

NORTH LONDON WASTE AUTHORITY

REPORT TITLE:

**JOINT WASTE MANAGEMENT STRATEGY
DEVELOPMENT UPDATE**

REPORT OF:

HEAD OF WASTE STRATEGY AND CONTRACTS

FOR SUBMISSION TO:

AUTHORITY MEETING.

DATE:

6th JULY 2005

SUMMARY OF REPORT:

This report notes progress with the North London Joint Waste Strategy.

It also provides recent information on the Authority's projects funded by the London Recycling Fund.

RECOMMENDATION

The Authority is recommended to note this report.

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

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Date:.....

1. NORTH LONDON JOINT WASTE STRATEGY

- 1.1 The Authority gave its approval to the "Mayor's Draft" North London Joint Waste Strategy (NLJWS) at its special meeting on Monday 27th September 2004. This was sent to the London Mayor on 30th September.
- 1.2 The formal review by the Mayor of the NLJWS was delayed by the disagreement of one Partner firstly to the policy statement on the levy system on the grounds that it did not provide sufficient certainty of change and secondly to the policy statement on deciding between co-mingled and kerbside-sorted collection services on the grounds that it caused unnecessary delay.
- 1.3 Further discussions have since taken place between Partners at both Officer and Member level. The second point of disagreement has been overcome, but as it is likely to take some further time to arrive at a common position on the first point of disagreement (due to the significant technical complexities of developing a solution), it was agreed to ask the London Mayor to formally consider the NLJWS as a partnership of six of the Boroughs with the Authority, with an indication of the process by which we aim to resolve the outstanding disagreement with the seventh Borough. This request has since been made, and the Mayor's views will be reported at the first available opportunity.
- 1.4 The Government has also indicated that it will be consulting over the summer on changing the default mechanism for apportioning the Authority's levy from the current Council Tax system to one that better reflects the tonnages of waste arising for disposal in each Constituent Borough. This too will be reported as soon as it is available, with a proposed response.
- 1.5 In order to support the work of the Strategy Implementation Board, senior officers have been meeting to discuss how best to deliver on the strategic vision of the NLJWS. North London Directors of Finance have met to discuss the significant financial implications of the NLJWS and other budget pressures on the Authority. North London Directors of Environment have met to discuss all aspects of the NLJWS including the planning work below. North London Chief Executives have met too, because of the increasingly strategic importance of waste management to their Boroughs. This work will progressively feed into the Strategy Implementation Board in the future.
- 1.6 Another matter to be discussed at the next Strategy Implementation Board that is of great importance to the Authority is the Borough projections of the amounts of co-mingled and kerbside-sorted recyclable materials each of them expects to collect. Early and reliable projections are needed so that the Authority can make appropriate financial and resource plans to start procuring the first appropriate Materials Recycling Facility that ideally should be in place immediately, whilst lead times in practice are at least eighteen months.

- 1.7 Finally, in regard to the staffing structure for the Strategy & Contracts Team approved by the Authority in principle in July 2004 to reflect the increasing workload associated with the Joint Waste Strategy and other developments, the posts of Service Information Officer, Monitoring and Administration Assistant, Principal Policy Officer and Personal Assistant to the Head of the team have all been filled, and the post of Procurement Manager has been accepted with the new manager due to start on 18th July 2005. These changes are shown at Appendix 1.
- 1.8 The posts of Policy & Development Manager and Contracts Manager are still vacant, with on-going work to find suitable people.

2 JOINT WASTE DEVELOPMENT PLAN DOCUMENT

- 2.1 The implementation of the NLJWS will require land-use planning matters across North London to be co-ordinated. During 2004 the waste planners of North London have been brought together, and are working on this matter.
- 2.2 The planners commissioned consultants to give advice on the potential detailed scope of a Joint Waste Development Plan Document (JWDPD), the timescales over which it might be developed, the key decisions and the amount of officer time likely to be needed along with a contract specification for the actual work of assisting waste planners employ consultants to take the matter forward.
- 2.3 A presentation will be made on the planners' consultant's report to the forthcoming Strategy Implementation Board later in July to facilitate joint discussion prior to any decisions being taken by the Borough Partners in their capacity as local planning authorities.

3 LONDON RECYCLING FUND PROJECTS

- 3.1 The Authority has been successful in attracting considerable funding from the London Recycling Fund in recent years both directly and by supporting and coordinating borough consortia.
- 3.2 There are now two on-going projects involving the North London Waste Authority as lead bidder. These are the "Building Partnerships" project delivered by the London Community Recycling Network, and the "North London Integrated Compost Project" in partnership with London Community Recycling Network, five Constituent Boroughs (Barnet, Hackney, Haringey, Islington, Waltham Forest) and LondonWaste Ltd.

Building Partnerships

- 3.3 This project commenced on 01 July 2004 and supports new posts in the London Community Recycling Network. It has enabled capacity building with the North London community sector, and supported projects elsewhere in London. The project has diverted waste from landfill by increasing reuse and recycling, thereby supporting the Boroughs and the Authority to meet statutory targets. The project supports all local authorities to build partnerships with the community sector's involvement in implementing the North London Joint Waste Strategy once approved.
- 3.4 The funding has supported training events and seminars; established three re-use and recycling projects and has supported a range of Borough and community sector recycling initiatives.

North London Integrated Compost Project

- 3.5 The North London Integrated Composting Project is a combined project involving the London Community Recycling Network, Barnet, Hackney, Haringey, Islington the Authority and LondonWaste Ltd. The project provides support for home composting through the LCRN "Master Composter" scheme, collection infrastructure (10 collection vehicles and containers) for the Boroughs and a new 30,000 tonne in-vessel composting facility provided by the Authority in partnership with LondonWaste Ltd.
- 3.6 A wider input specification for material to be accepted at the in-vessel composting facility has now been agreed. This will increase the tonnage of waste that can be collected from residents for composting.

4 RECOMMENDATION

- 4.1 The Authority is recommended to note this report.

5 COMMENTS OF THE FINANCIAL ADVISER

- 5.1 The Financial Adviser has been consulted on this report and has no further comments to add.

6 COMMENTS OF THE LEGAL ADVISER

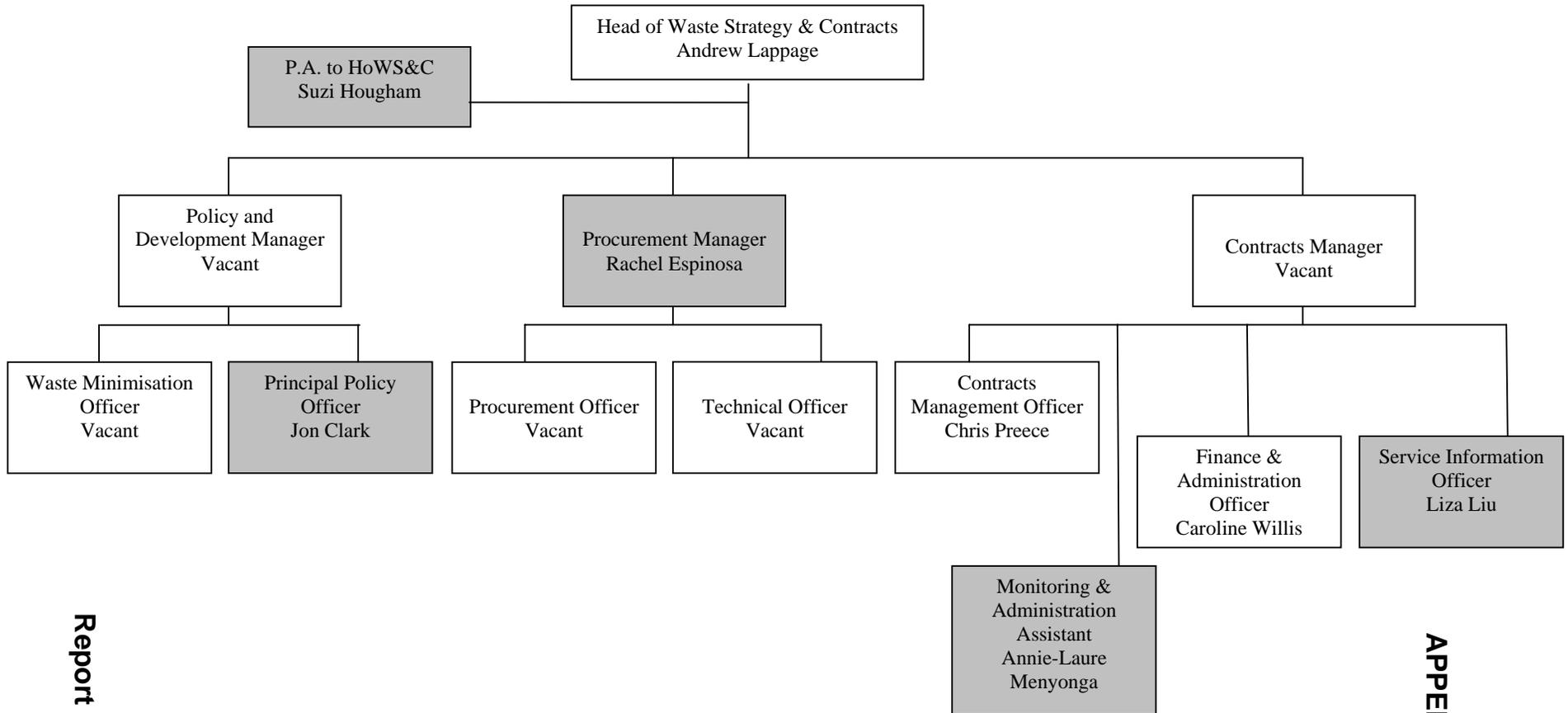
- 6.1 The Legal Adviser has been consulted on this report and has no further comments to add.

Local Government Act 1972 – Access to information

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Structure of NLWA Strategy & Contracts Team
JULY 2005



Report Ends

APPENDIX 1