

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:

15th December 2004

SUMMARY OF REPORT:

This report notes recent Government outline guidance on joint municipal wastes management strategies.

It also notes that a meeting of the Strategy Implementation Board has been convened for 6th December 2004 for the Partners to the draft North London Joint Waste Strategy to consider priorities and agree a way forwards.

It finally provides updated information on the Authority's projects funded by the London Recycling Fund.

RECOMMENDATION

The Authority is recommended to note this report.

Signed Head of Waste Strategy &
by: 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 A schedule of progress made towards approving the draft North London Joint Waste Strategy is attached as Appendix 1. Resolutions have been passed by seven of the eight Partners; the eighth, Barnet expects to formally consider the document at its Cabinet meeting on 4th January 2004.
- 1.3 The London Mayor has not returned his comments in time for the preparation of this report, but they are expected before the first meeting of the Strategy Implementation Board on 6th December 2004, at which the Partners to the North London Joint Waste Strategy can collectively consider them.
- 1.4 On 14th October 2004, DEFRA issued a letter to the Association of London Government, the Greater London Authority, the Local Government Association and various waste and recycling associations. This letter set out the Government’s view on how local authorities might comply with their duty in the Waste and Emissions Trading Act 2003 (WET) to develop a joint waste strategy by April 2005.
- 1.5 The full letter is attached at Appendix 2, but the fifth and sixth paragraphs are key. It is here that DEFRA express the view that “a strategy is not simply a finalised document but an ongoing *process* of forward thinking and planning to meet the demands of the future.”
- 1.6 DEFRA go on to say “We therefore do not necessarily expect Local Authorities bound by the duty to have in place a complete, updated, strategy by April 2005. Rather, we expect non-exempt authorities to demonstrate through a brief statement the active steps that they have taken to begin working together on the development of their joint strategy. This statement should also provide a synopsis of what progress has been made and what further strategy development is planned.”
- 1.7 It appears to Authority officers that to weaken the s.33 WET duty in this way undermines its potential effectiveness, and may jeopardise the country’s fulfillment of its obligations under the Landfill Directive, given the very long lead-times to develop a shared consensus on the way forwards and to implement it.
- 1.8 Following the passing of the Landfill Directive at European level, the Government issued formal guidance on the preparation of joint waste strategies in March 2001, and it is this guidance that the Authority and its Partners have followed.
- 1.9 The Partners to the North London Joint Waste Strategy have spent considerable time and effort in developing a document that sets out a shared vision of how to achieve the extremely challenging targets of the Landfill Directive. This work will greatly assist Partners work together in pursuit of this shared vision and thereby ensure well co-ordinated and cost-effective services across North London that make a substantial contribution to the environmental sustainability of the area.

- 1.10 On Monday 6th December, the Strategy Implementation Board will be principally determining its priorities and agreeing appropriate steps to implement the strategy and to monitor progress through the proposed Strategy Implementation Team. It will also discuss the above DEFRA letter. An oral update of the SIB meeting will be given at the Authority meeting.

2. LONDON RECYCLING FUND PROJECTS

- 2.1 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.
- 2.2 There are three projects involving the North London Waste Authority as lead bidder. These are the “North London Charity and Public Sector Recycling (CHAPS) Re-use and Recycling Good Practice Model”, 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 London Boroughs and LondonWaste Ltd.
- 2.3 The CHAPS project is now completed and the other two projects are expected to deliver the planned results on time and within the budgets set.

North London Charity and Public Sector Recycling (CHAPS) Re-use and Recycling Good Practice Model

- 2.4 This project is now completed. The project was a partnership between the Association of Charity Shops, London Community Recycling Network, London Boroughs of Barnet, Camden, Enfield, Hackney, Haringey, Islington and Waltham Forest and the North London Waste Authority.
- 2.5 The aim of the project was to develop a model of good practice in North London for joint working between the local authorities and the charity shops within their area. This model is being exported to other areas to further enhance recycling.
- 2.6 The London Recycling Fund and the North London Waste Authority provided funding for the scheme. The Authority agreed to pay a third party recycling credit in respect of the tonnage of textile waste separated for recycling and the Fund agreed to provide funding of equal value per tonne for the quantity of textile that was re-used.
- 2.7 The local authorities can benefit by the addition of tonnage towards recycling targets and the charities can benefit from claims for recycling credit payments.
- 2.8 The Association of Charity Shops nominated 34 shops representing 7 charities to participate in the scheme. Additionally 5 textile reprocessors were involved.

- 2.9 At the start of the project in October 2003, charity shops were estimated to dispose of 10-15 tonnes of textiles per annum although during the trial period this was found to be only 6 tonnes.
- 2.10 In addition to the production of the Good Practice Model, 175 tonnes of textiles were diverted from the waste stream for re-use and 84 tonnes was recycled.
- 2.11 The project was considered a success in that there is a lasting legacy of the report on best practice and the future possibility of increased recycling through the charity sector, and arrangements for paying the third party recycling credits have been made.

Building Partnerships.

- 2.12 This project commenced on 01 July 2004 and is intended to support new posts in the London Community Recycling Network. It is intended to enable capacity building with a specific focus on the North London community sector although projects will be supported across London. It aims to divert more waste from landfill 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.
- 2.13 The London Recycling Fund awarded a grant of £83,454 to the Authority to be spent with the London Community Recycling Network over a twelve-month period between July 2004 and June 2005. This funding is intended to support a Project Manager, a Project Worker and a Project Administrator. These workers are targeted to divert 10,000 tonnes from landfill at a cost of £200 per tonne.
- 2.14 To date the funding has been used to support recycling projects in Croydon, Stockwell, West London, a refrigerator re-use scheme in Waltham Forest in partnership with Ozone Friends and an organics recycling scheme in Haringey in partnership with Recycling Works (Haringey) Ltd.
- 2.15 It is too early in the scheme to determine the success of this project in diverting waste from landfill.

North London Integrated Compost Project

- 2.16 This is the largest single project funded to date by the London Recycling Fund and as such is a high profile project. The project draws together the community sector represented by the London Community Recycling Network, five Waste Collection Authorities (Barnet, Hackney, Haringey, Islington, and Waltham Forest) and the private sector represented by LondonWaste Ltd all in partnership with the NLWA.
- 2.17 The LRF has awarded a total amount of £4 million to be spent on the project in a combination of capital and revenue quantities.

- 2.18 The London Community Recycling Network has been awarded £1,000 for capital and £118,447 for revenue to be spent on three projects. First is creating a Master Composter Scheme. This aims to recruit volunteers and promote home composting in the North London area. The second project is the creation of a community-composting fund to be used as match funding to attract other grants. Thirdly the funding will be used to support local authorities in attracting funding from the Waste Resources Action Programme (WRAP) to support home composting.
- 2.19 The five waste collection authorities have collectively been awarded £1,252,100 to spend on capital projects (purchase of vehicles and collection receptacles) and £928,543 for revenue expenditure on staffing costs. Barnet intends to purchase collection vehicles and employ additional staff; Hackney will purchase a collection vehicle and some bins for organic waste collection; Haringey intends to purchase collection vehicles; Islington intends to purchase a collection vehicle and Waltham Forest has previously purchased collection infrastructure to support the bid with help from the London Recycling Fund.
- 2.20 The Authority has been awarded £1,700,000 to invest in an in-vessel composting facility currently under construction by LondonWaste Ltd at Edmonton. Construction work has already commenced and the groundwork associated with the project is currently under construction.
- 2.21 It is vital that the grant allocations are spent within the year awarded or it will be reclaimed by the Fund. The spending profile is being closely followed and there is every expectation that the grant will be fully utilised. This should then leave North London a legacy of increased home and community composting (keeping biodegradable waste out of the municipal stream), and enhanced collection and processing infrastructure to maintain higher levels of composting (contributing to statutory targets and reduced landfill allowance usage) for years to come.

3. RECOMMENDATION

The Authority is recommended to note this report.

4. COMMENTS OF THE FINANCE OFFICER

- 4.1 The comments of the Finance Officer have been incorporated into the report.

5. COMMENTS OF THE LEGAL ADVISER

- 5.1 The Legal Adviser has no comments on this report.

Local Government Act 1972 – Access to information

Minutes of Constituent Borough meetings, and of the Special Meeting of the Authority on 27th September 2004

Letter from DEFRA dated 14 October 2004 and entitled “Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategies”

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APPENDIX 1

JOINT WASTE STRATEGY APPROVALS AS AT 26th NOVEMBER 2004

BARNET:

Going to Cabinet on 4th January 2005

CAMDEN:

EXECUTIVE (ENVIRONMENT) SUB-GROUP: 21 SEPT 2004

It is recommended that the Executive (Environment) Sub Group

- note the report
- adopt the North London Joint Municipal Waste Strategy on behalf of the London Borough of Camden

AGREED

ENFIELD:

5.2 REFERENCE FROM ENVIRONMENT, PARKS AND AMENITIES SCRUTINY PANEL – DRAFT NORTH LONDON JOINT WASTE STRATEGY 2004-2020

Councillor Tony Dey (Chairman of the Environment, Parks and Amenities Scrutiny Panel) introduced the report of the Environment, Parks and Amenities Scrutiny Panel (No.129) setting out the recommendations of the Scrutiny Panel following its review of the draft North London Joint Waste Strategy 2004-2020.

NOTED:

1. the comments of Councillor John Boast with regard to the decision-making processes within the North London Waste Authority (NLWA) in conjunction with the partner Local Authorities. Councillor John Boast and Councillor Bill Price were the Council's representatives on the NLWA. They had emphasised to the NLWA that they did not have executive decision-making powers on behalf of Enfield Council and that this role was that of Councillor Terence Neville (Cabinet Member for Environment and Street Scene);
2. the further work which was required to revise and update the North London Joint Waste Strategy;
3. that Bob Stranks, Assistant Director Street Scene, Waste and Parks was working closely with the NLWA.

Alternative Options Considered: None given the specific reference from Cabinet received by the Environment, Parks and Amenities Scrutiny Panel.

DECISION: The Cabinet supported the following recommendations of the Scrutiny Panel:

1. that the draft North London Joint Waste Strategy 2004-2020 be supported in principle;
2. that the Council writes to the other Partner Authorities setting out its concern regarding the strategy including the need to update the strategy to take into account recent legislative developments;
3. that the Council takes action with the aim of securing agreement among other partner authorities with a view to conducting an immediate review of the strategy, and
4. that the Council writes to the other Partner Authorities with the aim of securing a more sustainable and formal basis for inter-authority collaboration.

Reason: The joint North London Waste Strategy had been written to establish long-term strategy in respect of significant services. The significant recent legislative changes and proposals mean that the strategy required review.
(Non-key)

HACKNEY:

The following was agreed by Council on 24th November 2004:

Adopt the North London Joint Waste Strategy 2004-2020 and to delegate authority to the Director of Environment in consultation with the Lead Member to agree minor alterations as a result of comments received from other partners and the London Mayor.

HARINGEY:

The following was agreed by Council on 15th November 2004

RESOLVED:

1. That reports 06 & 07/2004 - 05 of the Executive be received and adopted.
2. That the North London Joint Waste Strategy be adopted and that the Mayor for London be informed accordingly
3. That the Director of Environmental Services in consultation with the Executive Member for Environment be authorised to make any changes necessary to the Strategy in response to comments received from the Mayor for London

ISLINGTON:

Strategy considered and approved on 9th September.

NORTH LONDON JOINT WASTE STRATEGY 2004-2020 (Item E1)

RESOLVED:

- (a) That the North London Joint Waste Strategy for 2004 –2020, appended to the report by the Executive Member for Sustainability, be formally adopted.
- (b) That the Director of Environment and Conservation be authorised to approve any final amendments to the strategy, following final consideration by partner authorities.

Reason for decision

By working in partnership with other authorities and local communities to provide services and new facilities, north London can achieve the challenging targets set by Government.

Other options considered

None.

WALTHAM FOREST:

Adopted by Cabinet on 21st September 2004

THE NORTH LONDON WASTE STRATEGY

The London Boroughs of Barnet, Camden, Enfield, Hackney, Haringey, Islington and Waltham Forest and the North London Waste Authority have worked in partnership to develop a North London Joint Waste Strategy. Members noted in particular the steps being taken to increase the amount of material recycled.

Reason For Decision

The strategy aims to deliver more sustainable waste management arrangements for North London.

CABINET DECISION

Cabinet agreed to adopt 'The North London Joint Waste Strategy 2003 – 2020'.

NORTH LONDON WASTE AUTHORITY:

The Authority considered the 'Mayor's Draft' North London Joint Waste Strategy at a Special Meeting on 27th September 2004.

RESOLVED –

- i) THAT the North London Joint Waste Strategy as attached at Appendix 4 be approved;
- ii) THAT it be noted that the strategy would be submitted to the Mayor on the basis that the draft strategy had been recommended in Seminars attended by representatives of all eight Authorities and that it had been formally approved by named North London Boroughs and that the Mayor would be informed when approval was given by all remaining North London Boroughs;
- iii) THAT authority be delegated to the Head of Waste Strategy and Contracts in consultation with the Chair to approve a statement if there remained any disagreements with other Partner Authorities on the revised wording for the final draft strategy; and

THAT it be noted that if the Mayor seeks any changes to the strategy, a Cabinet Member Seminar might be required to address these and recommend any changes to the seven North London Boroughs and to the North London Waste Authority.

APPENDIX 2

Report Ends