

Agenda Item No:

NORTH LONDON WASTE AUTHORITY

REPORT TITLE:

**NORTH LONDON COMPLIANCE WITH RECYCLING AND COMPOSTING
BEST VALUE PERFORMANCE INDICATOR STANDARDS**

REPORT OF:

HEAD OF WASTE STRATEGY AND CONTRACTS

FOR SUBMISSION

TO:

AUTHORITY MEETING.

DATE:

11 February 2004

**SUMMARY OF
REPORT:**

This report updates Members on progress by the Authority and its partner Boroughs preparing the North London Joint Waste Strategy towards the statutory recycling and composting standards set by the Government for 2003/4.

RECOMMENDATION

The Authority is recommended to note the outcomes and consider the implications of the report.

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

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Date:.....

1. BACKGROUND

- 1.1 After a period of consultation, the Government issued statutory recycling and compost performance targets to all Local Authorities for the first time in March 2001 within the Local Government (Best Value) Performance Indicators and Performance Standards Order 2001. The standards apply to the combined total of indicators BV82a (total tonnage of household waste – percentage sent for recycling) and BV82b (total tonnage of household waste – percentage sent for composting).
- 1.2 The standards were allocated to local authorities on the basis of their 1998/99 combined recycling and composting performance or “recycling rate”. The Government intends that the combined effect of achievement of these targets will be to raise the national recycling rate to 17% by 2003/4 and at least 25% by 2005/6.
- 1.3 The statutory targets apply to both waste collection authorities (the Constituent Boroughs) and waste disposal authorities (the North London Waste Authority). The NLWA targets are composed of the combined performance of the other Boroughs plus any additional recycling or composting that the Authority or its contractors undertakes. The targets for the Partners are:-

Authority	1998 / 99 Combined BV82 “Recycling Rate”	2003 / 4 Combined BV82 Performance Standard	2005 / 6 Combined BV82 Performance Standard
L.B. Barnet	9	18	30
L.B. Camden	11	24	33
L.B. Enfield	9	18	30
L.B. Hackney	2	10	18
L.B. Haringey	5	10	18
L.B. Islington	3	10	18
L.B. Waltham Forest	6	12	19
NLWA	6	12	18

NB: Bold figures indicate where Boroughs have agreed Public Service Agreements. LB Waltham Forest’s PSA is for 19% by 2004/05.

- 1.4 The Secretary of State has powers under the Local Government Act 1999 to intervene where authorities are failing to deliver Best Value. The nature and severity of intervention will depend upon the amount by which the standard has been missed, the steps an authority has taken to achieve the standard, external factors and the likelihood of the authority meeting the target in future. Intervention options range from providing advice, to the Secretary of State taking over the functions of the authority.

- 1.5 The Partners preparing the North London Joint Waste Strategy have as one of the agreed joint objectives “to maximise recycling and composting rates”. In addition, four Boroughs have agreed Public Service Agreements with Government to either achieve their given statutory performance standards early or to exceed these standards by set percentage rates in return for funding for investment across a range of services. Achievement of statutory performance standards for recycling has also been a key assessment criterion in Comprehensive Performance Appraisals on local authorities.
- 1.6 In September 2002, the partners preparing the North London Joint Waste Strategy agreed to prepare a Target Achievement Framework to indicate how the statutory performance standards would be achieved. The partners agreed to continue the process each year to monitor progress towards the targets and to share good practice and identify opportunities for co-operation on recycling initiatives. This work has led directly to successful North London joint bids to the London Recycling Fund.

2. RECENT PROGRESS

- 2.1 Recycling and composting performance results from the 2002/3 financial year have been included in the Authority’s “2003 Best Value Performance Plan”, which indicates a combined recycling and composting rate of 10.28% for the Authority. Late corrections to two items subsequently changed this figure to 10.11%, which has now been externally audited.
- 2.2 Recycling and composting tonnage collections for the first two quarters of the current 2003/4 statutory target year have now been collated by the Boroughs.
- 2.3 The Head of Waste Strategy and Contracts has also estimated the tonnage of fridges and scrap metal that will be recycled by LondonWaste Limited on behalf of the Authority in the current year. Previously, the Authority has determined that such tonnage can be allocated to individual Boroughs on the basis of the Authority levy, i.e. on the proportion of Band D equivalent Council Tax properties in each Borough. This will add a significant tonnage towards achievement of Borough targets. All of this information is summarised in Appendix 1.

3. CONCLUSIONS

- 3.1 The information provided by Technical Officers in Appendix 1 suggests that all Boroughs are experiencing difficulty in achieving the tonnages that would enable the achievement of their recycling standards assuming that waste increased by 2%. For example, no Borough has managed to collect a half of the full-year targeted total tonnage by Quarter 2 if a 2% waste increase is assumed.
- 3.2 Appendix 1 also indicates that, if the Boroughs continue at the performance level reported in Quarter 1 and 2, and that waste increases in line with NLWA projections based on previous waste patterns, then no Borough will achieve their performance standard and the Authority's own performance standard (which is set against the total waste), would also be missed.
- 3.3 Significant new investment in recycling and composting collections is continuing by Boroughs in the current year, including - but not limited to - that enabled by successful bids to the London Recycling Fund. It is therefore possible that Boroughs will be able to catch up the shortfalls from the first six months with improved performance.
- 3.5 In addition, LondonWaste Limited is continuing trials to sort recyclable materials from bulky waste collections delivered by the Boroughs, to assist in increasing recycling performance.
- 3.6 A review of the performance of the Boroughs and the Authority against the statutory standards was carried out in November. It was noted that whilst recycling and composting tonnages have increased significantly, and the residual rubbish collections appear to be leveling off, the overall household waste total (which includes the waste separated for recycling and composting) continues to rise by approaching 2%.
- 3.7 Given these performance results, the Authority is recommended to note the need for further investment in recycling and composting services, as recommended in the Joint Waste Strategy report elsewhere on this agenda.

4. RECOMMENDATION

- 4.1 Members are therefore recommended to note the outcomes and implications of the report.

5. COMMENTS OF THE FINANCE OFFICER

- 5.1 If the current trend in recycling activity continues and Boroughs fall short of their statutory recycling and composting targets for the full 2003/04 year, this will result in a revenue saving for the Authority.

6. COMMENTS OF THE LEGAL ADVISER

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

Local Government Act 1972 – Access to information

Background Information

Local Government (Best Value) Performance Indicators and Performance Standards Order 2001.

North London Joint Waste Strategy – Target Achievement Framework – September 2002.

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APPENDIX 1

2003/4 BEST VALUE STATUTORY RECYCLING AND COMPOSTING PERFORMANCE STANDARD – COMPLIANCE ESTIMATES

	Borough BV82a +b actual Quarter 1 + 2	Borough BV82a +b target assuming 2% waste increase	Q1 + 2 percentage contribution to target total	NLWA BV82a+b Projected Annual Contribution (Tonnes)	Borough + NLWA 82a+b Projected Annual Combined BV Target	BV82a+b 2003/4 Recycling and Composting Standard (%)	Projected Household Waste and Recycling Total based on April - December NLWA actuals plus Q1+2 performance	Projected BV82 a+b rate assuming Q1 + Q2 consistent performance and April - December NLWA actual waste growth projections
L.B. Barnet	11,457	26,889	43	1,425	28,314	18	151,953	16
L.B. Camden	7,704	24,449	32	907	25,356	24	100,312	16
L.B. Enfield	8,378	24,592	34	1,101	25,693	18	130,367	14
L.B. Hackney	1,524	9,512	16	648	10,160	10	92,778	4
L.B. Haringey	2,506	10,335	24	842	11,177	10	102,709	6
L.B. Islington	2,671	8,944	30	777	9,721	10	86,748	7
L.B. Waltham Forest	5,128	12,582	41	777	13,359	12	103,681	11
TOTAL	39,368	93,676	42					
NLWA				6,476	100,152	12	768,548	11