

NORTH LONDON WASTE AUTHORITY

REPORT TITLE:
JOINT WASTE STRATEGY UPDATE

REPORT OF:
HEAD OF WASTE STRATEGY AND CONTRACTS

FOR SUBMISSION TO: AUTHORITY MEETING	DATE: 19th October 2005
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SUMMARY OF REPORT:
This report updates members with progress in implementing the North London Joint Waste Strategy.

RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that:

- i) the bids from the East London Community Recycling Partnership and the Freightliners City Farm as described at 2.11 – 2.12 are approved;
- ii) delegated authority is granted to the Head of Waste Strategy & Contracts, in consultation with the Chair, to award up to £8,000 in total to subsequent bids to the North London Community Composting Fund that satisfy the criteria; and
- iii) expenditure is approved for Cllr Haley to attend the London Waste Action study tour in Italy (para 5.5)

Signed by Head of Waste Strategy and Contracts

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Date:.....

1. BACKGROUND

- 1.1 The North London Joint Waste Strategy (NLJWS) has been formally approved by the Authority and all of its constituent borough councils except Barnet. Barnet is withholding its formal approval on the sole grounds of the allocation of the costs of the Authority, to each of the constituent borough councils. Barnet is seeking a move to a tonnage-based method of allocating the Authority's levy, and this is the subject of the separate report elsewhere on this agenda, in response to a government consultation.
- 1.2 Implementation of other aspects of the NLJWS are nevertheless continuing.

2. NORTH LONDON INTEGRATED COMPOST PROJECT

- 2.1 Members will recall that the North London Integrated Compost Project (NLICP) was initially delayed for two months while discrepancies with the London Recycling Fund award were settled. Further delays have since arisen following the requirement from constituent borough councils that kitchen meat wastes were included in the list of permissible input wastes as this has required significant re-negotiation of the terms with LondonWaste Ltd.
- 2.2 The in-vessel composting facility at Edmonton received its waste management licence from the Environment Agency on 13 September 2005 and has been receiving Borough waste since 21 September 2005. The first loads have been deposited at the facility by Barnet, Hackney, Haringey and Islington along with secondary deposits made by LondonWaste Ltd. It is believed that additional tonnage from some boroughs has also been delivered to the facility but has not been accounted properly as the vehicles have not been registered with the Authority for this waste stream. The consequence of Boroughs failing to register vehicles properly is that Boroughs may pay for a service that should be charged to the Authority, and the Authority may be charged for under-utilising the facility as a consequence of the take-or-pay contract. Authority officers are therefore pursuing this matter with Borough Officers.
- 2.3 Barnet is expected to commence deliveries of separately collected food waste to the facility in addition to the green waste already collected on 17 October 2005, later than originally planned. The addition of this Boroughs waste is expected to significantly increase take up of the available capacity.
- 2.4 The final terms of the contract variation with LondonWaste Ltd are still under negotiation but are expected to be finalised shortly.

- 2.5 Work is underway to plan a launch event in the New Year when the first batch of compost is despatched to Boroughs for local use.
- 2.6 The London Recycling Fund has expressed great satisfaction with the project management and is proposing it as an example of good practice. Regular monitoring reports continue to be submitted in accordance with the Fund's requirements.

Home and Community Composting

- 2.7 Work on home and community composting within the NLICP has been delivered by the London Community Recycling network (LCRN). The target of training forty-five "Master Composters" across North London was met ahead of schedule on 24 July 2005 and no further volunteers are being recruited. Existing volunteers continue to be supported by LCRN and there are plans to hold an advanced training and feedback session. By working with Boroughs outside the NLWA area a total of 109 volunteers have been trained as Master Composters. To date the scheme has diverted fifty tonnes of waste from the residual waste stream. LCRN has also been able to provide support for a range of groups including support for five Waste Partnership Fund bids and three CRED bids.
- 2.8 Within the approved bid to the London Recycling Fund for the NLICP, provision for a community compost fund was included, with the LRF being invited to match-fund an Authority contribution of £25,000.
- 2.9 The scheme has been advertised recently and bids for support from the North London Community Compost Fund (NLCCP) have been invited and assessed by the Authority's Principal Policy Officer and the London Community Recycling Network (LCRN), who are administering the NLCCP on behalf of the Authority.
- 2.10 Applications were invited from community groups involved in waste composting operations in the North London area. These groups completed application forms explaining the nature of the project, the amount of funding they were seeking and some further details required to satisfy the Authority that the project could be delivered as described.
- 2.11 Applications were received from ten applicants with applications having a total value of £43,636. The amounts requested ranged from £11,991 for the purchase of an in-vessel compost plant to £544.80 for the purchase of composting bins and equipment.

- 2.12 All applications were considered against a number of predetermined parameters to ensure that the bids had been properly considered and met the criteria stated (attached as Appendix 1) with the application form and were given a score. Of the bids received only two met all of the selection. These bids were received from the East London Community Recycling Partnership (ELCRP) and the Freightliners City Farm (FCF).
- 2.13 The ELCRP bid is for £11,991 to fund the purchase of another "Rocket" in-vessel composting plant that would expand the treatment capacity on an existing estate in Hackney. The FCF bid was for £5,000 towards the cost of a collection vehicle to be used to support their collection and delivery of waste and compost in the Islington area surrounding their city farm.
- 2.14 The eight applicants that are not recommended for funding at this stage have been advised of the reasons that their bids have not been successful, and have been invited to reapply for a share of the funding that would remain available if the two projects described above are supported. It is not expected that the total of awardable bids will exceed £8,000, just half of the total Fund of £50,000. Officers are therefore in discussion with the London Recycling Fund about options, one of which is the possibility of using the second half of the Fund for a similar bidding round that may cross into 2006-07.
- 2.15 The two recommended projects are able to demonstrate compliance with the Waste Management Licensing Regulations and Animal By-products Regulations as well as offering a track record that gives confidence that the funding will be properly and fully utilised within the timescale set. The projects are also consistent with the Mayor's waste strategy and the North London Joint Waste Strategy.
- 2.16 Members are recommended to endorse the proposal to fund the East London Community Recycling Partnership and Freightliner City Farm bids described above through the North London Community Compost Fund. Members are also requested to delegate authority to the Head of Waste Strategy and Contracts, in consultation with the Chair, to approve funding for applications to the North London Community Compost Fund that satisfy the criteria up to the remaining value of £8,000.

3. BUILDING PARTNERSHIPS

- 3.1 The funding for the Building Partnerships Project from the London Recycling Fund (LRF) has ended on 30 June 2005 (Quarter 1 2005-06). The total project funding was £83,454 over a twelve month period to be paid in four quarterly instalments.

- 3.2 The Project was managed by London Community Recycling Network (LCRN) in partnership with the Authority and was intended to support four main targeted projects and a number of smaller ones. The main projects supported were Croydon Appliance Reuse Centre, West London Appliance Reuse Centre, the Aardvark Recycling Project in Stockwell and Recycling Works Haringey. In addition, the funding helped to support The Shaw Trust which assists disadvantaged and disabled people to find work.
- 3.3 The final claim was for a total sum of £17,212 of revenue costs to support the four targeted projects. The Fund has now transferred this sum to the Authority and this in turn has been credited to the LCRN.
- 3.4 The Authority and LCRN are required to continue to report on performance to the LRF throughout 2005-06 and beyond although this will be an administrative function as no further funding is to be claimed.

4. FACILITY REQUIREMENTS

- 4.1 When the "Mayor's Draft" NLJWS was approved it required all the constituent borough councils to prepare projections by September 2005 of how they planned to collect dry recyclable wastes (kerbside-sorted or commingled) in order to meet the NLJWS targets. These projections are needed so that the Authority can start work on the procurement of the necessary strategic bulking and/or sorting facilities, as such work has considerable lead times for procurement, planning permissions and construction.
- 4.2 The projections received so far do not yet provide a complete picture of the likely need for such facilities, so work continues to ensure delays are minimised.
- 4.3 In the meantime, draft "Heads of Term" have been issued to LondonWaste Ltd (LWL) for an interim commingled bulking arrangement to materials recycling facilities (MRF's) elsewhere, and detailed proposals have been sought on a possible new MRF at LWL's site in Edmonton.
- 4.4 With regards to the interim arrangement, it is intended to enter into an agreement encompassing the commingled waste streams of those constituent borough councils who choose to use this route. The Head of Waste Strategy & Contracts and the Legal Adviser have delegated authority to enter into variations to the main waste disposal contract for recycling and composting services that are at a lower price than the avoided cost of disposal.

- 4.5 With regards to the new North London MRF, LWL have already sought expressions of interest through OJEU, received over thirty of these and sent out Pre-Qualification Questionnaires, received responses from over half of these, and are currently evaluating them. LWL has invited the Authority to sit on their working group that will manage this project. 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.

5. JOINT WASTE PLANNING

- 5.1 The constituent borough councils are continuing to work together in formally agreeing to the preparation of a Joint Waste Development Plan Document (JWDPD) for North London. This will create a shared land-use planning framework for all wastes (municipal, commercial and industrial) in North London that will assess the amounts of waste likely to arise, the sites (size and number) needed to handle it and the location of suitable sites.
- 5.2 All boroughs have a duty individually to undertake such work, but they recognise the benefits of pooling their resources to do this jointly, and the assistance this will also give to the future implementation of the NLJWS.
- 5.3 At the time of writing, Camden, Hackney and Islington have already formally agreed to proceed with the JWDPD. Decisions are expected from Enfield and Waltham Forest before this Authority meeting, with the last decisions from Barnet and Haringey to follow thereafter.
- 5.4 Other work is nevertheless progressing on the JWDPD, with the planners' consultant due to propose a draft memorandum of understanding and a draft consultation strategy in early November.
- 5.5 London Waste Action (a partnership between the public, private and independent sectors, promoting sustainable waste management in London that runs *inter alia* the London Recycling Fund), has arranged a two-day study-tour in Italy (8-9 November 2005) to see first hand some of the new types of residual waste treatment facilities that the Authority will need to consider.

- 5.6 London Waste Action has recommended that it will be suitable for Technical Officers, Planners and Members. Accordingly, the Authority's Procurement Manager and the North London lead planner will go. For Member attendance, the Chair and both Vice Chairs are unable to go, but Cllr. Haley, Authority representative on the Board of LondonWaste Ltd and Chair of that Board is able to attend, so it is recommended that the Authority supports and approves his participation. The cost is expected to be some £200 per person.

6. STRATEGY IMPLEMENTATION BOARD

- 6.1 A meeting of the Strategy Implementation Board (SIB) had been scheduled for 21st July 2005 but due to terrorist activity during that afternoon it was not possible for those not already in central London to reach the Association of London Government, where the SIB was to follow on from an earlier ALG meeting that Borough executive environment members were attending.
- 6.2 The presentation on the JWDPD was however given to the five executive members from North London, and the above progress has since been made. A copy of this presentation is available on request. All members present were very supportive, although some expressed surprise that the process would take as long as three years.
- 6.3 A further meeting of the SIB will be needed in the near future to discuss the tonnage projections from the constituent borough councils, further JWDPD matters, implications of the London Mayor's proposal for a "London Single Waste Authority" Combining waste disposal and planning responsibilities in a new Functional Body and the core Greater London Authority. Also, Hackney remain willing to present the results of their "waste by water" studies and trials.
- 6.4 It would also be useful for the SIB to give consideration for the overall resources that will be needed both at the Authority and within the constituent borough councils to implement the NLJWS, so that all Partners can start planning accordingly.
- 6.5 Depending on progress with all of the above, a date may be sought as early as mid-November for the next SIB.

7. NORTH LONDON RECYCLING FORUM

- 7.1 The last Forum event was held on 12 May 2005 and was a great success with 76 delegates from 55 organisations in attendance. The feedback received from delegates was very positive with the event considered to be of great value. A good presentation and discussion took place on the environmental impacts of the 2012 Olympics.
- 7.2 The next event is to be held on 01 December 2005. At this time the theme of the day and the guest speakers have not been determined but the Forum Steering Group are attempting to build on the success of the previous event to increase participation and enhance recycling opportunities across North London.
- 7.3 The Forum actively continues to seek other sources of funding to reduce its reliance on its current joint sponsors, the Authority and LondonWaste Ltd. Authority officers are giving support and encouragement.

8. COMMENTS OF THE LEGAL ADVISER

- 8.1 There are no legal comments on this report.

9. COMMENTS OF THE FINANCIAL ADVISER

- 9.1 The cost of the North London Community Composting Fund of £25,000 will be reclaimed from the London Recycling Fund. The cost of the visit to Italy can be contained within the Waste Strategy and Contracts budget for 2005/06.

Local Government Act 1972 – Access to information

- Documents used:**
1. Project reports to the London Recycling Fund
 2. Bids received by the North London Community Compost Fund, October 2005
 3. "Mayor's Draft" North London Joint Waste Strategy, September 2004

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