

NORTH LONDON WASTE AUTHORITY

REPORT TITLE:

JOINT WASTE STRATEGY UPDATE

REPORT OF:

HEAD OF WASTE STRATEGY AND CONTRACTS

FOR SUBMISSION TO:

AUTHORITY MEETING

DATE:

20th December 2006

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 the existing delegated authority of the Head of Waste Strategy and Contracts, in consultation with the Chairman, to make minor amendments to the NLJWS in the light of comments from the London Mayor;
- (ii) note the requirement for a retrospective Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) of the draft NLJWS and delegate authority to the Head of Waste Strategy and Contracts in consultation with the Chairman to award a contract to carry out a retrospective Strategic Environmental Assessment of the NLJWS following a due tender process;
- (iii) allow Real Nappies for London (RNfL) to use the Authority's web-based software for administering a nappy incentive scheme and to adapt it according to their needs;
- (iv) decline to offer to provide the central administration service for the pan-London RNfL voucher scheme;

cont. ...

- (v) pay RNfL the same rate per child as the Authority's cash-back scheme (currently £54.15) for each of their vouchers redeemed for a child resident in the Authority's area and to contribute £2,200 towards the RNfL central administration charge to each borough that joins the pan-London RNfL voucher scheme;
- (vi) continue to provide the existing cash-back real nappy incentive scheme in North London for residents in those constituent borough councils that do not join the pan-London RNfL voucher scheme;
- (vii) approve the submission of an application for funding to the fifth round of the Waste and Resources Action Programme's (WRAP's) Organics Capital Support Programme if a suitable project can be identified (possibly in partnership with a contractor) by the Head of Waste Strategy and Contracts, in consultation with the Chairman, provided that the rate per tonne payable by the Authority for any subsequent organic waste treatment service is not more than that currently paid by the Authority; and
- (viii) note the award of funding to various community composting groups from North London and proposals to re-promote the grant scheme with the aim of securing a more equitable distribution of funding across North London.

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

.....

Date:

1. 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 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 prevention, recycling and composting and recovering energy from waste.

Mayoral Review of the NLJWS

- 1.3 The Mayor of London is reviewing the NLJWS. His formal comments have not yet been received, but a letter from one of his officers has been received and circulated to all Authority members and borough technical officers. This letter outlines the main points which the London Mayor is likely to make regarding the draft NLJWS, which were therefore discussed at the meeting of the Strategy Implementation Board on 2nd November. Any minor alterations which are made to the NLJWS following receipt of the Mayor of London's formal comments will take account of the discussion at the Strategy Implementation Board.
- 1.4 Once the London Mayor's formal comments are received and considered a final copy of the NLJWS will be published as soon as possible subject to any further discussion needed between the Partners and following the production of a retrospective Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) which is now required as set out below.

Strategic Environmental Assessment of the NLJWS

- 1.5 Because the NLJWS was not formally adopted by 22nd July 2006 the requirements of the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Directive now apply. This means that it is now necessary to carry out a retrospective Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) of the NLJWS.
- 1.6 The European SEA Directive¹ and the accompanying Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004 (the 'SEA Regulations') place a requirement on all public authorities to carry out a SEA of any 'plan or programme' as defined by the SEA Regulations which are required by 'administrative provisions'. A SEA is only required however, if the plan or programme is for a particular type of activity as outlined below:

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

- Is the plan or programme for agriculture, forestry, fisheries, energy, industry, waste management, water management, telecommunications, tourism, or town and country planning or land use AND does it set the framework for future development consents of projects included in Annexes I and II to the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Directive (85/337/EEC)?
OR
 - Will the plan or programme, in view of its likely effect on sites, require an assessment under Article 6 and 7 of the Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC)?
- 1.7 Independent consultants have carried out a formal 'screening' assessment of the Authority's Procurement Strategy and concluded that a SEA is not required for the Procurement Strategy, *provided* that a retrospective SEA is undertaken on the NLJWS and Appropriate Assessment of the effects on European Sites for nature conservation interest under the Habitats Directive does not apply.
- 1.8 The Authority's Legal Adviser has also identified that it will be necessary to carry out a retrospective SEA of the NLJWS, so this is recommended.
- 1.9 A SEA is broader in scope than a Best Practicable Environmental Option analysis which has already been carried out. SEAs include a requirement to provide an environmental report for consultation with the environmental authorities and the public, alongside a copy of the draft plan which is being assessed. The environmental report must describe and evaluate the likely significant environmental effects of implementing the strategy in question.
- 1.10 At this stage is not possible to say whether and how the SEA might further alter the NLJWS and/or whether any changes which might be recommended would be best made. It is likely that any comments on the NLJWS from the Mayor of London will be reviewed as part of the SEA consultation process. It would also be helpful if any amendments to the Strategy following receipt of the Mayor of London's comments or the SEA are incorporated together if possible. It is increasingly urgent to have a final version of the NLJWS as any consultation with the London Mayor regarding the Authority's procurement approach will be judged against the proposals contained within an adopted NLJWS. Prospective tenderers will also be keen to understand how robust the partnership between the seven constituent boroughs and the Authority is and to be assured that work is continuing within an approved strategy environment.
- 1.11 Tender documents for consultants to carry out an independent retrospective SEA of the NLJWS will be prepared for issue in early 2007. The anticipated cost of this work is in the region £60,000 based upon the cost of similar SEA processes and is likely to take approximately three to four months to complete, partly because the process sets minimum timescales for consultation. The Authority is recommended to delegate Authority to the Head of Waste Strategy and Contracts in consultation with the Chairman to award this contract so that the work might be carried out in as timely a manner as possible. Progress will be reported at future meetings.

- 1.12 It will also be necessary to timetable appropriate officer meetings and a Strategy Implementation Board meeting to review the recommendations of the SEA and make suggestions regarding potential changes to the NLJWS which might result.

2.0 STATUTORY REQUIREMENTS

Review of England's Waste Strategy

- 2.1 As reported at previous Authority meetings a formal response to the above was submitted by the Authority to the DEFRA Waste Strategy Review Team. A summary of the responses to the consultation was published in August and it was anticipated then that a revised English Waste Strategy would be produced at the end of the calendar year. It has now been confirmed that the publication of a revised English Waste Strategy has been delayed until early 2007².
- 2.2 Until the final English Waste Strategy is produced it is too early to consider the implications of any potential changes in detail, but some initial discussion of the implications of potential changes took place at the Strategy Implementation Board meeting on 2nd November.

Strategy Implementation Board Meeting

- 2.3 A meeting of the NLJWS Strategy Implementation Board took place on 2nd November 2006 at the Camden Centre. The meeting was attended by the Chairman, two Executive Members who are also Authority Members and five other Authority Members and sixteen borough and Authority officers. These meetings are currently held twice a year and last for approximately half a working day.
- 2.4 The meeting was used to:
- Review some of the potential implications of possible changes in the operating environment resulting from the new English Waste Strategy (based upon the summary of consultation responses published in August).
 - Review the London Mayor's officer's comments on the NLJWS.
 - Review and discuss a draft Waste Prevention Implementation Plan for the NLJWS partners.
 - Review the Authority's progress in developing a procurement strategy.
 - Receive a presentation on a multi-modal waste handling trial in the Authority's area.

² Materials Recycling Week, 10th November 2006

- 2.5 Whilst the Strategy Implementation Board is not a decision-making body the meeting attendees made recommendations to all partners regarding potential changes to the NLJWS following the anticipated comments on the same from the London Mayor as outlined above. The meeting also recommended that the Authority approve the draft Waste Prevention Implementation Plan with changes proposed in the meeting, as at 3.1 below.

Joint Waste Development Plan Document

- 2.6 Whilst the Authority continues to have an officer observer on the Planning Officers' Group which is developing the above, it has been agreed that updates on progress on the joint waste development plan document will now be provided once every six months. As a report on progress was provided at the last meeting, it is not being provided for this one, but will instead come to the February 2007 meeting of the Authority.

3.0 WASTE HIERARCHY OPTIONS

Waste Prevention and Reduction – Waste Prevention Implementation Plan

- 3.1 The NLJWS sets out a series of Strategy Implementation Actions which the partners have agreed in order to achieve their waste prevention aim of reducing the rate of growth of municipal waste in North London from 3% per annum to 2.5% per annum from 2010. The Strategy Implementation Actions are at a strategic level. A draft Waste Prevention Implementation Plan has been produced which puts some shorter term practical actions in place to enable the partners to deliver on the Strategy Implementation Actions. A separate Authority paper which forms part of this agenda outlines the detail of this draft plan, includes a copy of the plan and seeks Authority approval for the same.

Waste Prevention and Reduction – Real Nappy Research

- 3.2 Following the decision of the Authority meeting on 28th June 2006 the Authority has paid £7,500 plus VAT to Real Nappies for London (RNfL), which is managed by the Womens' Environmental Network (WEN), to carry out the final stages of a research project investigating the most practically and financially effective method of promoting and encouraging real nappy uptake. The research concluded that a voucher scheme was the most practically and financially effective method of promoting and encouraging the use of real nappies.
- 3.3 Following the presentation of the research findings, a pan-London Working Group was formed to review the research findings and identify the potential for developing a 'standard' pan-London voucher incentive scheme. The Authority was invited onto the Working Group which includes a representative from each of London's Statutory Joint Waste Disposal Authorities, a NHS hospital facilities manager, a midwife, a nappy laundry service manager, a real nappy network/resident volunteer and representatives from some of the unitary south London boroughs, Southwark and Bexley.

- 3.4 Members endorsed the continued involvement of the Authority in the pan-London Working Group on a real nappy incentive scheme and agreed in principle to participating in the development of a pan-London voucher scheme at the last Authority meeting, subject to the further detail being provided for approval at a subsequent meeting. This is set out below.
- 3.5 It is proposed that a new pan-London voucher incentive scheme commences on 1st April 2007. Instead of parents being paid a 'cash incentive' as now in North London, they would be provided with redeemable vouchers. The vouchers would have a nominal value which could vary from borough to borough; although in North London the vouchers would be have an equivalent value to the current cash incentive of £54.15.
- 3.6 The vouchers would only be redeemable against real nappies or 'trial packs' of nappies purchased from certain 'accredited' outlets which may include: the local borough council, shops and web and postal ordering based suppliers or against the provision of a nappy laundry service. The scheme would be administered centrally, by a lead borough, a waste disposal authority or a private company. RNfL would like to adapt the web-based administration system used in North London to do this. Proof of identity and residency would need to be provided in order for parents to be given their vouchers. The RNfL Working Group has also asked if the North London Waste Authority would be prepared to take on the central administration role of the pan-London scheme, for which the Authority would be paid.
- 3.7 Promotion of the incentive scheme would be carried out at both a borough and centralised level, with a central promotion agency (which is initially proposed to be WEN) providing template designs for posters and leaflets, and a pan-London press and PR service. It is also proposed that WEN would be responsible for promoting real nappies to the NHS across London and for encouraging local hospitals to use them. The promotion agency/WEN would be appointed and have a contract with the central administrating body. Promoting real nappy use amongst nurseries (both private and borough controlled nurseries) would remain the responsibility of the boroughs.
- 3.8 Under the proposals the central promotion agency would also provide a service to local 'real nappy networks', groups of resident volunteers who run local promotion and support services such as 'nappaccinos' (where parents are invited to a local café with their baby to see current real nappy products and discuss how to use them in an informal atmosphere). The central promotion agency would provide a co-ordination service for real nappy networks, provide support to help them negotiate service level agreements with their local borough where appropriate and also provide an outreach worker matching service for real nappy networks and boroughs – helping to match outreach workers with spare time and resources to boroughs and real nappy networks who need them.

- 3.9 Under the proposals, WEN would also continue to provide a centralised nappy exchange service – encouraging parents to pass on nappies for re-use to other parents once they are no longer needed.
- 3.10 There is a cost for participating in a pan-London scheme for the participating boroughs which is £8,750 per borough in year one, reducing to £5,760 in year two. This cost covers the set-up, development and operation of the central administration service, pan-London promotion of the scheme to both the NHS and parents, the cost of running the centralised administration system and the administration of the centralised outreach and nappy exchange services and a ‘standard’ amount of localised support and outreach work. There are opportunities for a cost reduction for boroughs who wish to deliver their own outreach.
- 3.11 The benefits to boroughs of participating in the pan-London scheme are:
- reduced costs in terms of officer time spent on promotion and administration (although there would still be some).
 - additional promotion to the NHS locally.
 - a potential three fold decrease in nappy waste disposed. It is anticipated that a pan-London voucher scheme will on average result in the parents of 300 new babies signing up to the scheme and using real nappies every year per borough, diverting an estimated 202 tonnes of disposable nappy waste away from landfill disposal per borough,³ compared to the current average 77 sign ups per annum in North London, diverting 52 tonnes of disposable nappy waste away from landfill disposal each year.
 - improved take-up of real nappies by the NHS and healthcare professionals who are one of three most important and effective influencers of parents (alongside friends and their own parents) in terms of encouraging them to try and subsequently continue to use real nappies.
- 3.12 The benefits to the Authority of all the North London boroughs signing up to the pan-London incentive scheme and for the Authority endorsing this are:
- Potentially a three fold decrease in the amount of nappy waste disposed each year.

³ Based upon an average 675 kg of nappy waste per baby over its lifetime or 225 kg per year – source Womens’ Environmental Network.

- Reduced administration costs – a central administration is planned to replace most borough based administration. There are commercial companies which run voucher redemption schemes which could fulfil this role or alternatively the administration could be provided by a lead authority. The costs to the NLWA of administering the North London incentive scheme, equal to an estimated 5% of a full-time-equivalent, would no longer be required if all the North London boroughs signed up to the pan-London scheme. Time spent by NLWA officers on administering the current nappy scheme could be diverted to assist with the administration of re-use credits which will be introduced by the Authority in April 2007.
- More effective promotion of local businesses – nappy laundry services and real nappy stockists.
- Improved support for resident volunteer groups – real nappy networks.
- More effective promotion to the NHS leading to raised profile and potentially more tonnes of nappy waste diverted from disposal through the NHS.
- Economies of scale in terms of printing, design and other promotional costs for real nappy programmes.
- Better uptake of real nappies because of greater support and promotion by the NHS, use of a more effective incentive (vouchers) and a more high profile, centrally organised promotional campaign.

3.13 The costs and benefits of the proposed new scheme are outlined below (excluding any benefits from promotion within the NHS or volunteer help from Real Nappy Networks):

Comparison of the costs and benefits of the pan-London nappy scheme
for North London boroughs and the Authority

	Current Scheme	Current Scheme	Proposed New Scheme	Proposed New Scheme
Borough & NLWA Benefit				
Average number of incentives issued per borough per annum		77		300
Average tonnes diverted per borough		52		202
	Costs	Benefits	Costs	Benefits
Avoided cost of disposal based upon the '06/'07 recycling credit value of £65.57 per borough per annum		£3,410		£13,245
NLWA Cost per Borough				
Annual administration costs per borough	£200 (borough share of administration)		£2,200 contribution to the pan-London scheme	
Cost of incentives (cash or vouchers)	£4,100		£16,245	
Borough Benefit and Cost				
Savings on borough administration/staff time		£0		£11,500 per borough*
Savings on borough promotion		£0		£2,300 per borough*
Central promotion and outreach costs year 1	£0		£6,550	
Central promotion and outreach costs year 2	£0		£3,560	
Total cost/benefit per borough	£4,300	£3,410	£24,995 Year 1 £22,005 Year 2	£27,045
Net cost/benefit per borough	£890 net cost			£2,050 Year 1 £5,040 Year 2 net benefit

* Figures taken from approximate annual resources used by borough schemes in 2005/2006 for four of the boroughs taking part in the RNfL research (including Hackney and Islington) as outlined in the RNfL pan-London scheme explanatory notes, WEN, October 2006. Note that the staff cost savings will vary from borough to borough and these amounts may not be fully avoided.

3.14 The North London boroughs will individually need to decide whether they wish to participate in the pan-London real nappy incentive scheme, full details of which are available to Members from the Authority's Policy and Development Manager. However, the recommended position for the Authority is as follows:

	Proposal	Recommendation for the Authority
1.	Make the North London web-based real nappy administration system software available to Real Nappies for London for use on the pan-London scheme. (The system would need to be hosted by the Authority's existing web designer but on a separate basis, ensuring no risk to the Authority).	Recommended. There is no cost to the Authority of assisting in this way.
2.	Accept the invitation for the Authority to administer the pan-London voucher scheme for all of London.	Not recommended. The workload may be unpredictable and the income uncertain in relation to costs.
3.	Support constituent boroughs who sign up to the Real Nappies for London scheme by continuing to pay the cost of the incentive (currently £54.15 per child – at an estimated 300 claims per borough per year. This would amount to some £114,000 per year for the Authority if the scheme meets projections, compared to approximately £28,000 currently)	Recommended. This provides equity between our current scheme and the new scheme.
4.	Support the borough contribution to the costs of the Real Nappies for London scheme by paying the borough contribution towards the central administration costs. This is a cost of £2,200 per year per borough (or £15,400 for the Authority area each year) and would contribute to each borough's whole cost of £8,750 in the first year and £5,760 in the second (i.e. a £15,400 contribution to a total cost of participation of £61,250 for all boroughs in year one and £40,320 in year two).	Recommended. This will make it more likely that a uniform service can be delivered across North London (and hopefully beyond). Boroughs will still finance promotional costs.
5.	Continue to administer a North London cash back scheme if any of the constituent borough councils choose not to join the pan-London scheme	Recommended. Otherwise we would effectively force our boroughs into the pan-London scheme.

Waste Prevention and Reduction - Recycling and Re-use Credits

3.15 A separate report is provided as part of this Authority agenda.

Waste Recycling and Composting - North London Integrated Compost Project

In-vessel composting facility

- 3.16 From 20th September 2005 to the end of September 2006 the compost centre processed 29,440 of separately collected kitchen and garden waste. The facility's capacity is 30,000 tonnes per annum. As some information is still awaited, a more detailed report on the facility's first full year of operation will be prepared for the next Authority meeting.
- 3.17 Following the odour complaints received from local residents and reported to the last Authority meeting, operational procedures at the facility have been altered to help ensure the problem does not recur. A feasibility study has also been launched into the potential construction of an enclosure to house the 'maturation pad' where the composted material is kept on a concrete surface to fully 'mature' in the open air. Further updates will be provided to the Authority as appropriate.
- 3.18 Secondly, the Waste and Resources Action Programme (WRAP) has recently announced the fifth round of its Organics Capital Support Programme for England and Northern Ireland. WRAP was established by DEFRA and the DTI to create new markets for the additional materials which would be collected and recycled as part of the drive to reduce the volume of waste which is sent to landfill. In later years their remit has been broadened to include work on waste prevention, the provision of advisory services on best recycling practice for local authorities and to help to influence public behaviour by programmes of communication at local and national level.
- 3.19 The purpose of the Organics Capital Support programme is to provide financial assistance of up to 30% towards the costs of plant, equipment and infrastructure for projects in England and North Ireland that will significantly increase capacity for treating or using source-segregated biodegradable municipal waste or using BSI Publicly Available Specification (PAS) 100:2005 compost (made from biodegradable municipal waste). Any applications for funding must be received by 1.30pm on 6th February 2007, i.e. before the next Authority meeting. The Authority is therefore recommended to delegate authority to the Head of Waste Strategy and Contracts, in consultation with the Chairman, to submit a bid (if such can be devised), as long as the resulting service is no more expensive per tonne than the Authority's current in-vessel composting arrangements. WRAP is holding a series of information seminars about the programme from which greater certainty about its applicability to the Authority will be gained.

Home and Community composting

3.20 Since the last Authority meeting applications have been received for the 2006-2007 round of Small Grants funding for community composting projects. Members agreed that the Head of Waste Strategy and Contracts, in consultation with the Chairman, should make the final decision regarding awards of funding to groups, following the required application evaluation process, which includes both an independent evaluator's review and site visits to short listed projects.

3.21 Fourteen applications for funding were received of which eleven were evaluated as eligible. The Head of Waste Strategy and Contracts, with the Chairman, have awarded funding to the following list of seven projects:

Borough	Applicant	Description of Project	Grant to be Awarded
Barnet	Mill Hill Garden and Allotment Society	Allotment society which plans to construct compost bins for composting green waste instead of using a skip provided by the local authority	£700
Camden	Swiss Cottage School	School for children with learning difficulties. Wish to build 2 compost bins	£450
Camden	St. Michaels Church of England Primary School	Primary school which wants to buy a wormery and a compost bin to educate children, reduce waste and improve the school environment	£918
Hackney	East London Community Recycling Partnership	Award winning community composting project. Request to fund publicity materials to restore participation and educate residents to encourage further recycling and composting	£1,500
Haringey	Campsbourne School	Primary school which wants to buy 1 compost bins, 3 wormeries and kitchen caddies and some posters	£1,000
Islington	Freightliners City Farm	City farm offering a waste collection service to local residents. Aim to increase properties served by 500 and distribute leaflets to 20,000 households in Islington	£3,500
Waltham Forest	Forest Recycling Project	Community group promoting home composting in Waltham Forest area. Want to distribute 140 compost bins and wormeries to residents and train 100 people to compost at home.	£4,500
			£12,568

- 3.22 As there is a funding surplus between the amount of funding available and the amount already awarded via the above process, the Chairman has asked that further promotional activity be carried out to encourage further applications for funding from those boroughs which have not had any or have only been allocated a minimal amount of funding, in order to obtain as near as possible an equitable distribution of funds. This further promotional activity will take place until the end of December. Thereafter, should no further applications from unfunded or poorly funded boroughs be forthcoming then the Head of Waste Strategy and Contracts in consultation with the Chairman will decide whether to release remaining funds to a number of eligible and attractive short listed projects in boroughs which have already had their 'fair share' of the money and/or to retain any balance for a future mechanism to support community composting in North London.
- 3.23 The above marks the end of the Authority's involvement in the London CRN (Community Recycling Network) Compost Network – a trial development and support scheme for home and community composting across London provided by London CRN. Since the start of the scheme:
- The London CRN Compost Network has recruited and trained 109 'Master Composter' volunteers who work across 17 London boroughs.
 - London CRN staff and Master Composters have spent more the 260 hours handling telephone and email composting enquiries from members of the public.
 - Volunteers and staff have engaged with local communities at over 50 events – directly communicating with 1,050 people since April 2006 alone.
 - The Compost Network has engaged with 289 community groups over the course of the project and 45 organisations have received direct funding, business and/or technical support.
 - The Compost Network has held 13 training sessions for Master Composters and community composters and facilitated 8 site visits to large scale composting facilities and held 2 stakeholder feedback events to ensure continuous development.
 - Consultancy services delivered to community composting groups has included project start-up advice, business development and funding support (leading to funding applications in the region of £1.2 million for community-based composting projects in London).
- 3.24 London CRN is liaising with Authority officers, the constituent borough councils, community groups and Master Composters regarding lessons learnt from the pilot programme, potential developments for the future and the potential needs and roles of the various partners going forward into the future. This may include a suggestion to continue with some form of grant fund for groups too small for the Authority's third party re-use and recycling credit scheme (given the administration charge), but which the Authority might nevertheless consider as making a useful contribution to its strategic objectives.

4.0 MANAGEMENT OF OTHER WASTE STREAMS

- 4.1 Officers are continuing to investigate the potential impact and opportunities which might result with the implementation of the WEEE (Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment) Directive. The collection of waste electrical and electronic equipment (WEEE) for recycling under the legislation is set to begin in July 2007.

5.0 IDENTIFYING THE BEST PRACTICABLE ENVIRONMENTAL OPTION FOR NORTH LONDON

Waste Data

- 5.1 The results of independent modelling of borough waste recycling and composting projections that was carried out by AEA Technology (the Authority's retained technical consultant) were incorporated into the Procurement Strategy modelling by Entec which has subsequently been incorporated in the Draft Procurement Strategy, a report on which is included elsewhere on this agenda.
- 5.2 Under their current call-off arrangement AEA is shortly to be commissioned to update these projections to provide an annual benchmarking report.

6.0 IMPLEMENTING THE BEST PRACTICABLE ENVIRONMENTAL OPTION FOR NORTH LONDON

Waste Disposal Implications - Materials Recycling Facility (MRF)

- 6.1 LondonWaste Ltd has now completed the community consultation exercise prior to submitting a planning application for a proposed MRF at the Edmonton Ecopark. Authority and LondonWaste Ltd. officers continue to discuss the terms under which a deed of variation to the main waste disposal contract might be a mutually acceptable way to commission a MRF locally. A cut-off date for such discussions of February 2007 has been proposed.

Waste Disposal Implications - Hendon Transfer Station

- 6.2 Officers are investigating the possibility of employing unused land within the current Hendon rail transfer station for either bulking or small-scale treatment consistent with the overall objectives of the NLJWS.
- 6.3 Any proposals to be brought forward will be developed within current contractual and property arrangements at Hendon and will be limited to facilities and services that can be provided within the current price paid by the Authority for the disposal of residual waste at Hendon or other comparator prices if lower.

7.0 WORKING IN PARTNERSHIP TO DELIVER THE STRATEGY

A Public Awareness and Participation Campaign

- 7.1 Work has commenced 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 Written confirmation of £300,000 in funding has been received, an activity programme agreed and a tender issued for consultants to help deliver the work. The programme is aimed at increasing kerbside recycling participation amongst Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic (BAME) communities in North London.
- 7.3 The programme includes developing a toolkit of guidance and advice for borough officers delivering community workshops, a campaign pack of translations of commonly used text and phrases used to promote recycling – thus saving on multiple translation costs for each of the partner authorities and a series of promotional resources and activities. The latter includes targeted ‘doorstepping’/face- to-face promotion of recycling in Enfield and Waltham Forest, some local advertising and PR activity in all four boroughs and community workshops in Camden, Hackney and Waltham Forest.
- 7.4 The effectiveness of the programme will be measured by assessing residents’ attitudes, awareness and participation in kerbside recycling prior to the commencement of the programme and then again at the end of the programme.
- 7.5 Separately funded work in Barnet and Hackney will be carried out independently but communication will take place between the different authorities to ensure that any synergies are maximised.

8.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 8.1 The Authority is recommended to:
 - (i) note the existing delegated authority of the Head of Waste Strategy and Contracts, in consultation with the Chairman, to make minor amendments to the NLJWS in the light of comments from the London Mayor;

- (ii) note the requirement for a retrospective Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) of the draft NLJWS and delegate authority to the Head of Waste Strategy and Contracts in consultation with the Chairman to award a contract to carry out a retrospective Strategic Environmental Assessment of the NLJWS following a due tender process;
- (iii) allow Real Nappies for London (RNfL) to use the Authority's web-based software for administering a nappy incentive scheme and to adapt it according to their needs;
- (iv) decline to offer to provide the central administration service for the pan-London voucher scheme;
- (v) pay RNfL the same rate per child as the Authority's cash-back scheme (currently £54.15) for each of their vouchers redeemed for a child resident in the Authority's area and to contribute £2,200 towards the RNfL central administration charge to each borough that joins the pan-London RNfL voucher scheme;
- (vi) continue to provide the existing cash-back real nappy incentive scheme in North London for residents in those constituent borough councils that do not join the pan-London RNfL voucher scheme;
- (vii) approve the submission of an application for funding to the fifth round of the Waste and Resources Action Programme's (WRAP's) Organics Capital Support Programme if a suitable project can be identified, possibly in partnership with LondonWaste Ltd; by the Head of Waste Strategy and Contracts, in consultation with the Chairman, provided that the rate per tonne payable by the Authority for any subsequent organic waste treatment service is not more than that currently paid by the Authority; and
- (viii) note the award of funding to various community composting groups from North London and proposals to re-promote the grant scheme with the aim of securing a more equitable distribution of funding across North London.

9.0 COMMENTS OF THE FINANCIAL ADVISER

- 9.1 The costs in relation to the NLJWS strategic environmental assessment can be borne within the current year's budget and the costs in relation to the "real nappy" support can be financed within the budget forecast proposals for 2007/08, during which year the "Other Recycling Initiatives" budget is expected to be sufficient to support this and other initiatives.
- 9.2 The community composting small grants fund will have a surplus at this point in time, but it is expected that this will be taken up by further awards later this financial year.

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

Review of England's Waste Strategy A Consultation Document, February 2006 (Defra)

Review of England's Waste Strategy A Consultation Document, Summary of responses to the consultation, August 2006, Produced by Dialogue by Design, Independent Facilitators - Executive Summary

Contact Officers: Andrew Lappage, Head of Waste Strategy & Contracts
&
Barbara Herridge, Policy and Development Manager

Lee Valley Technopark
Unit 169, Ashley Road
Tottenham
N17 9LN

Tel: 020 8489 5730
Fax: 020 8365 0254
E-mail: post@nlwa.gov.uk

Report Ends