

NORTH LONDON WASTE AUTHORITY

REPORT TITLE: SERVICES UPDATE

REPORT OF: HEAD OF STRATEGY AND SERVICES

FOR SUBMISSION TO: AUTHORITY MEETING

DATE: 3 OCTOBER 2019

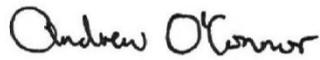
SUMMARY OF REPORT:

This report informs Members about the latest operational activities and associated issues dealt with by the operations team of the Authority.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

The Authority is recommended to note this report.

SIGNED:



..... **Head of Strategy and Services**

DATE: 23 September 2019

1. BACKGROUND

1.1. This report provides Members with an update of the main operational matters that have arisen since the last Authority meeting in June 2019 as well as the latest available tonnage information from municipal waste collected by the seven London boroughs of Barnet, Camden, Enfield, Hackney, Haringey, Islington and Waltham Forest. The North London Waste Authority (NLWA) has a statutory responsibility for providing municipal waste disposal services for the seven constituent borough councils and powers to arrange for the reuse, recycling and composting of municipal waste.

2. OVERVIEW

2.1. In the first five months of the year 2019/2020 (to end-August) compared to the same period last year household waste arisings are 1.5% lower: 246,620 tonnes in 2019/20 versus 250,619 tonnes in 2018/19. This is consistent with the full year forecast. Officers will continue to monitor the tonnages as this constitutes the largest cost to the Authority in paying LondonEnergy Ltd (LEL) to manage residual waste on our behalf.

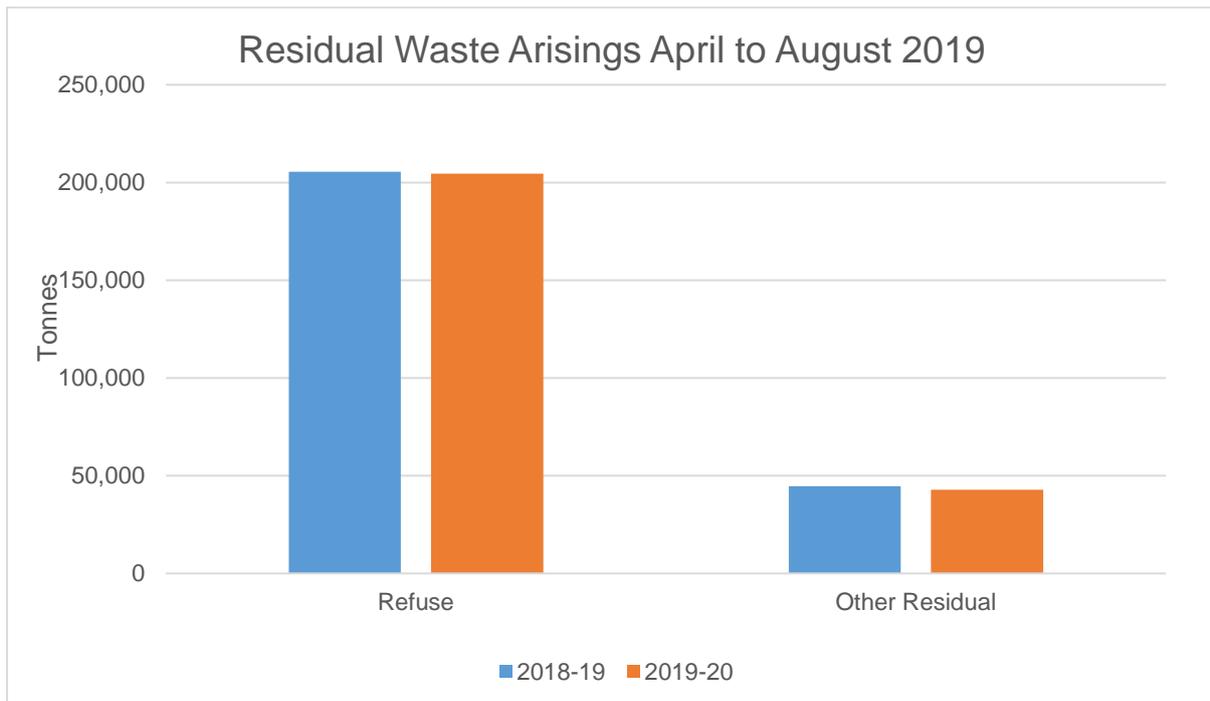


Figure 1: Residual Waste Arisings comparison April to August 2018/19 -2019/20

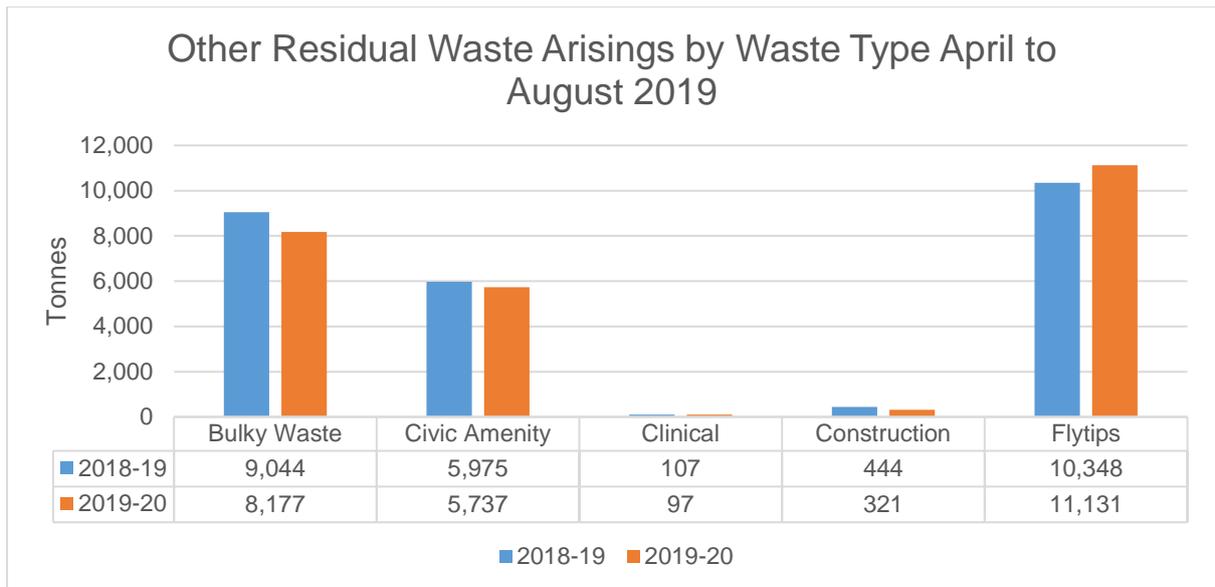


Figure 2: Other Residual Waste Arisings comparison April to August 2018/19 -2019/20

- 2.2. Figure 2 represents the other residual waste streams collected. Other than Flytips the volumes are declining. This may reflect some economic uncertainty affecting areas such as residents' purchases of furniture and plans for home renovations, but it is hard to provide clear evidence.
- 2.3. In addition, there is a decrease in recyclates. In 2018/19 69,231 tonnes were collected in the April to August period, covering all types of recyclable material. That has reduced to 68,573 tonnes in 2019/20, a 1% decrease. A closer analysis of the figures is shown below. Whilst food waste and biodegradable (mixed food and green) has decreased, green waste has increased compared to last year. This is more than likely to be due to the milder summer this year when compared against the summer of 2018. Mixed dry recycling tonnages have increased by 352 tonnes (0.8%) in the six boroughs for which NLWA provides a disposal service.

Table 1: Comparison of Recyclates volumes 2018/19 to 2019/20

| Kerbside Recyclables April to August | | | |
|-------------------------------------------------|---------------|---------------|-------------|
| | 2018/19 | 2019/20 | Difference |
| Biodegradable (Mixed food and green waste) | 8,386 | 7,299 | -1,088 |
| Food | 5,244 | 3,254 | -1,989 |
| Green Waste | 9,801 | 12,048 | 2,247 |
| Total Organics | 23,431 | 22,601 | -830 |
| Mixed Dry Recycling (through transfer stations) | 18,827 | 18,262 | -565 |
| Mixed dry recycling direct delivered | 26,974 | 27,891 | 917 |
| Total Mixed dry recycling | 45,800 | 46,153 | 352 |
| Total Recycling | 69,231 | 68,753 | -478 |

3. REUSE AND RECYCLING CENTRES

3.1. Quarter 1 2019/20 data for the Reuse and Recycling Centres (RRCs) has now been finalised and verified. The tonnages at the RRCs continue to decline from 2018/19 to 2019/20 as illustrated in Figure 3. It represents a 10% decrease over the same period last year. This is consistent with findings on the van booking system below where user numbers are down also.

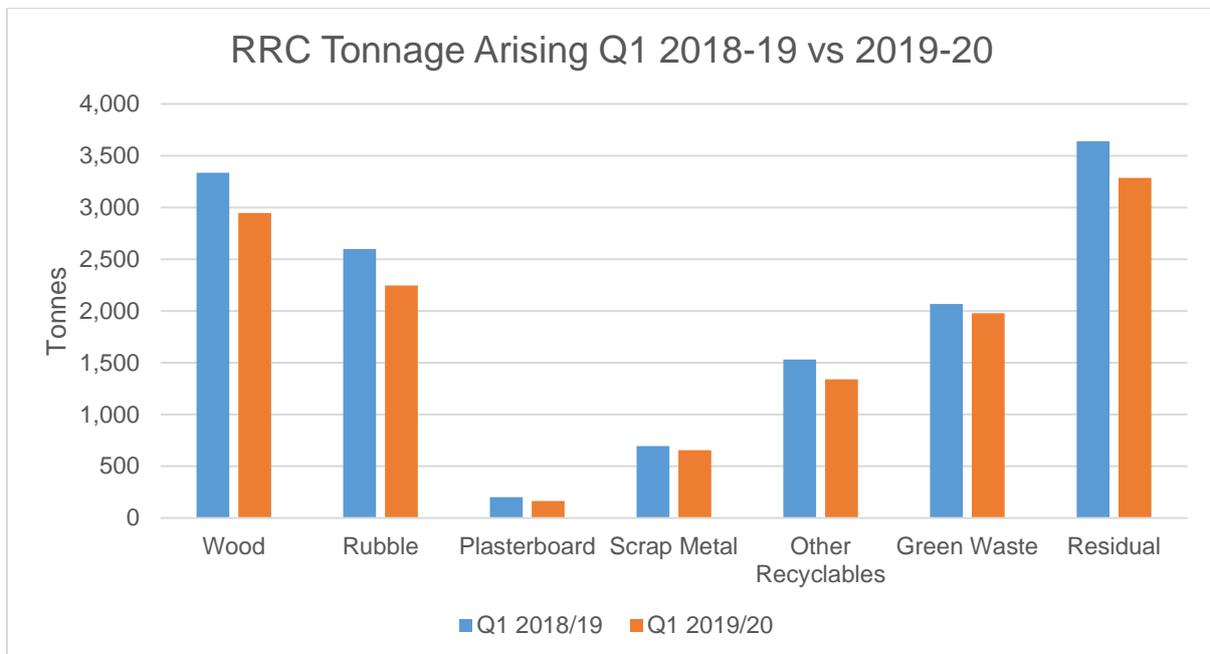


Figure 3: Comparison Waste Arisings at the RRC April to June 2018/19 -2019/20

- 3.2. The van booking system which LEL has operated since 2018 allows residents to carry out the required prior booking for using a van to delivery to RRCs, and provides a method to monitor van usage. The system allows residents of north London to book vans only up to a limit of five visits per financial year and enables officers and LEL management to prevent suspected traders from booking and delivering commercial waste. Van usage from April to August 2019 is down compared to the same period in 2018 as shown in the table below.

Table 2: Comparison of Van Bookings 2018/19 to 2019/20

| | Summer Lane | Regis Road | Western Road | Hornsey Street | South Access Road | All Sites |
|--------------------|-------------|------------|--------------|----------------|-------------------|-----------|
| April 18 to Aug 18 | 2802 | 941 | 1756 | 1839 | 1959 | 9297 |
| April 19 to Aug 19 | 2453 | 1002 | 1466 | 1612 | 1823 | 8356 |
| Difference | -349 | 61 | -290 | -227 | -136 | -941 |

4. FLEET OPERATORS RECOGNITION SCHEME (FORS)

- 4.1. LEL are now in receipt of the FORS Silver accreditation and will commence working to the Gold standard shortly.

5. HENDON TRANSFERS OF WASTES

- 5.1. Officers are working with LEL to develop proposals for consideration by the Member Finance Working Group (MFWG). This is intended to ensure appropriate fee arrangements are in place which align the incentives of LEL and NLWA on transfer of waste from Hendon to the EcoPark.
- 5.2. Officers, LEL and officers from the London Borough of Barnet are working together with a view to signing off the design of the new transfer facility to be constructed at Geron Way. A parallel piece of work between officers and LEL is planned to agree a contract update to include the use of Geron Way when it comes into operation (including loss of rail access).

5.3. Hendon Retaining Wall

As part of the regeneration of Brent Cross, the Authority has agreed with LB Barnet to give up a piece of land on the periphery of the Hendon transfer station, to allow a wall to be built. Loss of this small area of land does not affect the day to day operations at Hendon. Appendix A contains a plan showing the location of the site and relevant area of land. However, there was an incident on 13 August where a vehicle associated with the working on this land made slight contact with a locomotive. Whilst there were no injuries to persons or damage to the locomotive, the operator had to conduct a safety review. This meant the train lost its slot on the railway network. This has resulted in additional costs estimated at £20,000 to the Authority as the waste had to be delivered by road. There is no CCTV of the incident and it has proven impossible to locate the vehicle in question.

6. COMMODITY PRICES

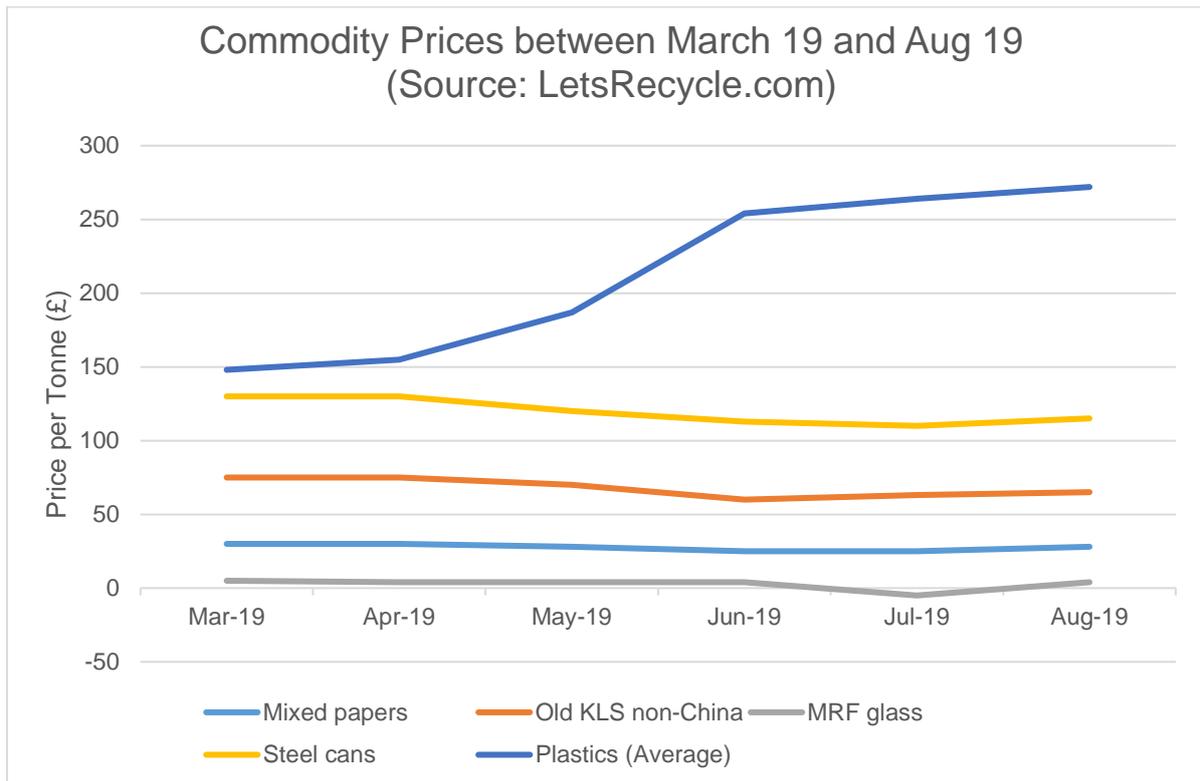


Figure 4: Commodity Prices March -August 2019

- 6.1. Plastic prices have increased in recent months from an average of £155 per tonne in April to £264 per tonne in July. This is in part due to the large increase in the market value of Packaging Recovery Notes (PRN's). PRN's can be used by large producers that place packaging material onto the market to fulfil requirements to recycle or recover that packaging. As plastic export restrictions have tightened globally, the demand for PRN's has increased by producers in order to comply under the packaging regulations, increasing the value of plastic which flows through to the Authority income.
- 6.2. Paper and card prices have remained relatively stable over the last 6 months. Steel prices have dipped, which is reported as resulting from weaker manufacturing demand. There is concern within the recycling markets that prices may drop further as demand is weak for secondary materials. Usually at this time of year prices would increase with processors stocking up in preparation for Christmas.

7. HORNSEY ST

- 7.1. As reported in June, there have been various complaints about odour, dust and noise at Hornsey St. This has led to the formation of a working group between the London Borough of Islington (LBI), LEL and Authority officers. A report was commissioned by LBI who employed independent consultants to investigate the sources of odour. This report will be published shortly. As part of the working group the Authority and LBI updated their websites to ensure that information is readily available for residents. LEL received an unannounced Environment Agency visit at Hornsey Street on 5 July to review compliance against their environmental permit

for operating at the site. The EA issued a positive report with no breaches of the Environmental Permitting Regulations identified.

- 7.2. An investigation found that UK Power Networks (UKPN) contractors, completing works next door to the Hornsey Street facility, were the source of noise complaints.

8. TRAFFIC DISRUPTION ON MERIDIAN WAY, ENFIELD

- 8.1. UKPN have announced that the northbound lane of Meridian Way will be closed for works from 20 September to the end of 2019. This is the road which is used to access the Biffa materials recovery facility. Diversion routes have been recommended for traffic by the London Borough of Enfield. Officers have notified the Boroughs, are keeping in close touch on developments and are liaising with UKPN to mitigate the impact to deliveries and disruption to collection vehicles.

9. BEROL HOUSE

- 9.1. The Authority office was affected by the power cut on 9 August which was reported widely across the UK. The building suffered from a surge in electricity, which affected air conditioning, electric systems, the alarm system and internet connections. Other tenants were similarly disrupted. As well as having restored these services, officers are liaising with the landlord to secure surge protection on the electricity supply to improve resilience against any future events of this nature.

10. DATA MANAGEMENT

- 10.1. Authority officers started a review of waste data management in early 2019 with ambitions of streamlining processes to improve efficiency and provide more accurate management information for Boroughs and senior managers. This work is not yet completed but two significant improvements have been implemented so far:

- 1) Borough officers now have access to a reporting portal, which allows them to view weighbridge data one day in arrears. Previously information was provided by email from the Authority on a weekly basis. As a result of this development, borough officers have quicker and better access to data on their waste loads and Authority officers no longer need to spend time pulling together weekly data for emailing.
- 2) NLWA officers prepare WasteDataFlow information for each borough to submit quarterly to the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs as required for a national database. Arrangements have been improved to make the data more user-friendly for Borough officers and easier to cross-check. Positive feedback was received from several Boroughs following the first use of this format in Quarter 4 of 2018/19. As the next step, NLWA now commits to provide the information a full month prior to the statutory reporting deadline, rather than the previous target of two weeks. This is intended to increase reporting accuracy and punctuality.

11. LIAISON ON SERVICE DELIVERY

- 11.1. The UK could be leaving the European Union on 31 October. While individual organisations have their own no-deal Brexit plans, NLWA is convening a meeting of boroughs along with our contracting bodies for waste disposal (the vast majority is handled by LEL and Biffa). This is intended to ensure coherence between plans

and establish a good basis for dialogue to handle any consequences if there is a disorderly exit from the European Union.

- 11.2. NLWA, LEL and borough officers will take part in an Operational Safety Group (OSG) meeting on 21 October. This is intended to be the first of a regular series of meetings for operations staff to review Health & Safety matters in the waste service delivery, ensure all parties are working to best practice guidance in the industry and address any concerns which are identified.
- 11.3. The North London Recycling Officers Managing Group will meet on 23 October. This will include a presentation from the London Waste and Recycling Board (LWARB) on work they have undertaken with the Peabody housing association on recycling in flats.

12. EQUALITIES

- 12.1. This report does not give rise to any issues as regards the Equality Act 2010.

13. COMMENTS OF THE LEGAL ADVISER

- 13.1. The Legal Adviser has been consulted in the preparation of this report and comments have been incorporated.

14. COMMENTS OF THE FINANCIAL ADVISER

- 14.1. The Financial Adviser has been consulted in the preparation of this report and comments have been incorporated

List of documents used:

WasteDataFlow - national web-based waste data system

Available at <http://www.wastedataflow.org/>

Our Waste, Our Resources: A Strategy for England, HM Government, 18 December 2018,
Available at: <https://www.gov.uk/Government/publications/resources-and-waste-strategy-for-england>

Letsrecycle Website: -Trade website

Available at: www.letsrecycle.com

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