
- 3.4 The reductions have been made by a combination of less use of external consultants, percentage cost reductions on individual budget areas and in one-case deferral of estimated expenditure of £45,000 to 2008/09 on the basis that the business case for that expenditure will take some time to develop and in the light of current work on the WRAP Behavioural Change Local Fund Project (discussed further at section 7) this is unlikely to be completed until mid year and may not be proven at the end.

Waste Prevention and Reduction - Recycling and Re-use Credits

- 3.5 Seventeen organisations have pre-registered for re-use and recycling credits for the financial year 2007/08. All are recommended for registration, although with conditions to be placed on applications from two profit-making companies. A separate report on this matter is provided elsewhere as part of this Authority agenda.

Waste Recycling and Composting - North London Integrated Compost Project

In-vessel composting facility

- 3.6 A full first year operational review report of the in-vessel composting facility is nearly finalised and is expected to be ready for the next meeting of the Authority.
- 3.7 Following the last Authority meeting where approval was given in principle for submission of a bid for funding from the fifth round of the Waste and Resources Action Programme's (WRAP's) Organics Capital Support Programme for England and Northern Ireland it is noted that a suitable project could not be identified within the timescale for submission and that accordingly a bid was not put forward.

Home and Community composting

- 3.8 Since the last Authority meeting at which £12,568 was awarded from the Authority's £25,000 North London small grants fund for community composting projects further promotion of the Fund has started to take place with the aim of attracting further applicants from boroughs where little or no funding has already been awarded.
- 3.9 It is anticipated that distribution of the remaining funds will take place within the current financial year. Delegated Authority to the Head of Waste Strategy and Contracts, in consultation with the Chairman, is already in place in order to do this (Authority meeting, 20th September 2006). Further progress on this process will be reported at the next Authority meeting.
- 3.10 Authority officers are liaising with London Community Recycling Network and the constituent borough councils regarding potential developments for the future on community composting.

4.0 MANAGEMENT OF OTHER WASTE STREAMS

Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment

- 4.1 With further developments in the implementation of the WEEE (Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment) Directive in the UK it is now possible to assess the impact of this legislation and to provide recommendations on a way forward. Accordingly a separate report on the same is included elsewhere on this agenda.

Batteries

- 4.2 The new European Union Battery Directive has also been published which advises a 25% battery collection rate by the year 2012 and a 45% collection rate by 2015. The Directive also prohibits the use of a variety of hazardous metals in significant quantities and sets new efficiency targets for the reprocessing of materials from waste batteries. Recycling points for spent batteries are to be established, with the cost of collection and recycling of all battery types falling to the manufacturers. The UK has until September 2008 to implement the regulations.
- 4.3 The Waste and Resources Action Programme (WRAP) is supporting a number of battery collection trials across the country, using both in-store collection points and kerbside recycling collections in advance of the transposition into UK law and implementation of this legislation in the UK. Further updates on managing this waste stream separately in the near future will be provided in due course.

5.0 IDENTIFYING THE BEST PRACTICABLE ENVIRONMENTAL OPTION FOR NORTH LONDON

Waste Data

- 5.1 The results of the independent modelling carried out by Entec who were appointed to advise on the procurement process is now completed and incorporated in the Draft Procurement Plan referred to elsewhere on this agenda.
- 5.2 The annual update of waste flow projections has been commissioned. The results will be incorporated into any future updates used for the procurement modelling.

6.0 IMPLEMENTING THE BEST PRACTICABLE ENVIRONMENTAL OPTION FOR NORTH LONDON

Waste Disposal Implications – Materials Recycling Facilities

- 6.1 Discussions continue with LondonWaste Ltd in relation to their plans for a proposed MRF at the Edmonton Ecopark.

Waste Disposal Implications – Hendon Rail Transfer Station

- 6.2 A separate report which forms part of this agenda considers further developments on this issue.

7.0 WORKING IN PARTNERSHIP TO DELIVER THE STRATEGY

A Public Awareness and Participation Campaign

- 7.1 Work progresses on the communication and awareness programme being funded by the Waste and Resources Action Programme (WRAP), involving Camden, Hackney, Enfield and Waltham Forest and led by the Authority.
- 7.2 Since the last Authority meeting the pre-campaign attitudinal survey work and participation rate monitoring has been completed in all four boroughs; reports from the consultants carrying out this work are awaited.
- 7.3 An officer workshop was held on 19th December with participants from all seven constituent boroughs involved and officer representation from London Borough of Bexley, a Beacon Authority² which is also in receipt of WRAP communications funding for similar work to the North London partnership.
- 7.4 The purpose of the officer workshop was to pool ideas on how best to deliver workshops about recycling in predominantly Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic communities. The results from the officer workshop and additional research will be used to write a toolkit of best practice advice for officers running such workshops. Letters have been sent to community leaders in the four participating boroughs to notify them about the campaign and to ask if they would like to comment upon the draft toolkit once it is ready for review.

Commercial and Industrial Partners - Bulking of Dry Recyclable Wastes

- 7.5 Further to recent requests from several Authority Members to visit the materials recovery facility (MRF) which is being used via LondonWaste Ltd for sorting mixed dry recyclable wastes from boroughs collecting material in this way a Members' visit to the facility has been organised for 20th March 2007. This is an opportunity for Members from any of the constituent borough councils to visit the site, and to see at first hand the type of facility that will be required in North London in the near future to support the boroughs collecting dry recyclable wastes in this way.

² Beacon (Council) Scheme identifies excellence and innovation in local government. The scheme exists to share good practice so that 'best value' authorities can learn from each other and deliver high quality services to all.

- 7.6 The facility sorts mixed recyclable material from the North London boroughs of Camden, Enfield, Haringey and Islington by way of a variation of the main waste disposal contract between the Authority and LondonWaste Ltd. and a related contract between LondonWaste Ltd. and Veolia (the MRF operator), alongside recyclable wastes from several other London boroughs (including some pilot scheme tonnage directly from Hackney). These mixed recyclable materials are sorted into separate streams and then transferred for reprocessing into new products in the UK or abroad.
- 7.7 A separate visit which is being attended by Haringey and Islington officers and two Islington members has already been organised for 15th February.

8.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 8.1 The Authority is recommended to:
- i) note that the NLJWS cannot be fully adopted until a retrospective Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) is completed and any changes agreed by all Partners;
 - ii) defer finalisation of any potential revisions to the draft NLJWS resulting from the Mayor of London's formal comments, and instead incorporate this into a single Strategy Review to be carried out alongside the results of the retrospective Strategic Environmental Assessment; and
 - iii) approve that the Head of Waste Strategy and Contracts, in consultation with the Chairman, may issue a 'Scoping Report' for the Strategic Environmental Assessment of the North London Joint Waste Strategy for public consultation.

9.0 COMMENTS OF THE FINANCIAL ADVISER

- 9.1 The Financial Adviser has been consulted in the preparation of this report and his comments included within the body of the report.

10.0 COMMENTS OF THE LEGAL ADVISER

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

Local Government Act 1972 – Access to information

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

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Report Ends