

**NORTH LONDON WASTE AUTHORITY**

**REPORT TITLE:** SERVICES UPDATE

**REPORT OF:** HEAD OF STRATEGY AND SERVICES

**FOR SUBMISSION TO:** AUTHORITY MEETING

**DATE:** 21 JUNE 2019

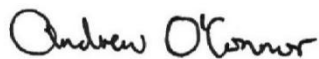
**SUMMARY OF REPORT:**

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:** 11 June 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 April 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. The Authority now has provisional full year data for 2018/19. The figures displayed in this Services Update are taken from WasteDataFlow reporting and include tonnage which is not directly managed by the Authority but is included in our National Indicator, NI192 recycling rate calculation, such as kerbside and Reuse and Recycling Centre (RRC) recyclables collected by Enfield Borough Council.
- 2.2. The volume of residual household waste increased in 2018/19 compared to 2017/18 by 1,417 tonnes (0.31%). Disappointingly the volume of household recycling decreased over the same time period by 5,578 tonnes (3.46%). Therefore, there has been a drop in the recycling rate from 31% to 30%. The following material changes in tonnages took place between 2017-18 and 2018-19:
  - 2.2.1. Statistics for the disposal of waste from Barnet show a reduction of 2,165 tonnes (46.75%) of food waste compared to the previous year. They also show an increase in refuse collected of 1,631 tonnes (1.86%) compared to 2017/18. It can reasonably be assumed that these changes are connected with Barnet's withdrawal of separate food waste collection during the year.
  - 2.2.2. There was a net decrease of organic waste collected of 1,546 tonnes (22.67%) in Haringey. There was however also a reduction of 1,022 tonnes (1.75%) of refuse as well as changes to other waste streams. Officers are working with Haringey to understand the changes.
  - 2.2.3. Enfield organic waste reduced by 1,145 tonnes (7.67%) on the previous year and refuse increased by 1,236 tonnes (1.66%).
  - 2.2.4. All boroughs other than Hackney and Islington saw a drop in their mixed dry recyclable tonnages compared to 2017/18. Overall, the reduction was 2,073 tonnes (1.60%).

## **2.3. Changes in Reporting**

- 2.3.1. Further guidance from WasteDataFlow (WDF) in 2018 meant the way the Authority reported contamination had to change. Previously, borough collections of mixed dry recyclables that were rejected at the point of delivery to the MRF contractor for having too much contamination within the load had been reported as being collected as refuse, whereas the guidance from WDF confirmed it should now be reported as being collected as kerbside mixed dry recycling, with the residual (contaminated) element deducted from the

disposal section of WasteDataFlow. Whilst the overall Authority recycling rate is not affected, the result of this reporting change is to change categories for some data monitoring. Authority officers have been working with borough officers to ensure that there is a shared understanding of how this has affected reporting.

### **3. FLEET OPERATORS RECOGNITION SCHEME (FORS)**

- 3.1. Following the previous meeting in April, Members requested this becomes a standing item on the agenda until Gold Accreditation by LondonEnergy Ltd (LEL) has been received.
- 3.2. LEL has appointed an external consultant to assist with the application process and has now completed the process of gathering evidence to apply for FORS Silver. The application for FORS Silver is to be submitted by LEL in the week commencing 17 June. Once FORS Silver has been awarded, LEL intends to immediately commence their application for FORS Gold.

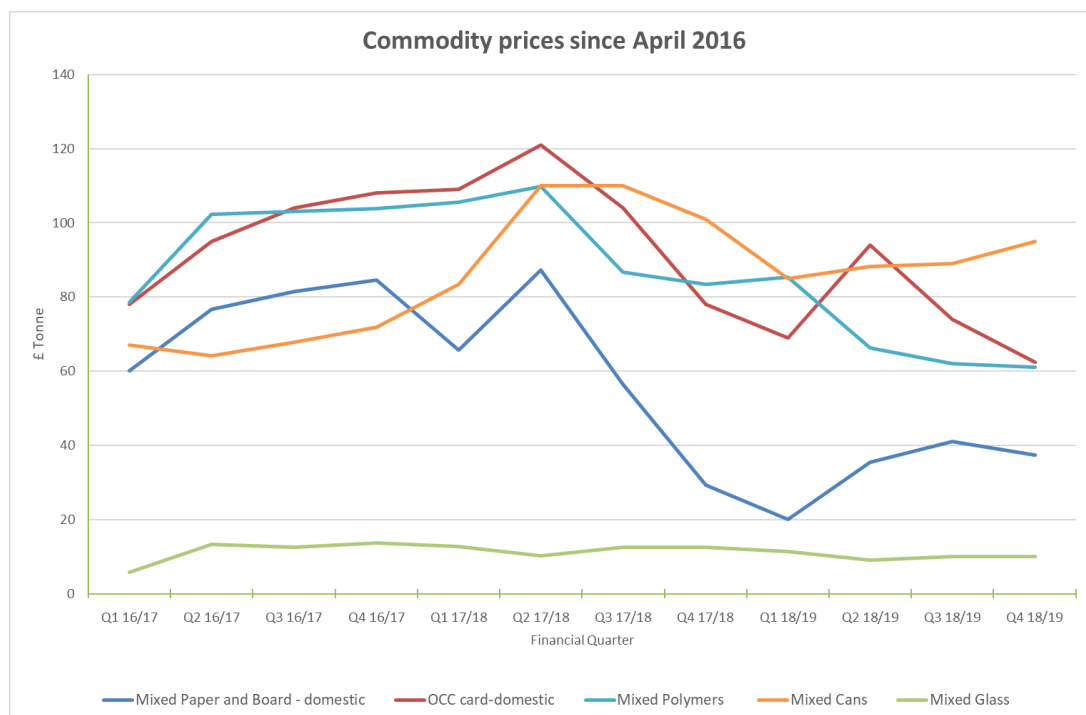
### **4. HENDON TRANSFERS OF WASTES**

- 4.1. Following the previous Authority meeting officers and LondonEnergy Ltd (LEL) have been developing potential options for a variation to the main waste contract. As recommended by Members, this would reflect the recognised commitment of LEL to ensuring that they take account of the interests of both the Authority and the company in managing the business and it would align financial incentives. Subject to further progress officers will report back in October 2019 on a proposed contract variation

### **5. MATERIAL RECYCLING FACILITY (MRF) PROCUREMENT**

- 5.1. The tender process for the Material Recycling Facility (MRF) contract was recently completed and a separate report for consideration by Members is included on this agenda.
- 5.2. Commodity prices

Steel prices have been stable over the last quarter. However, aluminium prices have dropped since the previous quarter by 8%. Plastic prices have risen in line with the price of oil. Fibre prices, mixed paper and card have reduced by 15% which reflects the lack of global demand.



## 6. FIRE INCIDENTS

- 6.1. Since the last Authority meeting there have been three small fires recorded. The first was at the BIFFA materials recycling facility in Edmonton on 23 April. A load delivered to site was thought to contain hot ashes which ignited when tipped and set stock on fire on the site. There were no injuries and some minor damage to the shed. Officers diverted loads for 24 hours to Bywaters materials recycling facility (MRF).
- 6.2. The second fire occurred at the Fuel Preparation Plant (FPP) at the EcoPark on 30 April. A small gas cylinder exploded in the shredder setting alight residue. The area was cordoned off and the fire extinguished. There was very little damage to the shredder. Operations were only affected for a few hours during the evening where vehicles could not tip at the FPP.
- 6.3. The third fire occurred at Summers Lane Reuse and Recycling Centre (RRC) on 2 May. Towards the end of the day the small waste electrical and electronic equipment (WEEE) container caught fire. The site was evacuated and the fire extinguished. As the fire occurred late in the afternoon, the site was closed for a very short period.
- 6.4. In all three instances, it should be noted that contractors and London Fire Brigade responded quickly, implementing emergency procedures and extinguishing the fires.

## 7. OTHER MATTERS

- 7.1. In connection with the regeneration of the southern area of Brent Cross Cricklewood, LB Barnet have requested access to the existing Hendon waste

transfer station to carry out works along the railway line, in preparation for redevelopment once the site is vacated by NLWA and LEL. Officers are now working through the practical implications of this, which involves installing a retaining wall at the site to allow for road access to the Capita works area located adjacent to the south of the site's boundary. Up to 10m of land will be lost to these works and the Authority and LEL are working to mitigate the operational impact on Barnet and Camden waste collection vehicles. In addition, officers and LEL are assisting Capita and RE Limited (a joint venture of LB Barnet and Capita) in the design of the Geron Way transfer station which is being constructed to replace the Hendon waste transfer station in late 2020.

- 7.2. There have been some recent cases of odour complaints from residents near Hornsey Street. LEL, Authority officers and the London Borough of Islington agreed a plan of action on 31 May to minimise potential odours, and the situation will be monitored.
- 7.3. During May 2019, an NLWA officer in the strategy and services team identified an error in the recycling performance being calculated by the national WasteDataFlow database. This error meant that mid-year results showed incorrectly low recycling rates, due to the calculation failing to pick up all organics reported. Officers worked with the WasteDataFlow team to resolve this issue. A fix has been issued nationally to improve reporting accuracy for every local authority as a result of this officer's attentiveness.

## **8. EQUALITIES**

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

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

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

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

- 10.1. 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>

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