

NORTH LONDON WASTE AUTHORITY

REPORT TITLE: OPERATIONS UPDATE

REPORT OF: MANAGING DIRECTOR

FOR SUBMISSION TO: AUTHORITY MEETING

DATE: 21 June 2018

SUMMARY OF REPORT:

This report provides information relating to the development of the Authority's operational services.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

The Authority is recommended to note this report.

SIGNED:

Managing Director

DATE: 11 June 2018

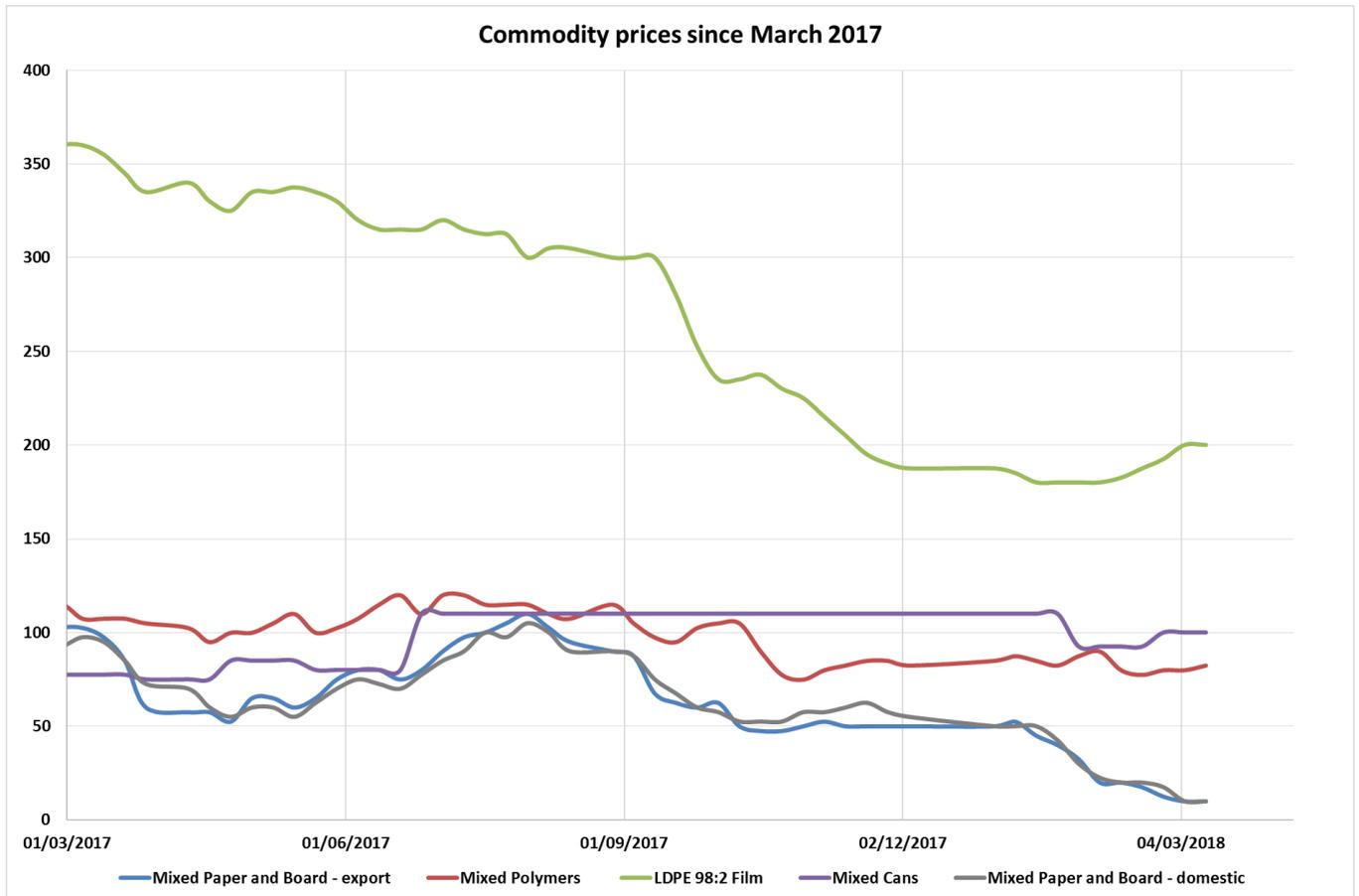
1. INTRODUCTION

1.1. This report provides Members with an update of the main operational matters since the last Authority meeting in February.

2. OVERVIEW

2.1 Volumes of both recycling and residual waste were lower than forecast for 2017/18 and there are not yet signs of significant growth in either stream.

2.2 On recycling, there has been continued downward pressure in the markets on the value of recyclates. As the Authority receives a share of income from the sale of this material, the effect on finances is reported in the paper for the previous agenda item. We have provided below a graph illustrating trends in commodity prices for plastics, metal cans and paper/card. Plastic prices reduced by a third in the last quarter of 2017 and have remained at around that level. Paper and board prices were stable in the last quarter of 2017 but have fallen by around three quarters in 2018. In response to this evolution in the global market, MRF operators have implemented arrangements to sift the waste they receive more effectively to secure higher quality material to sell. They are particularly keen to receive loads with the minimum contamination so that they have the best chance of producing material meeting demanding quality standards.



3. DEEPHAMS FARM ROAD

- 3.1. The Authority owns an area of land known as Deephams Farm Road that connects the north of the Edmonton EcoPark with Ardra Road. This is shown circled in the map attached at Appendix 1. This section of road is approximately 150m long and is infrequently used but will be an important access road into the site for the construction phase of the new EcoPark facilities. Additionally Deephams Farm Rd is an emergency access for Thames Water to service their pumping station and pipes located in the area.
- 3.2. On the evening of 2 May 2018 and although the road was gated, secured by padlock and chain and with concrete barriers in place, trespassers forcibly entered the site and set up camp parking six caravans along the road. The next day officers began the process of obtaining an eviction notice through the High Court and even though it was a Bank Holiday weekend a possession order was obtained and on the 8 May 2018, notices were placed on the gate, and the site secured.
- 3.3. Despite the urgency in obtaining the court order, the trespassers had managed to deposit an estimated 200 tonnes of waste during their period of occupation. Officers instructed on the removal of waste and took further measures to reduce the risk of this happening again, while preserving Thames Water's emergency access rights. The total cost of this operation was £31,420 that has come from within existing budgets.

4. IN-VESSEL COMPOST FACILITY

- 4.1. As part of the ground investigation work for future development of the EcoPark, test boreholes will need to be made where the In-vessel compost facility (IVC) is located. Consistent with the programme schedule for the North London Heat and Power Project, the IVC will need to be de-commissioned and the environmental permit surrendered to the Environment Agency, with closure taking place in October 2018. The decommissioning costs fall to the North London Heat and Power project. It has also been necessary to find alternative locations for treating the material previously being sent to the IVC.
- 4.2. This has been handled by LondonEnergy Ltd, who have secured particularly competitive prices for food waste, which has contributed to an expected overall reduction in the cost of biodegradable waste services of £618,000 (based on 2018-19 budgeted tonnage). We are working with LondonEnergy Ltd as well as borough colleagues to ensure the closure is managed and communicated as smoothly as possible

5. INCIDENT AT BLACKSTOCK ROAD

- 5.1 Enquiries following an incident in Blackstock Road, Hackney on Bank Holiday Monday 28 May 2018 caused Police to suspect that evidence relating to disposal of human remains had been collected by a council vehicle, taken to the Hornsey Street Waste Transfer Station (WTS), and possibly, then transferred to the Edmonton Energy from Waste plant (EfW).
- 5.2 In the light of this information, Police required the closure of both the Edmonton EcoPark and the WTS while they carried out investigations. LEL staff who operate both facilities were soon able to identify where the council vehicle had tipped. The police allowed the Ecopark to re-open at 06.00 on Tuesday 29 May while searching continued at the WTS. The WTS was closed for a further day and a half before being allowed to reopen on Wednesday 30 May at 1500.
- 5.3 The Hornsey Street Reuse and Recycling Centre, used by members of the public, was initially closed along with other facilities on site but was permitted to reopen at 0900 on Tuesday 29 May.
- 5.4 It was fortunate that the EcoPark opened before the first household waste collections after the bank holiday. However, the closures had a particular impact on boroughs – Camden, Islington and Hackney –, which tip material at Hornsey Street: vehicles had to be diverted direct to Edmonton or to Hendon WTS. There were good communications between LEL staff, Authority officers and borough colleagues to ensure all concerned had a consistent and up-to-date understanding of the situation to ensure operations were maintained as smoothly as possible.

6. GENERAL OPERATIONAL SERVICES UPDATE

- 6.1 We have let a contract to Enventure Research Ltd to undertake a visitor survey at the Reuse and Recycling Centres (RRCs). The results from the survey will inform the allocation of costs to boroughs for these services under menu pricing. The last survey took place in 2014. Members may recall that a decision was made that the timing of this survey should be following the closure of the Parkview Road RRC on 27 October 2017.
- 6.2 In preparing for the contracting of new mixed dry recycling contracts from December 2019 (when our current contracts expire), we have commissioned soft market testing. We have shared the results and key issues with Borough colleagues, and will seek input from Members at the Members Recycling Working Group (MRWG) following the Authority meeting. Similarly, and following discussion at the MRWG meeting in February, we are developing tender documents for the next Waste Electrical and Electronic (WEEE) contract.
- 6.3 We are working with LB Islington colleagues on agreements and designs for UKPN and National Grid works at the substation adjacent the Hornsey Street Waste Transfer Station.
- 6.4 Work continues on the normal data reporting and contract management functions we undertake.

7. COMMENTS OF THE FINANCIAL ADVISER

- 7.1 The continued pressure on prices from recyclates has had a negative impact on the Authority's prices. As reported elsewhere on the agenda, the Authority has lowered its income assumptions in the first budget review. Authority officers are monitoring the situation and keeping in close contact with MRF operators. Our current contracts share income with the MRF operators, which ensures that they strive to achieve the best prices possible for our material.

8. COMMENTS OF THE LEGAL ADVISER

- 8.1 The Legal Adviser has been consulted in the preparation of this report and has no comments to add.

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REPORT ENDS

APPENDIX 1

