

**NORTH LONDON WASTE AUTHORITY**

**REPORT TITLE:** NORTH LONDON WASTE AUTHORITY ANNUAL REPORT 2023/24

**REPORT OF:** MANAGING DIRECTOR

**FOR SUBMISSION TO:** AUTHORITY MEETING

**DATE:** 27 JUNE 2024

**SUMMARY OF REPORT:**

This report provides a summary of the Annual Report, which sets out the main activities and outcomes achieved by the Authority between 1 April 2023 and 31 March 2024. Points to note include:

- A. In June 2023 the outcome of a Local Government Association (LGA) corporate peer challenge was published. The report highlighted areas of significant strength and made recommendations to further improve and build on those strengths.
- B. The new resource recovery facility (RRF) went into operation on 15 March 2024. It has capacity to manage 374,000 tonnes of waste per year and is designed to bulk recycling and organic waste for onward transport to processors, extract recyclables from residual waste and prepare bulky waste for energy recovery.
- C. The types of materials collected for reuse or recycling at Reuse and Recycling Centres was expanded to include hard plastics and carpets. Trials to recycle mattresses and provide DIY items for reuse were rolled out to more sites.
- D. NLWA launched a number of high-profile behaviour change projects and campaigns, following the approval and publication of the Waste Prevention Plan in January 2023.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

The Authority is recommended to approve the Annual Report attached in Appendix A to this report.

**SIGNED:** ..... *Zaki Capstick* ..... Managing Director  
**DATE:** 17 June 2024

## **1. SUMMARY OF PERFORMANCE**

- 1.1. The Authority manages waste in line with the waste hierarchy to protect the environment and preserve resources for future generations. It works with the constituent boroughs to deliver public-facing behaviour change programmes to encourage waste prevention and recycling.
- 1.2. In 2023/24 the Authority accepted responsibility for managing the organic waste and dry mixed recycling collected by Enfield Council (this material was previously managed by Enfield). In total, on behalf of the seven boroughs, the NLWA processed 57,000 tonnes of food and garden waste and 124,414 tonnes of dry mixed recycling – significant increases on the previous year, reflecting this service change.
- 1.3. The NLWA continued its commitment to recycling as many materials in the UK as possible – achieving 100% for metals, plastic and glass. However, a fall in paper and card recycling capacity in the UK and Europe led to more of these materials being processed in Asia.
- 1.4. The Authority dealt with 563,508 tonnes of residual waste. This is an increase of 6,414 tonnes on 2022/23, but lower than 2020/21 and 2021/22.
- 1.5. In 2023/24, the Authority continued to expand the range of materials collected at the Reuse and Recycling Centres (RRCs). There was an increase in the number of mattresses collected, with around 9,000 mattresses being processed per month. The Expand Polystyrene (EPS) recycling service grew, and trials introduced for recycling hard plastics and carpets at several of the sites. The Authority launched a new trial service to encourage reuse at two of the RRCs in Waltham Forest and Barnet to offer a place for residents to deposit unwanted DIY materials and take them free of charge. In total, the RRCs dealt with 39,402 tonnes and 72% this was recycled, reused or composted.
- 1.6. NLWA ran a number of high-profile behaviour change projects and campaigns, following the publication of the Waste Prevention Plan in January 2023. This included:
  - 1.6.1. Launching Reduce, Reuse, Your Cycle to encourage reusable period product take-up
  - 1.6.2. Awarding more than £200,000 of grants to grass roots organisations to run waste prevention projects in their communities
  - 1.6.3. Increasing reusable nappy voucher take-up by 31%
  - 1.6.4. Trialling a new approach to encourage residents and businesses to reduce single use plastics

- 1.6.5. Developing high profile recycling communications campaign with borough councils
- 1.6.6. Taking a lead role in Eat Like a Londoner – a pan-London food waste prevention campaign
- 1.6.7. Creating a new education programme for schools
- 1.7. NLWA organised a listening exercise to hear about residents’ priorities and inform the development of the next Joint Waste Strategy. The campaign received over 1.25 million social media views, 11,000 visitors to the website and 2,100 responses via a survey, focus groups and pop-up events.

## **2. CORPORATE PEER CHALLENGE**

- 2.1. In June 2023 the outcome of a Local Government Association (LGA) corporate peer challenge was published. The report highlighted areas of significant strength and made recommendations to further improve and build on those strengths. The report says that NLWA “works collaboratively and with purpose” with the seven north London boroughs it serves. The LGA peer review team observed among staff and Members “a passion for the work they do to reduce waste and inform, educate, and influence recycling and reuse behaviours.” The team also found NLWA is strong on political leadership, that finances are well managed, and that the relationship between NLWA and its boroughs is collegial and robust.
- 2.2. The review made ten recommendations to further enhance NLWA’s performance and delivery, including greater collaboration with the seven constituent boroughs, increased engagement with communities and wider oversight and scrutiny. A follow up in January 2024 found that NLWA had made excellent progress against their recommendations. This is reflected in the performance outlined in this 2023/24 annual report.

## **3. NORTH LONDON HEAT AND POWER PROJECT**

- 3.1. To help tackle the climate emergency and to prevent rubbish going to landfill, the Authority is delivering the largest infrastructure project in its history. The energy from waste plant on the Edmonton EcoPark, which is reaching the end of its operational life, is being replaced by the greenest Energy Recovery Facility (ERF) in the country. Construction has been completed on a new Resource Recovery Facility (RRF) that provides additional capacity to manage recyclates and organics. The Authority expects to welcome a new public Reuse and Recycling Centre (RRC) and a community and education building called EcoPark House in 2024.
- 3.2. In 2023/24 NLWA signed a new contract with LondonEnergy Ltd (LEL) for the operation and maintenance of the RRF, RRC and EcoPark House. The RRF went into operation on 15 March 2024 and has capacity to manage 374,000 tonnes of waste per year and is designed to bulk recycling and organic waste for onward transport

to processors, extract recyclables from residual waste and prepare bulky waste for energy recovery.

- 3.3. The principal contractor on the ERF, Acciona, was given full possession of the northern area of the EcoPark and the adjacent construction laydown area. They made good progress on civil and structural works including installing over 1,600 foundation piles and building the reinforced concrete bunkers.

#### **4. FINANCE AND GOVERNANCE**

- 4.1 The unaudited 2023/24 outturn indicates that NLWA's total expenditure for the year was £69.6m. As the levy is fixed at the start of the year, this resulted in the Authority having a balance brought forward of £9.8m as at 31 March 2024.

#### **5. EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS**

- 5.1. The Authority's equality objectives were reviewed in 2021/22 in compliance with the Equalities Act 2010 (Specific Duties and Public Authorities) Regulations 2017/353. The report lists the activities or actions that have contributed towards meeting the equality objectives during the past year.

#### **6. COMMENTS OF THE LEGAL ADVISER**

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

#### **7. COMMENTS OF THE FINANCIAL ADVISER**

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

#### **List of documents used:**

No documents required to be listed.

#### **Contact officer:**

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**APPENDIX A: NLWA ANNUAL REPORT**