

NORTH LONDON WASTE AUTHORITY

REPORT TITLE:

JOINT WASTE STRATEGY UPDATE

REPORT OF:

HEAD OF WASTE STRATEGY AND CONTRACTS

FOR SUBMISSION TO:

AUTHORITY MEETING

DATE:

8TH FEBRUARY 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.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Authority is recommended to:

- (i) Approve the proposed variation in the allocation of the Authority's recycling and composting tonnage to boroughs with effect from the new financial year – 1st April 2006.
- (ii) Approve continuation of the nappy subsidy on the same basis as previously, but with a subsidy of £54.15.
- (iii) Note the contract awarded under delegated authority to AEA Technology plc for specialist environmental consultancy advice.
- (iv) Approve the further extension of funding for the work of the North London Recycling Forum until the end of December 2007.

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

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Date:

1. BACKGROUND

- 1.1 The 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 undertook a Best Practicable Environmental Option (BPEO) 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. The preferred option involves action and investment in waste minimisation, recycling and composting and recovering energy from waste.
- 1.3 The following report is organised according to the relevant chapters in the NLJWS – chapters three to eight.

2.0 STATUTORY REQUIREMENTS

Review of the powers of the London Mayor

- 2.1 The Government's consultation on the review of the powers of the London Mayor was published on 30 November 2005, including the Mayor's proposal for a Single London Waste Authority and enhanced Mayoral waste planning powers.
- 2.2 A paper which outlines the key issues included in the consultation document which require consideration by the Authority and a draft response to the consultation from the Authority is included elsewhere on this agenda.
- 2.3 Recognising that there is a range of opinions in North London and that the North London Boroughs may adopt differing positions regarding the anticipated costs and benefits of a London Single Waste Authority, Authority and Borough officers acknowledged that it was best to work collaboratively where there was most likely to be common ground such as highlighting:
 - 2.3.1 The long track record of partnership working and prudent asset and financial management of the Authority.
 - 2.3.2 That the Joint Waste Strategy sets the direction for waste minimisation, re-use, recycling, composting and disposal in North London in line with the Mayor's own strategy.
 - 2.3.3 That the NLWA is undertaking appropriate action to secure waste management facilities that meet North London's requirements, including procurement of facilities to replace the energy-from-waste plant at Edmonton from 2014.

- 2.3.4 That the Authority has over the last 18 months undertaken a review of its arrangements for managing this procurement and also a review to ensure its governance and management arrangements are sufficiently robust to ensure the resources and skills are in place to meet the procurement challenge.
 - 2.3.5 That the seven North London Boroughs have all formally agreed to prepare a Joint Waste Development Plan Document and on such a plan, good progress has been made.
- 2.4 Officers consider that it would be useful to highlight the above in individual responses alongside which some publicity activity is being organised to showcase this best practice. Three 'case studies' of joint working in North London have been prepared are being issued to relevant media. The approaches showcased in the case studies could usefully apply within either the framework of a new sub-regional approach to wastes management in London or within the context of a London-wide Single Waste Authority.

Joint Waste Development Plan

- 2.5 As reported at the last meeting, the constituent boroughs are continuing to work together to prepare a Joint Waste Development Plan Document (JWDPD) for North London. This will create the shared land-use planning framework for waste in North London into the future.
- 2.6 All borough Executives have now agreed to take part in the JWDPD including Barnet on 5 January 2006. This means that all seven boroughs have now agreed to participate.
- 2.7 In order to ensure the successful production and adoption of the North London JWDPD for the seven boroughs in the North London Waste Authority area a Programme Manager for the North London JWDPD is shortly to be appointed. The post-holder will co-ordinate activity and ensure progress on all aspects of the plan making process and will act as the main point of contact for all parties. Camden is leading the appointment and management of a person in this post.
- 2.8 When appointed, the Programme Manager will supervise the award of the contract to undertake the work to produce the JWDPD. A draft specification for the consultants has been prepared as a result of the work undertaken with DEFRA Waste Implementation Programme funding; however the detail of which elements are to be undertaken by consultants and which might be delivered in-house is still being discussed.

- 2.9 Whilst a considerable amount of preparatory work has already been undertaken in order to produce the JWDPD, (namely the 'preliminary tasks' identified in the draft specification for the production of the JWDPD), because of the need to appoint the Programme Manager and to let a new contract for the major part of the work first, the next stage of the development of the JWDPD is not likely to start before summer 2006. The project will be steered by a Planning Officers Group (POG) and there will be periodic meetings of a Planning Members Group (PMG). If possible, this may be integrated into the Strategy Implementation Board meetings for the North London Joint Waste Strategy. At each stage of the process, each individual borough will have to ratify the plan. The NLWA will continue to receive regular reports on the progress of the JWDPD.
- 2.10 Meanwhile, further preliminary work is being undertaken which will help to speed up work on the JWDPD when it does start. An application for further DEFRA funding (£12,000) from Waste Implementation Programme 2005/2006 underspend has been submitted. The money, has been requested for the production of a guidance document for borough officers. This document will advise on the scope of waste-related policies to be included within Borough Local Development Frameworks which will complement the JWDPD and assist in its implementation. The advice will focus primarily on the content of Core Strategy and Development Control DPDs. If awarded the money would need to be spent by the end of March 2006.
- 2.11 The qualitative and quantitative background research for the community involvement strategy required for the production of the JWDPD has now been completed. This research consisted of both representative resident focus groups and quantitative face-to-face interviews with a representative¹ sample of 505 residents (aged 16+) as reported at the last Authority meeting on 7 December 2005. Further work is underway to develop the research into ideas for community involvement and consultation and when this is finished it is proposed to present this to Members.

¹ Representative in terms of the socio-demographic population profile for North London.

Allocation of Authority recycling and composting tonnage

- 2.12 With the exception of material going into the in-vessel composting facility, cathode ray tubes and fridges, the current method by which the Authority allocates recycling tonnages to boroughs for Authority recycled material is on the basis of the levy apportionment. This is a historical convention based upon the fact that when a large proportion of the recyclate handled by the Authority was ash from the incinerator, it made sense to apportion the credit for this tonnage to the boroughs on the basis of the levy structure, as it was impossible to prove what proportion of the ash was generated by individual boroughs and boroughs who were directed to disposal points other than the energy-from-waste incinerator would have been disadvantaged.
- 2.13 Given that ash recycling is no longer counted towards recycling targets and that a greater proportion of Authority handled recyclate is material which can be directly allocated to individual boroughs it is proposed, from 1 April 2006, that Authority recycled material is allocated on an input tonnage basis. This means that only the boroughs recycling a particular waste stream will receive credit for the tonnage of that stream which is recycled. In the case of fridges, cathode ray tubes and material going into the in-vessel composting facility the Authority can measure the actual tonnes delivered by each borough, but for materials recycled or composted from the bulky waste recycling facility the Authority will only be able to apportion these tonnes by reference to the relative bulky waste inputs from each borough. This proposal has been discussed with borough technical officers and Members are recommended to approve this change on the basis that directly attributing tonnes recycled to boroughs is:
- more equitable
 - more transparent
 - easier to calculate now than it was in the past
 - and that it also provides an incentive to boroughs to use Authority procured recycling facilities
- 2.16 It is recommended that the change applies from 1 April 2006, with the same underlying principle of allocating tonnages delivered separately to the Authority for recycling or composting directly to the delivering borough wherever possible, but apportioning other recyclables sorted from bulky wastes or other waste residual streams in relation to the relative inputs from each borough to the place where the sorting takes place.

3 WASTE HIERARCHY OPTIONS

Waste Prevention and Reduction

- 3.1 As reported at the last meeting, officers have started work on developing a waste prevention plan for the Authority. This will be aided by the fact that the waste minimisation officer for the London Borough of Enfield has recently joined the National Resource and Waste Forum (NRWF) providing London borough representation. The NRWF is a cross-sectoral body that has been working to establish a UK-wide Waste Prevention Framework, outlining the action that can be taken to prevent waste across the whole chain of waste creation from production to consumption. The NRWF is unusual in that Government bodies have seats alongside representatives of many other organisations and people across the public, private and NGO sectors involved in delivering sustainable waste management. The NRWF is convened by The Environment Council; further details can be found at www.nrwf.org.uk. Building on their waste prevention framework, the NRWF has also designed a practical toolkit for preventing waste, which can be used in local areas. The toolkit is soon to be adapted into an online guide.
- 3.2 Now that the Authority's Policy and Development Manager is in post, the Waste Minimisation Officer's position, previously agreed in principle by the Authority, will be finalised and filled. The cost of employing a Waste Minimisation Officer has been included in the draft budget for the Authority for the financial year 2006-2007 being put forward at this meeting.
- 3.3 At the Authority meeting of 13 October 2004 it was also agreed to support the promotion of reusable nappies through the payment of a one-off subsidy per participant per child for those using nappy laundry services who have entered into formal agreements with the Authority. It was also agreed that a similar level of subsidy per participant per child would be paid for those washing nappies at home who provide sufficient proofs of purchase of reusable nappies. It was also agreed at the same meeting that this subsidy would be reviewed every January from January 2006 to identify an appropriate subsidy level for the following financial year.
- 3.4 The current level of subsidy is £51. The £51 subsidy was calculated from the cost of waste disposal of the average weight of disposable nappies used by a baby in its lifetime (Authority Report, 13 October 2004), 225kg per year for three years, i.e. 625kg in total, (source: Womens' Environmental Network).

- 3.5 The subsidy is advertised by outreach workers – both volunteers and paid staff, through leaflets, websites and the local media. Between 1 November 2004 and 30 November 2005 152 claims from a total of 152 customers were made. In terms of waste prevention these customers are estimated to have diverted 102.6 tonnes of waste from disposal , with an equivalent gross disposal saving of £6,726 (based on the December 2005 estimated recycling credit value of £65.56 per tonne).
- 3.6 In order to claim the subsidy, customers are required to provide proof of purchase of reusable nappies, register with their local authority and then the borough will check that the customer can provide: proof of address, proof of parent identity, proof of the child's identity (birth certificate) and proof of reusable nappy usage, namely reusable nappy purchase receipts. In the case of customers using a nappy laundering service a contract is signed between the customer and the laundering service which provides an additional check. All details are retained on a secure database compliant with data protection requirements.
- 3.7 It is recommended that the Authority approves the continuation of the nappy subsidy on the same basis as previously, but with an increased subsidy of £54.15 per participant per child. This has been calculated from the current £51 subsidy, with 2.2% retail price increase for the year to December 2005 added, plus a sum relating to the £3 per tonne increase in landfill tax for the year.

North London Integrated Compost Project

In-vessel composting facility

- 3.8 The official opening of the composting plant at Edmonton has been set for 9 March which coincides with an event in Haringey celebrating recycling achievements to date and recognising community recycling champions. Parliamentary Under-Secretary (Commons) (Local Environment, Marine and Animal Welfare) Minister, Ben Bradshaw has accepted an invitation to formally open the plant. Invitations to other potential attendees will be issued as soon as possible. LondonWaste Ltd. (LWL) is organising the event on behalf of partners to the project. A provision has been made in the Authority budget of £5,000 for launch costs. This includes the cost of printing some booklets about composting for attendees and residents to which LWL is contributing.

Community composting

- 3.9 As reported at the last meeting approval was given to award funding to three additional community composting groups, (Forest Recycling, Waltham Forest; Hackney Allotment Society, Hackney and Friends of King Henry's Walk Gardens, Islington). However, since the last meeting, it has been confirmed that a fourth group, which had been short listed for funding, could not fulfil the necessary criteria to be provided with financial support. The remaining funds which had been provisionally allocated to this final group are therefore being distributed to the above three groups – enabling full funding for their projects and greater tonnages of material to be diverted from landfill.
- 3.10 The remaining balance of funding (£1,239) is to be used to produce a leaflet promoting community composting and profiling the projects in the North London. This will be useful for encouraging others to apply for future funding for community composting projects as well as encouraging residents to take part in existing schemes.

Recycling

- 3.11 Initial work by LWL to design, build and operate a Materials Recovery Facility (MRF) on the site at Edmonton has started. A steering group of LWL and Authority officers has been established which meets regularly.
- 3.12 The purpose of the steering group is to consult at all stages on the development and construction of a facility which provides a dry recyclable commingled MRF at the Edmonton Ecopark. The Contract Manager from LondonWaste will control the delivery of the project and consult and advise the steering group on a regular basis.
- 3.13 The latest version of the project plan (19-12-05) shows the following schedule: A LWL Board meeting on 27 January to approve the building concept, with submission of a planning application on 13 February, subsequently revised to 6 March 2006. According to the same schedule, the plant is due to take in its first load(s) of material at the beginning of March 2007, with operability and reliability testing running until 2 May 2007 prior to full operation after that date. Although this is a very ambitious timetable, both the Authority and LWL are very keen to have this facility established and operational as soon as possible.
- 3.14 Until the facility is built it is planned that several of the constituent boroughs transfer to the Authority their arrangements with LWL for the receipt, bulking and transportation of commingled dry recyclables to third party materials recovery facilities as outlined in paragraph 7.1.

- 3.15 No contractual commitment has been made at this stage to deliver material into the new MRF and the submission of a planning application by LWL is entirely at their own risk. However, officers are keen to ensure that the planned facility meets Authority requirements with the potential for entering into appropriate contracts with the company in the future, for the sorting of commingled recyclable material and onward transfer to reprocessing.
- 3.16 At the Authority meeting of 19th October 2005, it was agreed that, once a more detailed specification is available, this will be presented to the Authority for approval, but the Head of Waste Strategy & Contracts has already advised LWL, after consultation with the Chair, that the Authority has no objection in principle to the recycling of materials abroad, provided that the processes and resultant products are *bona fide*, and that LWL should investigate all possibilities of adding value themselves to the separated recyclable wastes through, by way of example, plastic pelletising/flaking or glass crushing. The detailed specification is not yet available.
- 3.17 As noted at the Authority meeting on 6th July 2005, Cllr. Hodgson commented that LondonWaste should be using its own products from the recycling process wherever possible and suggested that the Authority should persuade contractors to seek the highest possible Building Research Establishment rating.
- 3.18 The above reference is to the 'BREEAM' (Building Research Establishment's Environmental Assessment Method) 'excellent' standard. Officers have noted Members' request and informed LWL.
- 3.19 Further information about the BREEAM standard is included in Appendix 1.

4 MANAGEMENT OF OTHER WASTE STREAMS

Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment (WEEE)

- 4.1 Following the report at the last Authority meeting, the DTI officially confirmed on 15 December 2005, that there would be a new delay in the implementation of the WEEE Directive in the UK, (then planned to be implemented in June 2006). In making the announcement about the delay, the DTI did not provide any firm dates for the length of the delay but confirmed that there is to be a fresh consultation in the spring 2006 on how the UK will adopt the Directive.

- 4.2 The WEEE Directive will require producers to pay for treatment and recycling or recovery of all household WEEE products collected from designated collection facilities, as well as all business WEEE. Retailers will have an obligation to offer take-back services to householders and will be providing a network of collection facilities where consumers can take back their WEEE for it to be collected separately from other municipal waste.
- 4.3 The Directive was supposed to have come into force in the UK on 13 August, 2005. However, an industry website is now predicting that the revised implementation date is at least six months away, "The legislation, will now be delayed by at least a further six months, it is believed", (letsrecycle.com, 06-01-06). A further announcement is expected "some time in February" according to a DTI spokesperson who spoke to the website's staff.
- 4.4 The decision to delay the implementation of the WEEE regulations means councils pick up the costs of dealing with WEEE rather than producers until the regulations are implemented. Accordingly, given the uncertainty regarding a revised implementation date, the Authority 2006/2007 budget allows for a full year's costs for fulfilling this obligation.
- 4.5 The DTI said in responding to the delay in the implementation of the WEEE Directive that it would 'continue to work with local Authorities to establish the costs associated with the decision to undertake this review.'
- 4.6 Additional regulations on the permitting of WEEE recycling facilities are to be made by DEFRA, but the DTI said they would come into force alongside the producer responsibility requirements of the DTI WEEE regulations.
- 4.7 The decision to delay the WEEE regulations is being supported by the Environment Agency, which recognizes that: 'It is vital that the new controls achieve the right outcomes for the environment and help close some of the existing gaps that can lead to illegal export, for instance.' The Environment Agency wants this to be achieved in a way that doesn't impose unnecessary regulatory burdens on businesses or local authorities.
- 4.8 The Environment Agency said it had already geared up to register producers of WEEE in line with DTI's previous proposals, which would have seen producer responsibility starting in June 2006. These plans will be put on hold during the latest policy review by the DTI.

5. IDENTIFYING THE BEST PRACTICABLE ENVIRONMENTAL OPTION FOR NORTH LONDON

Waste Data

- 5.1 In order to properly plan facilities for the future, the constituent borough councils agreed to develop appropriate modelling to predict likely tonnages of material between 2005 and 2020 (the period of the NLJWS). Most recently AEA Technology plc (AEA) has been helping the North London boroughs to develop accurate data projections upon which future facilities can be planned. All borough visits (and in one case a telephone interview) by AEA have now taken place and the first set of initial data has now been collated. These initial projections will shortly be validated by borough officers before being provided to the Authority as an updated set of projections for the future.
- 5.2 This work was awarded and carried out under the three month extension (from October 2005) to AEA's call-off contract, approved under delegated authority by the Head of Waste Strategy and Contracts and noted at the Authority meeting on 7 December 2005. As requested and approved at the same Authority meeting on 7 December 2005, this call-off contract with AEA is now being extended for a further three years from 18 January 2006 to 17 January 2009, inclusive.
- 5.3 Since the last meeting, borough technical officers have also verified recycling data to the end of 2005/06 and for the financial year 2006/07 for budgeting purposes.

6 IMPLEMENTATION OF THE NORTH LONDON BEST PRACTICABLE ENVIRONMENTAL OPTION

Update on the Hornsey Street Redevelopment

- 6.1 An update on the redevelopment of the Hornsey Street road waste transfer station and reuse and recycling centre would most usually be included in a separate report. However, for the sake of brevity and the fact that the project does not currently warrant a separate report an update on the project is included here.
- 6.2 The Hornsey Street redevelopment project continues. The period of practical completion plus one year expired in July 2005 but there is still a large number of outstanding and disputed issues relating to both the design and construction of the facility.
- 6.3 The arbitration process involving the Independent Engineer is on-going and the end-users (London Borough of Islington, the Authority and IC SL Accord) and the managing designers and construction engineers (AYH and Sir Robert McAlpine (SRM)) are providing assistance to the Independent Engineer to enable rulings on disputed items to be made.

Progress towards completing the facility remains protracted and has taken considerably longer than first anticipated. The Independent Engineer has now stated that he will rule on the outstanding disputed items at the end of January 2006. If a further report is necessary this will be provided verbally at the Authority Meeting.

- 6.4 On 9 December 2005 there were 169 agreed snags ranging from minor points considered to be poor workmanship to major design flaws. Officers have also identified four major design issues that are disputed by SRM and are seeking remedial action to rectify the problems. The London Borough of Islington has a separate but similar list with a few shared items on both lists. The vast majority of outstanding items have been resolved through the process with the Independent Engineer but not all have yet been corrected by SRM.
- 6.5 The four most significant issues affecting the Authority at the Hornsey Street facility remain:
1. Fire detection system – dust levels and vibration cause false alarms making the system unusable. This has meant that a permanent Fire Marshall has to be employed to watch the facility and ensure that any fire can be detected promptly. The Independent Engineer is still considering his ruling on this matter.
 2. Air handling system – the air handling system cannot work with the ambient dust levels at the facility causing the filters to blind in a matter of hours. This matter is also still under consideration by the Independent Engineer.
 3. Lighting levels in the tipping hall – the level of lighting within the tipping hall is substantially below the safe required working levels. The Independent Engineer has again deferred his decision although it is expected that he will rule in favour of the construction contractor.
 4. Design of the compactors – the chutes connecting the tipping floor to the compactors is too long meaning that bulky items of waste would not pass cleanly through. This means that bulky waste must be tipped on the floor increasing the dust levels in the tipping hall and requiring the waste to be double-handled at increased cost. The Independent Engineer is seeking a compromise solution.
- 6.6 Officers are continuing to pursue these matters through the route prescribed in the contract with Ashburton Properties Ltd.
- 6.7 Members will recall that the Authority previously authorised the installation of barriers and harness points to improve the safety for workers at the facility and should note that officers continue to work with Health and Safety advisors from London Borough of Islington and LondonWaste Ltd to improve working conditions at the facility.

7 WORKING IN PARTNERSHIP TO DELIVER THE STRATEGY

Bulking of Dry Recyclable Wastes

- 7.1 As reported at the last Authority meeting, several constituent borough councils had expressed an interest in transferring to the Authority their arrangements with LWL for the receipt, bulking and transportation of commingled dry recyclables to third party materials recovery facilities (MRFs).
- 7.2 At the time of writing, the new arrangements for the Authority to procure bulking and materials recovery services (rather than the individual boroughs doing this themselves, as at present) appears near to implementation.
- 7.3 In addition to a bulking and transfer role, LWL will also have a quality control role in that as part of the bulking up process they will have the opportunity to check for compliance with MRF input specifications. Any waste which does not meet this input specification will be sent direct to incineration at Edmonton or to landfill elsewhere. An inspection regime will be implemented by the Authority to ensure that the quality control checks by LWL meet the specification requirements and in order for us to ensure that borough collection vehicle loads are compliant with the same.
- 7.4 The Authority approved at the last meeting that the Head of Waste Strategy & Contracts or the Legal Adviser may use the existing delegated authority for the above proposal, with final terms to be agreed in consultation with the Chair.
- 7.5 Whilst this arrangement is being entered into for the benefit of and with the mutual agreement of all, there needs to be some contractual 'protection' for the Authority in signing the agreement with the selected MRF provider. The Legal Advisor is therefore advising the Authority on the most appropriate method by which the Authority should ensure that the participating Boroughs start and continue to deliver material to LWL giving due consideration to the quantities involved and the specification agreed. There are a number of options, currently under review including: a formal contractual arrangement between the Authority and the participating Boroughs; or using the 'power of direction' contained in section 31 of the Waste Emissions and Trading Act 2003 by which the Authority can direct constituent Boroughs to deliver waste in a specified state of separation. There is a 'power of objection' detailed in Section 48(4) of the Environmental Protection Act 1990 under which the Authority can object to plans by Boroughs to recycle all or part of the waste delivered to the Boroughs, but the Authority can only invoke this power where the Authority has already entered into a contract for the provision of recycling services. In order to exercise this power it would be in the Authority's best interests to conclude the contract as detailed in 7.2 above as soon as possible.

- 7.6 It is planned to have all the necessary arrangements in place as soon as possible.

North London Recycling Forum

- 7.7 On 1st October 2003 the Authority agreed to spend up to £4,000 as a 50% contribution with LWL for a part-time co-ordinator for the North London Recycling Forum until 31st January 2004.
- 7.8 A subsequent Authority meeting on 17 December 2003, enabled continued funding until 30 September 2004 and then at the Authority meeting on 28 April 2004 it was resolved that:
- 7.9 'it be agreed to fund approximately £6,000 in the 2004/2005 year and approximately £12,000 in 2005/2006 to support the continuation of the North London Recycling Forum in the current format for 18 months from September 2004', i.e. until the end of March 2006.
- 7.10 This decision followed the submission of a business plan and accompanying budget for the North London Recycling Forum, for three years of work and funding for the Forum, for the calendar years 2005 to 2007 inclusive. This budget showed both LWL and the Authority making an annual £12,000 contribution to the costs of the North London Recycling Forum over the forthcoming calendar years.
- 7.11 As the current funding for the Forum of £12,000 for 2005/2006 from the Authority comes to an end at the end of March 2006, the Authority needs to review continued support.
- 7.12 In the past year the Forum has held two networking events (in May and December 2005), compared to the one event included in the business plan. The May event attracted 76 attendees, and December 100 attendees. Both these events compare well with the previous year where one event in October 2004 attracted 59 delegates. Attendance is increasing, showing how useful our community and private partners find this Forum.
- 7.13 The balance of delegates between the community and voluntary sector, the private sector and the public sector has been relatively evenly split at each event, something which the Forum consciously aims to ensure.
- 7.14 In terms of feedback and delegate satisfaction with the events, this remains high. Attendees are asked to rate individual aspects of the day on a scale of 1 to 5 with 1 being poor and 5 excellent and then give an overall 'score' for the day. Although only a proportion of delegates complete evaluation forms, the December Forum achieved an average rating for the individual sessions of 4.3, up from 4.1 in May 2005 and 3.8 in October 2004. The 'overall' ratings for the days have remained high with an average rating of 4.6 in May 2005 and 4.7 in December 2005.

- 7.15 It is recommended that a further commitment to funding the work of the Forum is made at a cost of £12,000 for 2006/2007 and £9,000 (75% of a full financial year) in 2007/2008. This would enable the Authority to continue to demonstrate support for cross sectoral working in North London and would mean that the Authority was matching the funding which has already been committed by LWL for calendar years 2006 and 2007, and the delivery of the Forum's programme outlined in their three year business plan.

Strategy Implementation Board

- 7.16 The Strategy Implementation Board meeting, originally intended to be held at the end of 2005, did not take place, firstly because tonnage projections from the boroughs for the Authority's facility planning were not complete and secondly because there was not yet formal agreement by all seven boroughs to participate in the preparation of a Joint Waste Development Plan Document.
- 7.17 Whilst the Authority cannot directly influence the timetable of the above, the Authority has committed additional resource to help the boroughs complete their projections of facility need and is engaging positively with the work of the boroughs as waste planning authorities. It is now planned to hold a Strategy Implementation Board in March 2006.

8.0 COMMENTS OF THE FINANCIAL ADVISER

- 8.1 The Financial Adviser has been consulted over this report and his comments incorporated into the report.

9.0 COMMENTS OF THE LEGAL ADVISER

- 9.1 The Legal Adviser has been consulted over this report and her comments are contained within the body of this report.

10.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 10.1 The Authority is recommended to:
- (i) Approve the proposed variation in the allocation of the Authority's recycling and composting tonnage to boroughs with effect from the new financial year – 1st April 2006.
 - (ii) Approve continuation of the nappy subsidy on the same basis as previously, but with a subsidy of £54.15
 - (iii) Note the contract awarded under delegated authority to AEA Technology plc for specialist environmental consultancy advice.
 - (iv) Approve the further extension of funding for the work of the North London Recycling Forum until the end of December 2007.

Local Government Act 1972 – Access to information

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

North London Waste Authority Best Value Performance
Plan 2005

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APPENDIX 1.

The 'BREEAM' Standard

A3.1 The Building Research Establishment's Environmental Assessment Method, (BREEAM), has been used for over a decade to assess the environmental performance of both new and existing buildings. It is regarded, according to Building Research Establishment's (BRE's) website, by the UK's construction and property sectors as the measure of best practice in environmental design and management.

A3.2 BREEAM covers a wide range of environmental issues within one assessment and presents the results in a way which is easily understood by all. Credits are awarded during the assessment to a number of areas according to performance. The areas are:

- *management*: overall management policy, commissioning site management and procedural issues
- *energy use*: operations energy and carbon dioxide (CO₂) issues
- *health and well-being*: indoor and external issues affecting health and well-being
- *pollution*: air and water pollution issues
- *transport*: transport-related CO₂ and location-related factors
- *land use*: Greenfield and brownfield sites
- *ecology*: ecological value conservation and enhancement of the site
- *materials*: environmental implication of building materials, including life-cycle impacts
- *water*: consumption and water efficiency

A3.3 Credits are awarded in each area according to performance. A set of environmental weightings then enables the credits to be added together to produce a single overall score. The building is then rated on a scale of pass, good, very good or excellent and a certificate awarded.

Report Ends