

NORTH LONDON WASTE AUTHORITY

REPORT TITLE: SERVICES UPDATE

REPORT OF: HEAD OF STRATEGY AND SERVICES

FOR SUBMISSION TO: AUTHORITY MEETING

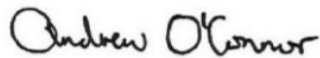
DATE: 2 APRIL 2020

SUMMARY OF REPORT:

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

RECOMMENDATIONS:

The Authority is recommended to note performance on service delivery in the current year



SIGNED: **Head of Strategy and Services**

DATE 23rd March : 2020

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 February 2020 as well as the latest available validated 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 and to operate Reuse and Recycling Centres (RRCs).
- 1.2. At the point where the report was written, officers were moving to daily reporting over responses to coronavirus spread. This daily reporting includes in relation to operation of Reuse and Recycling Centres (RRCs), management of residual, green and food waste disposal capacity through LondonEnergy Ltd (LEL) and management of mixed dry recycling through private sector contractors. This is supplemented by regular liaison calls with borough officers.
- 1.3. This report therefore covers performance in the period prior to 23 March, we will ensure that for 2 April up-to-date information on service delivery is reported to members.

2. PERFORMANCE OVERVIEW

- 2.1. Comparing April to February 2019/20 to the same period last year, total waste arisings have not materially changed although there has been some minor movement within some waste streams. Residual waste arisings increased by 100 tonnes (0.03%), whereas recycling reduced by 200 tonnes (0.04%).
- 2.2. Regular kerbside collections saw an increase of 1,300 tonnes (0.31%), but this was largely counteracted by a reduction of other residual wastes such as Bulky Waste and Civic Amenity site residual waste as illustrated in Figure 2.

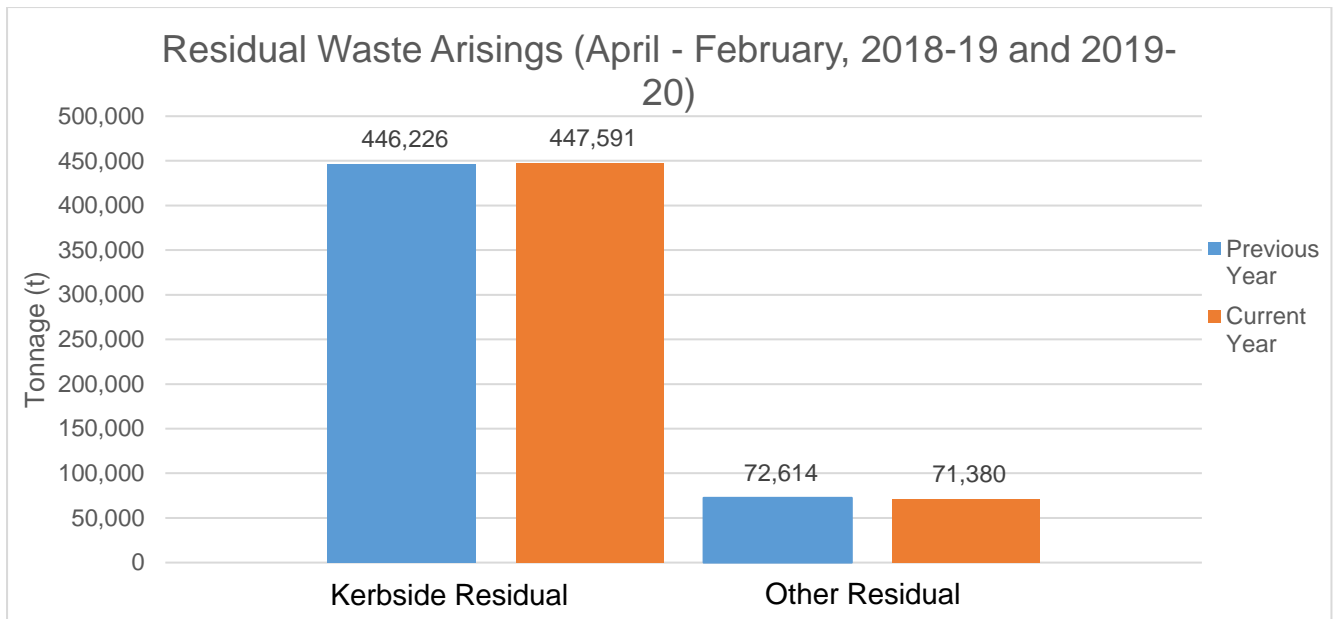


Figure 1: Residual Waste Arisings comparison April to February 2018/19 -2019/20

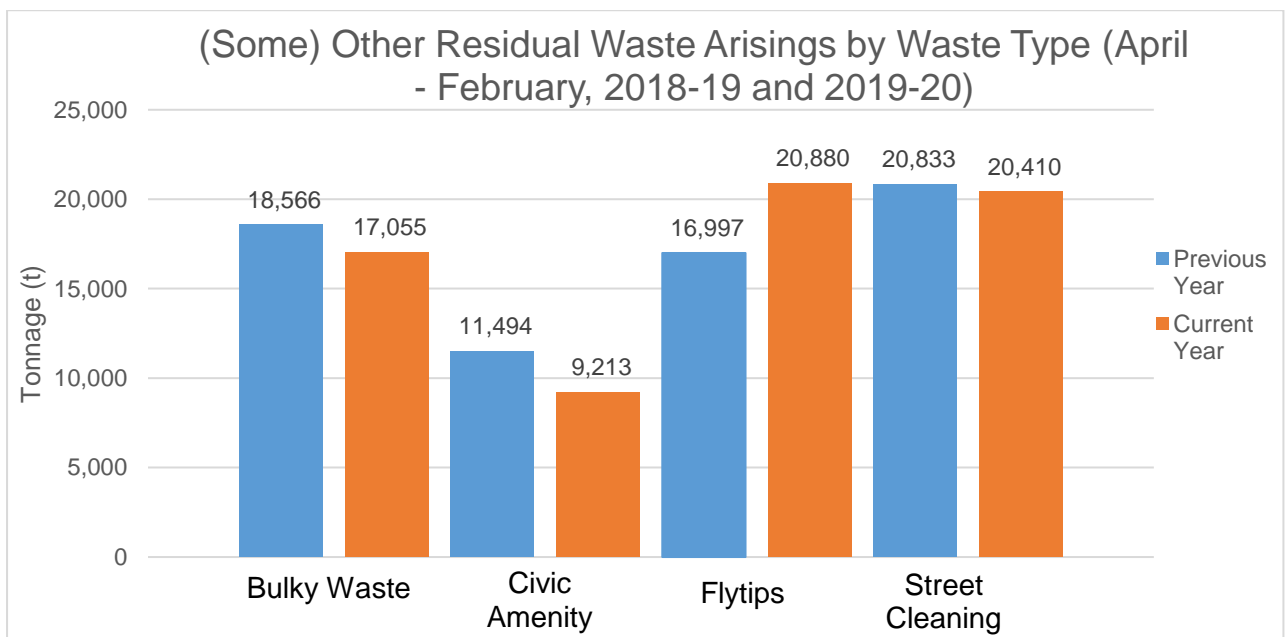


Figure 2: Other Residual Waste Arisings comparison April to February 2018/19 -2019/20

- 2.3. There was a reduction of 1,500 tonnes (3.60%) of organic wastes compared to the previous year. During the same period, Mixed Dry Recyclate volumes increased by 1,100 tonnes (1.12%), as illustrated in Figure 3. This led to an overall reduction in recyclable wastes arising by 350 tonnes (0.26%).
- 2.4. The reduction in organics is primarily attributable to the withdrawal of Barnet's food waste service, with further tonnage reductions being experienced by Hackney and Waltham Forest. Camden and Haringey have both seen a growth in organic wastes which has, to some extent, softened the reductions experienced by other Boroughs.

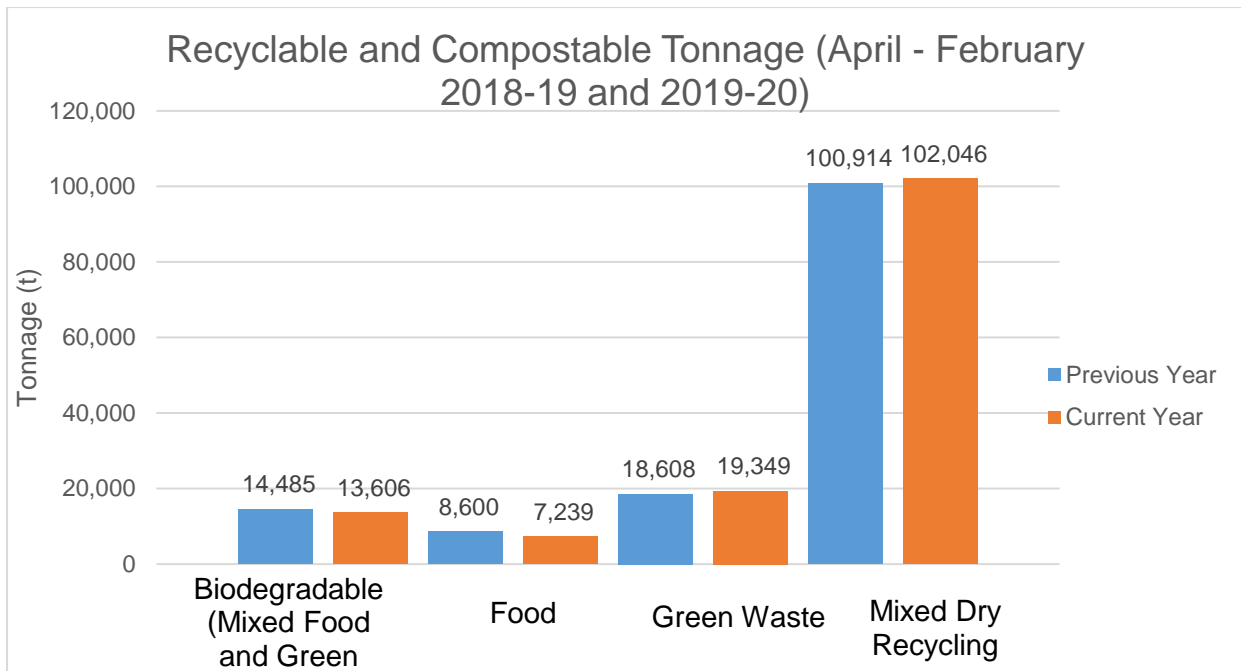


Figure 3: Recyclable and Compostable tonnage April to February 2018/19 -2019/20

- 2.5. The new Material Recovery Facility (MRF) contract with Biffa resulted in a 350 tonnes (4.07%) reduction in the tonnage rejected at the point of delivery to the MRF during January and February 2020 compared to the same months in 2019. Recently LondonEnergy Ltd (LEL) have improved their tonnage recording procedure using new software to measure rejections more accurately at Hornsey Street and Hendon transfer stations, which has resulted in a small increase in the overall tonnage being reported as rejected. Commingled tonnages increased in Hackney, Haringey and Islington, but reduced in Camden, Barnet and Waltham Forest.

3. REUSE AND RECYCLING CENTRES

- 3.1. Tonnages at the Reuse and Recycling Centres (RRCs) continue to decline from 2018/19 to 2019/20 as illustrated in Figure 4. Overall RRC tonnage arising has dropped by 2,100 tonnes (5.08%), which is made up of 500 tonnes (4.45%) of residual waste and 1,600 tonnes (5.32%) of recyclables.

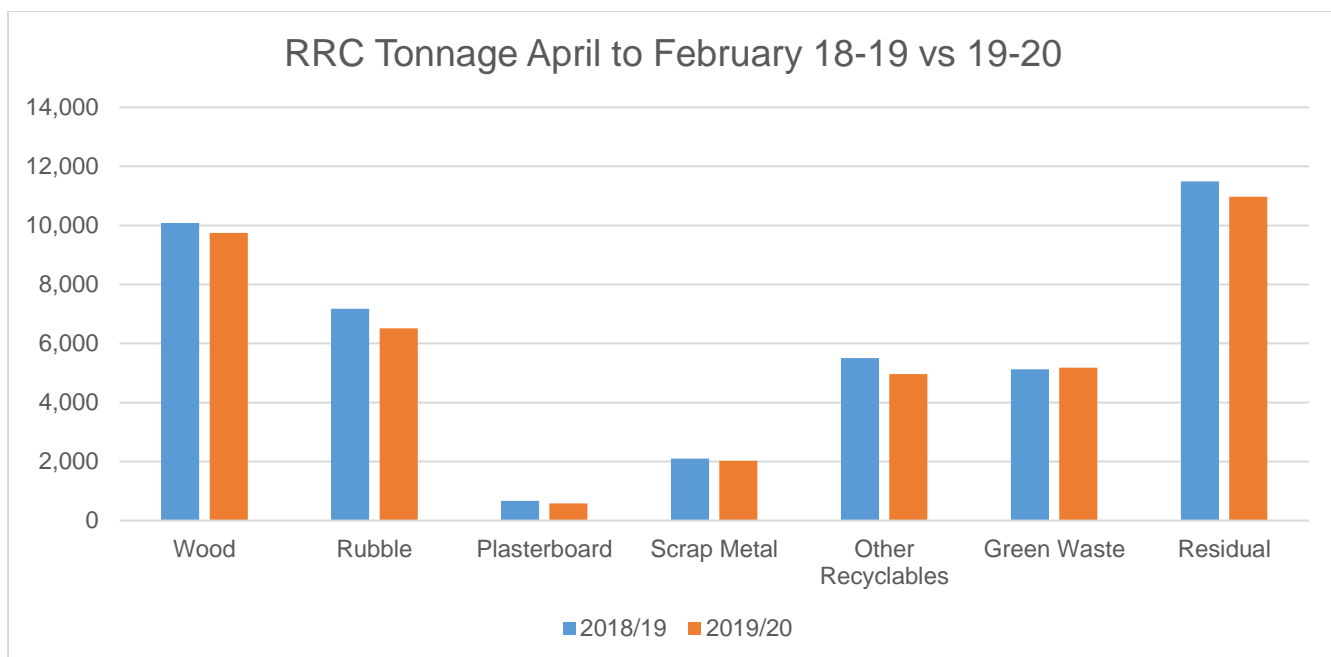


Figure 4: Comparison Waste Arisings at the RRC April to February 2018/19 -2019/20

4. GERON WAY TRANSFER STATION

4.1. Further to the update in February, Officers are now in dialogue with Regional Enterprise RE, a joint venture between Capita Plc and London Borough of Barnet in looking at the viability of a road to road transfer solution rather than the existing road to rail. This is due to RE requirement of needing access to the track to progress the development further up the line in facilitating the new Brent Cross station developments in 2021.

5. MATERIAL RECOVERY FACILITY (MRF) CONTRACT

5.1. The emergency arrangement for recycling Hackney's commingled recyclables between the Authority and Bywaters will finish at the end of March 2020. The Authority has agreed with Biffa that Hackney's material can be delivered to their MRF from 1 April 2020. Officers are working with Hackney to minimise the impacts on their transportation and address differences in the processes at Biffa compared with Bywaters.

5.2. New tipping procedures at Biffa resulting from the new contract have commenced smoothly. Biffa have trialled a new mechanism for assessing contamination levels of incoming loads and this process is currently being formalised. Authority officers are working in partnership with Biffa to improve the MRF service, including work on joint communications campaigns, investigating a wire installation from the EcoPark to power the MRF, and automating processes for collating and sharing data.

5.3. In March, officers advertised to Boroughs the first opportunity to apply for funding through a new Recycling Fund. This fund has been set up as a result of Biffa's donation of 40 pence per tonne delivered, totalling an estimated £46,000 in 2020 and has been topped up with £30,000 from the levy. Boroughs will have the opportunity to bid for funding for projects which will increase the capture rate of recyclables or reduce contamination. Funding applications will be evaluated by

jointly by Biffa and the Authority and resulting projects will be closely monitored and widely advertised to residents.

6. COMMODITY PRICES

- 6.1. The chart below provides the latest market information, and shows commodity prices between October 2019 and February 2020, taken from LetsRecycle.com, which is used to index MRF income against.

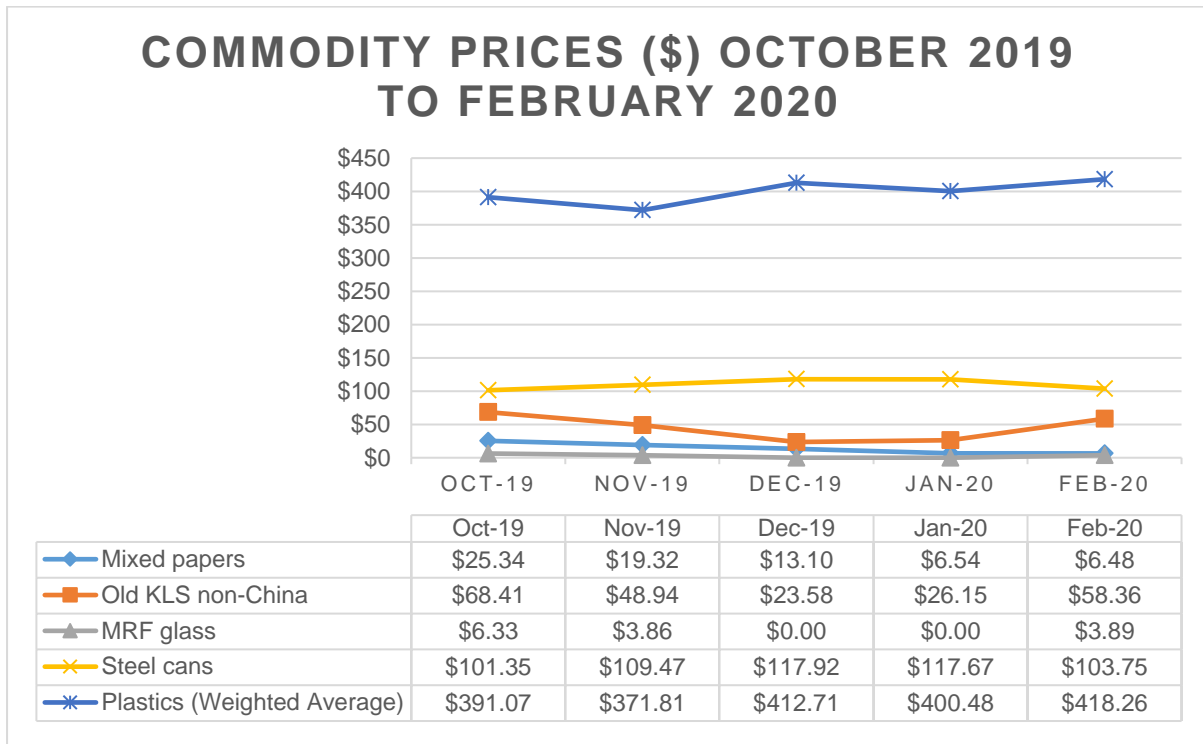


Figure 4: Commodity Prices October 2019 – February 2020

- 6.2. The price of mixed paper is in negative territory as there is no demand in the domestic market as mills in the Far East continue not to import material initially on quality grounds and now also in demand of finished product. Of the countries that do import, logistic costs have increased substantially as explained below.
- 6.3. China, as a result of COVID-19 (Coronavirus), has reduced their overall imports of waste material such as mixed papers. Moreover, the number of shipping containers in China has fallen due absence of staff, leading to a rise in price of shipping and cost of importing and repatriation of containers. To conclude, the fall in demand for importing mixed papers and other commodities is likely to continue in the short to medium-term.
- 6.4. In February, there was a steep jump in the value of Old KLS (cardboard) which will be closely monitored to see if this rise is sustained. This is due to the re-opening of mills and the building up of inventory again.
- 6.5. Plastics have increased in value despite a fall in oil prices since October. It is likely that the value of recycled plastic is being somewhat protected by the Packaging Recovery Note (PRN) system and increasing corporate environmental

commitments, together with government policies, such as a new plastic tax, which is anticipated to increase recycled plastic content by up to 40%.

7. HORNSEY STREET ODOUR

- 7.1. Towards the end of February 2020, Islington publicly released the executive summary and action plan from the odour control review completed for the Hornsey Street facility. The review was commissioned by Islington and completed by a specialist consultant following a persistent level of odour complaints from residents within a radius of the facility over the summer months.
- 7.2. Following the completion of the report, LEL and NLWA have been engaged with Islington to review the report and to ensure the action plan is implemented for the benefit of the residents in the local area. A proportion of the budget has been set aside by NLWA to contribute towards the odour improvement project at Hornsey Street.
- 7.3. The executive summary and action plan from the odour report is available to view from the following link: <https://www.islington.gov.uk/recycling-and-rubbish/recycling-and-rubbish-collections/tackling-smell-from-waste-and-recycle-centre>

8. CLINICAL WASTE

- 8.1. In February NLWA hosted specialised clinical waste training at the EcoPark with officers from all Boroughs encouraged to attend. The training, delivered by Independent Safety Services Ltd, was attended by Camden, Hackney, Islington, Waltham Forest, NLWA and LEL. Several areas of interest were discussed during the session relating to both clinical waste collection and disposal.
- 8.2. Of interest to Borough officers was the opportunity for cost savings by collecting infectious waste in orange bags instead of yellow bags (which are currently used across north London). This would save approximately 50% on disposal by avoiding high temperature incineration and instead making use of alternative heat treatment. In addition, households can put up to 7kg of non-infectious offensive waste into their black bin, preventing the need for specialised collections of tiger bags (tiger stripe bags are used in medical clinics and veterinary surgeries where you need to dispose of medical items or tools that do not carry any risk of infection) for many residents.
- 8.3. From April 2019 to February 2020, Haringey delivered the highest quantity of clinical waste to the EcoPark followed by Enfield and Barnet. Camden currently disposes of its clinical waste through a private arrangement.

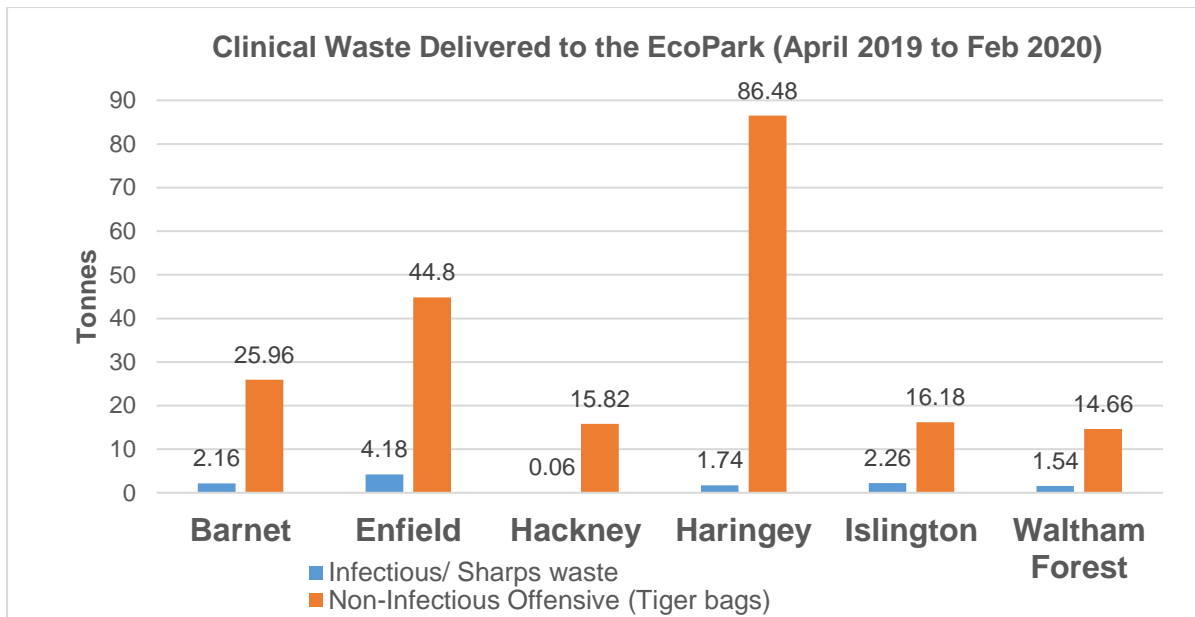


Figure 5: Clinical waste delivered to the EcoPark for either incineration (offensive) or bulking (infectious) for contracted specialist treatment (April 19 to February 20)

9. OPERATIONAL SAFETY GROUP

- 9.1. LEL recently reignited the operational safety group, held with operational Borough officers and NLWA quarterly. The purpose of the group is to discuss safety processes and report on H&S performance across NLWA and LEL sites.
- 9.2. Two main areas were discussed within the February meeting: speeding occurrences at the EcoPark and undeclared bulky waste within loads.
- 9.3. The percentage of speeding occurrences at the EcoPark relative to the number tips in February 2020 shows Camden, Islington and Enfield having the highest proportion of speeding (over the 15mph limit) relative to overall tips. In addition, the maximum speeds recorded at the EcoPark within February were 39mph (Enfield) and 32mph (Camden).

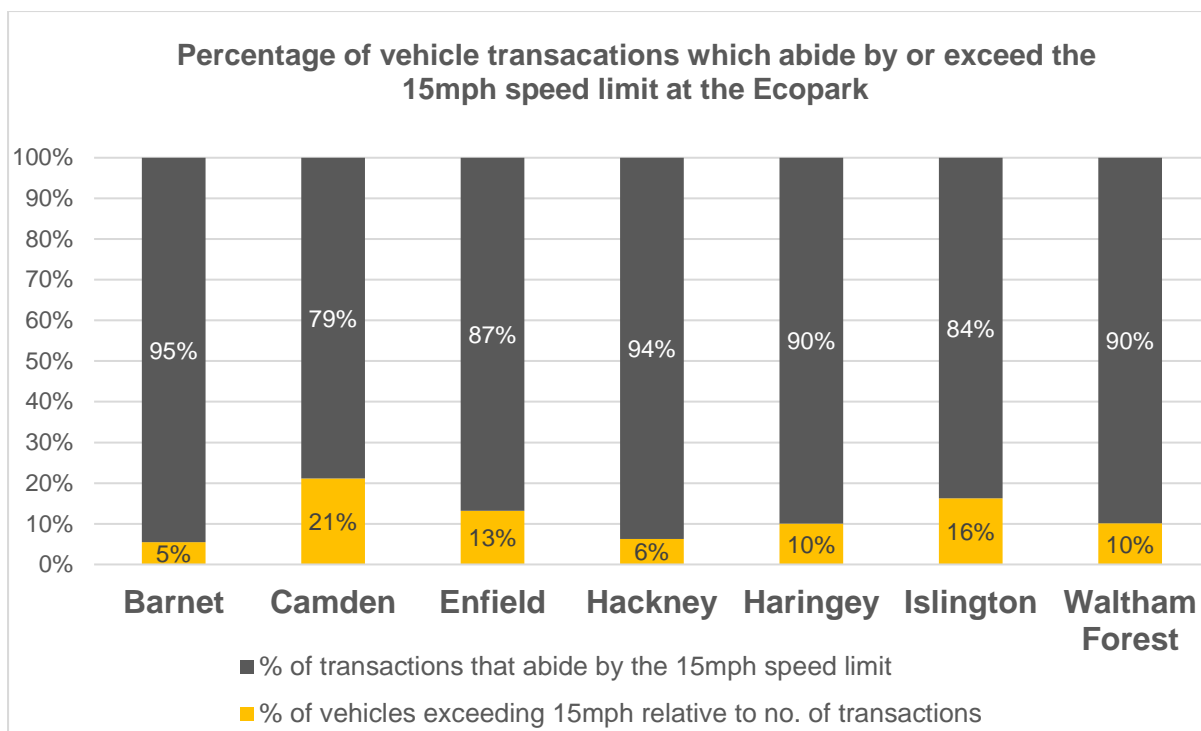


Figure 6: Percentage of vehicle transactions which abide by or exceed the 15mph speed limit at the EcoPark.

9.4. Discussions about improving the process for declaring bulky wastes which are mixed with other waste streams such as Kerbside Residual or Street Cleaning are ongoing.

10. COVID 19

10.1. As noted in paras 1.2 and 1.3 above, officers are now in thrice weekly calls with the Boroughs over developments affecting their services. In addition to this, officers are also sending daily updates from contractors to both Directors of Environment and other Waste Disposal Authorities (WDA) informing a London wide view response to the pandemic. The LEL governance report includes specific information on the company's measures to mitigate risks and manage effects on their operation.

11. COMMENTS OF THE LEGAL ADVISER

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

12. COMMENTS OF THE FINANCIAL ADVISER

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

List of documents used:

Annual Monitoring Report

Available at: http://www.nlwa.gov.uk/media/2799/annual-monitoring-report-2018_19-final-v2.pdf

WasteDataFlow - national web-based waste data reporting 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

Hornsey St Odour Report:

Available at: <https://www.islington.gov.uk/recycling-and-rubbish/recycling-and-rubbish-collections/tackling-smell-from-waste-and-recycle-centre>

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