

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:

28th April 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 report.

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

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Date:.....

1. BACKGROUND

- 1.1 The Government issued statutory recycling and compost performance targets to all Local Authorities 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 Authority’s 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 contributed to successful North London joint bids to the London Recycling Fund.

2. RECENT PROGRESS

- 2.1 Recycling and composting performance results from the 2003/4 financial year will be included in the Authority’s “2004 Best Value Performance Plan” a draft of which is included elsewhere on this Agenda.
- 2.2 Recycling and composting tonnage collections for the first three quarters of the current 2003/4 statutory target year have now been collated by the Boroughs.
- 2.3 In September 2003, the Head of Waste Strategy and Contracts estimated the tonnage of fridges, scrap metal and compost 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 may increase by 2% above 2002/3 levels). No Borough managed to collect 75% of the full-year targeted total tonnage (if a 2% waste increase above 2002/3 levels is assumed) by the end of Quarter 3.

- 3.2 Appendix 1 also indicates that, if the Boroughs continue at the performance level reported at the end of Quarter 3, and that waste increases in line with NLWA waste projections (based on April - December 2003/4 actuals and 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 by a narrow margin.
- 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 three quarters 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. The results of these trials will shortly be available. The Head of Waste Strategy and Contracts will give a verbal update on the trial results at the meeting.
- 3.6 The Authority is close to achieving its statutory recycling and composting standard and may well have exceeded the standard when all information is available. However, the Authority's 2005/6 statutory performance standard of 18%, which must be achieved within a very short timescale, will require a further step-change in recycling and composting performance and considerable further investment by both the constituent Boroughs and the Authority, as outlined within the draft North London Joint Waste Strategy which is currently going through a stakeholder dialogue process.

4. RECOMMENDATION

- 4.1 Members are recommended to note this report.

5. COMMENTS OF THE FINANCE OFFICER

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

6. COMMENTS OF THE LEGAL ADVISER

- 6.1 The Legal Adviser has no comments upon this report.

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 Tonnage (Quarters 1 - 3)	Borough BV82a +b Annual Target Tonnage (assuming 2% waste increase on 2002/3 actual tonnages)	Percentage contribution of Borough BV82a+b Q1 - 3 Actual Tonnage towards Annual Target Tonnage (assuming 2% waste increase n 2002/3 actual tonnages)	NLWA BV82a+b Projected Annual Tonnage (BVPP 2003/4)	Borough + NLWA BV82a+b Combined Projected Annual Tonnage (assuming Q1-3 consistent performance)	BV82a+b Statutory Recycling and Composting Standard	Projected Household Waste and Recycling Total Tonnage (assuming April - Dec 2003/4 NLWA Annual Waste Tonnage Projection and BV82a+b Combined Projected Annual Tonnage)	Projected BV82 a+b Recycling and Composting Standard (assuming April - Dec 2003/4 NLWA Annual Waste Tonnage Projection and BV82a+b Combined Projected Annual Tonnage)
	(Tonnes)	(Tonnes)	(%)	(Tonnes)	(Tonnes)	(%)	(Tonnes)	(%)
L.B. Barnet	17,237	27,065	64	1,425	24,407	18	150,361	16
L.B. Camden	10,741	23,761	45	907	15,228	24	99,004	15
L.B. Enfield	13,733	24,136	57	1,101	19,411	18	134,090	14
L.B. Hackney	3,558	9,401	38	648	5,391	10	94,006	6
L.B. Haringey	4,436	10,198	43	842	6,757	10	101,979	7
L.B. Islington	4,051	8,833	46	777	6,178	10	88,328	7
L.B. Waltham Forest	7,513	12,654	59	777	10,794	12	105,446	10
TOTAL	61,268	92,786	66	6,476	88,166	12	773,215	11